

# Sunday Readings

Year C

## First Reading - Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

### A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

## Second Reading - Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

### A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

## Gospel - Luke 9:28-36

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

# Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday (9.30am to 2.30pm)



*A house of welcome to all and a place of service to all*

Second Sunday of Lent, Year C

March 16, 2025

## *Time to embrace the mountain*

In Celtic Christianity, there is a concept of "thin spaces"—places where the boundary between the earthly and the divine feels particularly close. In the Biblical stories, mountains often serve as "thin spaces", where moments of transcendence lead to direct encounters with the sacred.

In the Old Testament, mountains are consistently portrayed as spaces where the divine presence breaks into the phenomenal world. Abraham's profound test of faith occurs on Mount Moriah, where his willingness to sacrifice Isaac leads to an encounter with God's fidelity (Genesis 22:1-14). Moses' transformative moments with God also take place on mountains—first the mountain of the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-2), and later Mount Sinai, where he receives the law amidst thunder, lightning, and divine glory (Exodus 19).

Elijah, too, finds God not in the dramatic but in a gentle whisper on the same mountain (1 Kings 19:8-18). These stories highlight the mountain as a place where ordinary life is interrupted, and profound clarity and divine presence are experienced.

In the New Testament, Jesus exemplifies the importance of seeking out these thin spaces. He goes up a mountain to pray alone (Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12), teaches his

## WEEKLY MASS TIMES

**Saturday: 6:00 pm Vigil Mass**

**Sunday: 8:00 am and 10:00 am**

Tuesday: 5:30 pm

Wednesday: 9:00 am

Thursday: 9:00 am

Friday: 5:30 pm

## RECONCILIATION

Friday: 4:30 pm – 5:15 pm

Saturday: 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

## DEVOTIONS

### Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday: 9:30am - 11:00am

First Friday : 6:00pm - 9:00pm

### Divine Mercy Chaplets

Second Wednesday: 7:30pm

**Novena:** Saturday: 5:30 pm

**Rosary:** Tuesday - Friday  
30 minutes before mass

**Scripture Rosary:** Tuesday 8.45am

**Rosary and Chaplets (shrine):**  
Every Wednesday 2.30pm

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Phong Nguyen  
**Priest in Residence:** Rev. Fr. Anibal Leite Da Cunha  
**Parish Secretary:** Heidy Lu

disciples on mountains (Matthew 5:1; Mark 3:13), and resists Satan’s temptations there (Matthew 4:8; Luke 4:5). The Transfiguration, one of the most striking mountain episodes, occurs when Jesus ascends with Peter, James, and John and is revealed in divine glory, speaking with Moses and Elijah (Luke 9:28-36). These moments are pivotal, as they illuminate the necessity of stepping away from the world to gain spiritual insight and strength.

The Transfiguration story reminds us of the rhythm between mountain-top experiences and the everyday challenges of life. After descending from the mountain, Jesus embarks on his journey to Jerusalem, encountering the complexities of human suffering and marginalised communities. This pattern mirrors our own lives, where moments of spiritual clarity must eventually translate into action and compassion in the thick of daily existence.

Taking time to “go up the mountain” and enter the rarified atmosphere above is essential. It is only there that we step away from the noise of daily life to seek clarity and gain perspective. These encounters are opportunities to pray, reflect, and encounter God. They help us to take stock of our priorities and discern the path ahead for the “thick spaces” where we live our lives rarely mindful of the divine reality that underpins all existence.

This Lent, we are called to embrace the mountain as a metaphor for renewal. Whether through prayer, retreat, or silent reflection, let us ascend to meet God in the thin spaces, allowing these moments to transform our hearts. May these experiences empower us to live with renewed purpose, carrying the grace of our divine encounters into every interaction and challenge. The mountain is not an escape but a vantage point, reminding us of the deeper call to love, serve, and remain rooted in God amidst the complexities of the world.

Ian J Elmer  
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**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Recently Deceased:**

Please pray for Cecilia Guik Hoon Tan, Maria Isabel Leite Da Cunha, Francis John Grosse, Melissa Higgins and Lindinha Leite Da Cunha who passed away recently.

**Death Anniversaries:**

Please pray for Anne Chai Yoke Lan, Charles Menezes, Daphne Mary Coleman, Sheila O’Ryan, Pauline Chappell, Aileen Regan, Eliza Alex, Kevin Richard Baculey, Maria Surjadi, Thomas Gerard Joseph Whitely, Rev Fr. Joseph Tran, Elizabeth Sheehan and Marie Porter whose anniversaries occur around this time.

**R O S T E R S**

**FOR 23RD MARCH**

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo  
 Flowers: Shan Fialho  
 Counters: 1. C Correia                      2. B D’Sa                      3. P Murray

	<b>Saturday 6.00pm</b>	<b>Sunday 8.00am</b>	<b>Sunday 10.00am</b>
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Acolytes	D Ng	C Goh	M Braganza
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Altar Servers	C Vahala K Lee J Lee	J Cherian A Evans S Evans	A Demberger E Gatchalian A Hadiyanto
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Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	A Ruban M Magnussen L Morzenti P Ardianto R Oetomo A De Souza S Teo	C Price P Price C Cox G Dunsford I Kusnadi T Santoso J Randazzo	E Ross E Tandy F May G Prasetyo J Mohan J Louie J Lim M Sugijono
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Catechists	CHILDREN’S LITURGY Michelle Lowth		
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Proclaimers	R D’Mello A De Sousa	C Tan D Dennis	K Wasley S Kan
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Proclaimers Coordinator: Vivian Ng - 0403 161 838

<b>Piety Stall</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
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**Safeguarding Officers:**  
 1. Gerard Joseph (Gerard.safeguarding@gmail.com)  
 2. Mary Anthony (lima.eleeza@gmail.com)  
 3. Michelle Lowth (michelle.safeguarding@gmail.com)

**MORE CARE - DO YOU NEED HELP OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?**

- ♦ Stephen            0408 167 400            (Coordinator)
- ♦ Monica            0419 945 005            (Meals)
- ♦ Christine        0412 887 950            (Transport)
- ♦ Serina            0420 991 868            (Visiting)
- ♦ Angela            0418 953 992            (Bereavement Support)
- ♦ Parish Office    9310 1747                (General Enquiries)

## PARISH NEWS

**Please note:** In 2025, there will be Masses for the following Solemnities, Holy Week, Octave of Easter, and Octave of Christmas that will fall either on Monday or Saturday:

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 9.00am: Solemnity of St Patrick
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 9am: Monday of Holy Week
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 9am: Monday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 9am: Saturday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 at 9am: All Saints
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 9am: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 9am: Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

**PARISH MASSES: *With attendance of students from Corpus Christi College***  
**Thursday 9am Masses:** 27<sup>th</sup> March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

### 2025 SACRAMENTAL DATES

First Holy Communion: **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

Confirmation: **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

First Reconciliation: **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Or do you know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic? If so, we would love to hear from you. The parish runs a program for people who may be interested in becoming a Catholic. Please contact the parish office on 9310 1747 for more details.

### GET MOVING WITH ZUMBA AT ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH!

Come dance, stay active, and support the parish with our fun Zumba classes! Everyone is welcome! **Mondays at 6pm & Wednesdays at 11am** at Parish Hall. \$5 donation (supports parish maintenance). All are welcome!

**No classes on Wednesday 12 March and Monday 24 March.** The first session has started on **Monday, 3 March 2025.** For more details, contact **Shan at 0432 909 981.**

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Would you like to give yourself and your spouse quality time over a weekend that will focus on love, communication and relationship? We invite you to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. A WWME Weekend may be the best gift you can give to each other. There are:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Mary MacKillop Centre, South Perth (Live-out)  
This is an Indonesian Language Weekend.
- 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> May at Corpus Christi College (live-out)
- 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> July at Bunbury Catholic College (live-out).
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> November at the Vincentian Retreat Centre, Karrakup (live-in)

For more information, please contact: Brendon or Valerie on 0493 534 865.

Email : [WAb bookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:WAb bookings@wwme.org.au) or Visit [www.wwme.org.au](http://www.wwme.org.au)

### FERTILITY- THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE PATTERNS.

Billings LIFE invite you to a talk on the science that verifies the Billings Ovulation Method®. Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 5pm - 7pm at 40A Mary Street Highgate. Light refreshments provided. See outside notice board for details and registration QR code.

## PARISH NEWS

### LENTEN SEASON

As the Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, we are called by the Church to pray, fast, and do works of mercy. **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** are days of **fast** and **abstinence**. Lent is a penitential season of **prayer, self-denial and helping others**. In this way, the Church prepares for Easter and joyfully welcomes those adults who have completed the RCIA programme and consequently be baptised during the Easter Saturday Vigil Mass.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Fridays during Lent after the 5.30pm Mass.

- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025 – Led by Men Alive Group
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Led by Proclaimers Group
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Led by Year 5 Corpus Christi College
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Led by 6PM Music Ministry

### FRIDAY ADORATION DURING LENTEN SEASON

- **Friday Adoration during Lenten Season** will be held from Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 6.30pm - 9pm (Straight after Stations of the Cross).
- **24 HOURS ADORATION FOR THE LORD: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm— Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 6pm.** Eucharistic Adoration is the spiritual practice of spending time in the presence of Jesus in the exposed Holy Communion Host. 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March is a time of grace for the whole world with many praying in unity with Rome. When we face the sun we get a tan but when we stand before Jesus we become saints (Blessed Carlo Acutis). Let us beseech the Lord to reawaken in us the joy at his presence and that we may once more adore him. Without Adoration there is no transformation of the world. (Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger "God is Near Us: the Eucharist, The Heart of Life"; Ignatian Press). Please sign your name on the attendance sheet in the foyer; so as to worship and adore the Lord as a parish family. Resources will be available.

### BATEMAN PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

#### WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 7.00PM

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service for the Parish will be held on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm.** There will be many priests to assist, so please come along and prepare well for Easter.

The following parishes advised their Lenten Reconciliation services:

- Applecross Parish** - Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm (1<sup>st</sup> Rite)
- Como Parish** - Wednesday April 2<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm
- Riverton Parish** - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm
- Willetton Parish** - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm
- Lynwood/Langford Parish** - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00pm

**QUOTE - HOPE:** Trust Him and He will uphold you, follow a straight path and hope in Him. (Ecclesiasticus2:1-11)

**COURTYARD COFFEE THIS SUNDAY:** There will be 11am coffee this Sunday as we join Father Anibal's family and friends to honour what would have been his mother's birthday celebration.

# PARISH NEWS

## STUDY OF VATICAN II DOCUMENT SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM (Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy) - THURSDAYS 20<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 1PM - 3PM IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM

1-3pm each Thursday of March in the parish meeting room. Pope Francis encourages the study of documents of the Second Vatican Council during the Jubilee Year. (Pope Francis Decree on Granting of indulgence)

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/05/13/240513f.html>

Sacrosanctum Concilium The sacred liturgy is central to our participation in the worship of God who desires that His children receive and respond to the abundant graces flowing from the source and summit of life, the Holy Mass. A deeper understanding of sacred liturgy will help draw you into the heart of every mass when God is glorified and you are sanctified. Facilitator- Kenneth Phua

## ROSARY WALK TO PINEY LAKES - SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2025

**Meet at the Shrine at 8am.** A serene and spirit filled Rosary walk with The Divine Mercy Chaplet has been planned as part of our 2025 Lenten Callender to Piney Lakes Reserve at 8am Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. As we prepare to encounter Christ in a special way during the Easter Triduum let us not forget that our Mother Mary brings us to her son as our Saviour and Lord. This walk is also part of our celebration of this special Jubilee Year of Hope and an excellent opportunity to nourish us spiritually and physically. The one-hour session that will start from our Lady's grotto in the church is designed for all ages and abilities with plenty of opportunity to rest in the park while we share and deepen our faith with prayer, scripture reflections and fellowship. Let us participate and give honour to our heavenly Mother as Pilgrims of Hope in a year of renewal, reconciliation and hope.

## BATEMAN LENTEN CALENDAR - INVITATION TO JOURNEY TOGETHER

If you have not received a copy of the Lenten Calendar, please feel free to take one. You can also find it on our social media pages.



### JUBILEE PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



# PARISH NEWS

## JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

There will be weekly summarised statements from Pope Francis to help parishioners prepare for the experience of Jubilee.

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509\\_spes-non-confundit\\_bolla-giubileo2025.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html)

**2024 YEAR OF PRAYER:** To reinforce Pope Francis' call for prayer to be intensified in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the archdiocesan Centre for Liturgy has posted 38 catechesis on prayer by Pope Francis. Summaries of these teachings will be published weekly in the bulletin. Details of the catechesis can be found in this link: <https://liturgy.perthcatholic.org.au/year-of-prayer-2024/>

## 2024 YEAR OF PRAYER: POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE

POPE FRANCIS GENERAL AUDIENCE Paul VI Audience Hall, Wednesday, 16 June 2021 Catechesis on prayer:

### 38. The Paschal prayer of Jesus for us

We conclude our series of catecheses on prayer by turning once again to the prayer of Jesus. In the final hours of his life, Jesus' constant dialogue with the Father becomes all the more intense, as he approaches his saving death and resurrection. In the great "priestly prayer" of the Last Supper, Jesus intercedes for his disciples and for all those who will believe through their word. In the agony in the garden, he offers his anguish to the Father and lovingly embraces his will. At the darkest hour of his suffering on the cross, Jesus continues to pray, using the traditional words of the Psalms, identifying himself with the poor and abandoned of our world. In those moments, the crucified Lord takes upon himself the burden of all the sins of the world. For our sake, he experiences the distance separating sinners from God, and becomes the supreme and eternal intercessor for all mankind. In our own life of prayer, may we always be mindful that the Lord never ceases to pray for us, uniting us to his own eternal dialogue of love with the Father in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

## THE JUBILEE YEAR BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE!

The Archdiocese of Perth has prepared a beautiful booklet explaining various details about the Jubilee Year, the churches of pilgrimage, the Indulgences that can be gained and simple actions that can bring hope to the world. These are available at the back of the church for a gold coin donation.

**FUNDRAISING** Thank you to everyone who ordered Jubilee t-shirts. This weekend will be the last opportunity to order t-shirts. The t-shirts can be worn Holy Thursday, Easter, Christmas, All Saints Day, at parish events and when you wish to enjoy promoting the Jubilee message. Each t-shirt provides \$5 profit. Order your t-shirt now!! There will be a table in the courtyard with someone to help.

## ST THOMAS MORE PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Our 2025 PREP classes run from Pre-Primary to Year 6 including sacramental classes (First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) every Wednesday from 4-5pm during Term 1 to Term 3, excluding school holidays.

For more information, please contact the RE Coordinator 9310 1747 (available Tue/Wed) or via email [catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:catechist.bateman@perthcatholic.org.au).