

Sunday Readings

Year C

First Reading - Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15; A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel - Luke 13:1-9 ; A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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E-Mail: bateman@perthcatholic.org.au

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



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

Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

March 23, 2025

Bearing fruit in our lives

You never get a second chance to make a first impression. I saw these words on a poster in an employment agency I blessed. Yes, so often we judge others, based on first impressions. Once formed, first impressions can be difficult to let go, in order for us to give someone another chance or see them anew. It's not easy to change our opinions or judgements.

Thankfully, God doesn't relate to us in this way. God is "compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy," and offers us many chances and opportunities to change, and to free ourselves from whatever weighs us down or prevents us from living as people of love committed to Christ and His Kingdom. This week's gospel parable illustrates this truth perfectly.

A fig tree requires the right conditions to produce fruit. The tree in the parable remains fruitless after three years. The vineyard owner wants the gardener to cut it down because it's taking up ground that could be put to better use. The hope-filled gardener appeals to the owner to leave it for another year, during which time he will "dig round it and manure it." Just as the gardener is patient with the fig tree, so God

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

is patient with us, and gives us many chances to bear fruit in our lives.

The challenge is not to waste the opportunities given to us. We must repent. Jesus warns the people: "Unless you repent, you will all perish." Repentance is a central demand of the Good News, and Jesus begins his mission to proclaim the Kingdom with: "Repent and believe the Good news." (Mk 1:15).

Repentance is not focussed on the past, but the future. It's a decision to turn away from where we are and move towards God. To turn away from the darkness in our lives and journey towards the light. To completely change our direction and joyously 'come home' to God. Repentance calls us to leave behind the past and all that has been, and to open our minds and hearts to the person God wants us to be. God's grace will bring us to newness of life.

Sadly, a reluctance to believe that God really loves us, no matter what we've done or where we've been in life, often hinders our willingness to repent and change direction. All too often, our understanding of God is engulfed by fear and anxiety, which trap and bind us from reaching out to God with faith, trust and confidence.

God never gives up on us. Instead, God continually reaches out to us, helping us to become the people that God yearns for us to be. Let's take heart this Lenten season, that God who is compassion and love, is waiting patiently for us, and will transform our repentant hearts, so that the vineyard of our lives will bear abundant fruit.

David J Hore CSsR
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Baptisms: We welcome Ellie Rae Cartwright and Claire Elise Pinto into our Parish Community.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Please pray for Stephen Sik Kwong Chin, Cecilia Guik Hoon Tan, Maria Isabel Leite Da Cunha and Francis John Grosse who passed away recently.

Death Anniversaries:

Please pray for Elizabeth Sheehan, Marie Porter, Marion McCleary, Giuseppe Portelli, Dorothy Mali, Katie O'Donnell, Robert William Brady, Matthew & Maria, Dominico & Maria whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

FOR 30TH MARCH

Bulletin: Ratinda Oetomo
 Flowers: Rosemary Lui Yeo
 Counters: 1. J Pereira 2. R Sciascia 3. G Weldt

	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 10.00am
Acolytes	S Dass	R Norris	S Kan
Altar Servers	J Reutens E Antony N Antony	B Karczub N Karczub I Lu	A Kan G Winaulin J Winaulin
Extra Ordinary Minister Of Holy Communion	V Ng A Khoo C Hoare C Nonis C Choo G Garreffa D Gareffa	J Sciorilli M Saji M Ch'ng M de Rozario W Goh B D'Cruz C Cox	L Saverimutto M Davis M Doray N Mourad N Winata P Demberger P Braganza R Triuntari

Catechists CHILDREN'S LITURGY
Michelle Lowth

Proclaimers	KA King A Fernandes	J Kingsley K Thomas	A Crossley M Costello
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Proclaimers Coordinator: Michele Doray - 9310 4051

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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 14th April 2025 at 9am: Monday of Holy Week
- Monday 21st April 2025 at 9am: Monday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday 26th April 2025 at 9am: Saturday within the Octave of Easter
- Saturday 1st November 2025 at 9am: All Saints
- Monday 8th December 2025 at 9am: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Monday 29th December 2025 at 9am: Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

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

2025 SACRAMENTAL DATES

First Holy Communion: **Saturday 21st June 2025**

Confirmation: **Saturday 6th September 2025**

First Reconciliation: **Saturday 25th 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 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:

- 22nd & 23rd March at Mary MacKillop Centre, South Perth (Live-out)
This is an Indonesian Language Weekend.
- 24th & 25th May at Corpus Christi College (live-out)
- 26th & 27th July at Bunbury Catholic College (live-out).
- 7th - 9th 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 or Visit 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 27th 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 28th March 2025 – Led by Proclaimers Group
- Friday 4th April 2025 – Led by Year 5 Corpus Christi College
- Friday 11th April 2025 – Led by 6PM Music Ministry

FRIDAY ADORATION DURING LENTEN SEASON

- **Friday Adoration during Lenten Season** will be held from Friday 7th March until Friday 11th April 2025 at 6.30pm - 9pm (Straight after Stations of the Cross).
- **24 HOURS ADORATION FOR THE LORD: Friday 28th March 6.30pm— Saturday 29th March 6pm.** Eucharistic Adoration is the spiritual practice of spending time in the presence of Jesus in the exposed Holy Communion Host. 28th/29th March is a time of grace for the whole world with many praying in unity with the Vatican. So, men and women of prayer seek solitude and silence, not so as not to be disturbed, but so as to listen better to God's voice. (Pope Francis general audience 16 Dec 2020). Please sign your name on the attendance sheet in the foyer; so together, as a parish, we keep company for the Lord. Please pray for vocations in your Holy hour. Resources will be available.

BATEMAN PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE WEDNESDAY 2ND APRIL 2025 AT 7.00PM

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service for the Parish will be held on **Wednesday 2nd 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:

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

We have a wonderful opportunity to gather spiritually as a community for this significant event during Lent. There are many reasons for attending this Second Rite of Reconciliation Service:

- We give powerful witness to each other of the need for forgiveness and commitment to repentance. Together we pray for God's mercy. We support and help each other through community prayers at this rite.
- It is a humbling experience to give public witness to being a sinner needing forgiveness and seeking God's mercy. Humility is good for the soul.
- We help to alleviate the burden for our priests at this busy time of year by participating in community reconciliation.

PARISH NEWS

ROSARY WALK TO PINEY LAKES - SATURDAY 22ND MARCH 2025

Thank you to all who participated in the rosary walk. This was a new initiative for our parish. It was well organised and all who participated not only benefited spiritually from this experience but enjoyed the fellowship

STUDY OF VATICAN II DOCUMENT SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM (Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy) - THURSDAY 27TH MARCH AT 1PM - 3PM IN THE PARISH MEETING ROOM

This is the last day of study. – 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. Pope Francis encourages the study of documents of the Second Vatican Council during the Jubilee Year. (Pope Francis Decree on Granting of indulgence111)

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

LENTEN FLIER DISTRIBUTION

Please get your walking shoes ready! Fliers to help with local evangelization and advertising the parish Reconciliation and Easter Services will be available for distribution next weekend (28th, 29th & 30th March).

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE CATHEDRAL SAT 26TH APRIL MORNING

Please mark your diaries. This is a special Jubilee event.

The Pilgrimage begins with **mass at 8am**. And concludes with walking through the Cathedral Holy Door. More details later.

QUOTE: The Life of God in the soul is hope, and the more you hope, the more of the Divine Life you contain within yourself... Therefore hope - hope always.



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

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 December 2020 Catechesis on prayer:

19. The prayer of intercession

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.

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.

SAFEGUARDING INDUCTION TRAINING

A reminder that all parish workers and volunteers are required to do the Safeguarding Induction Training. The online Induction Training takes only 45 minutes to watch and complete. Your compliance is necessary and will be greatly appreciated.

Registration: <https://safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/training/#induction>.