



CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GERALDTON

St Francis Xavier Cathedral

Administrator Fr Gerard Totanes VG
Assistant Priests Fr Savio Nguyen & Fr Joel Nyongesa
Nagle Chaplain Fr Bernard Balaraj
Sunday Masses **Saturday Vigil** 6pm
Sun 7:30am, 9:30am and 6pm
Weekday Masses **Mon-Fri** 7am **Fri** 12:05pm
Saturdays & Public Holidays 9am
Confessions **Fri** 11:30-11:55am
Sat 11am-12pm & 5:30-5:55pm



St John's Rangeway



St Peter's Greenough

St Lawrence's Bluff Point

Mass Times **Wednesday** 10:30am
Saturday Vigil 6:00pm **Sunday** 9:00am
Confessions **Saturday** 5:30-5:55pm or by appointment



Nazareth House

Monday-Saturday 9:30am **Sunday** 10:00am

St John's Rangeway **Sunday Mass** 8:30am

St Peter's Greenough **Sunday Mass** 8:00am

First Sunday of Advent

Year B

3 December 2023

VOCATION VIEW: In our materialistic society, someone must stand up to speak for our spiritual heritage. Could that be you?

Advent

Within the four weeks of the Advent season, the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of how God's plan **has been revealed** in Christ, **is now revealed** in every Mass we celebrate, and that Christ **will be revealed** in his glory, when he comes again at a time we do not know.

For each Sunday of Advent, we take our focus for the Advent Wreath from our Advent traditions. Like the people of the Old Testament, we live in hope for the fullness of the revelation of Christ the Messiah when he will come in glory to judge the living and the dead

"What I say to you, I say to all: Stay awake!"

This year we will also anticipate and pray for the process and outcomes of the Diocesan Synod.

Advent Wreath Ceremony

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The Prophet Isaiah proclaimed to the people that we are the work of God's hands; we are the clay, God is the potter. Mould us in your image as we walk together.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, we believe you come among us now. St Paul declares that the Spirit will keep us steady until the last day.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. You ask us to 'stay awake!'.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.



Feast of Saint Francis Xavier, our Patron

PRAYER

Lord God,
 by the preaching of Saint Francis Xavier
 you brought many nations to yourself.
 Give his zeal for the faith to all who believe
 in you, especially all who are gathered here
 today and who worship as a community
 under the patronage of Saint Francis Xavier.
 May your Church rejoice in continued growth
 throughout the world.
 May this prayer fill us with the same love
 that inspired Francis Xavier to work for the salvation of all.
 Help us to live our Christian calling
 and to inherit the promise of eternal life.
 We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.



Geraldton Parishes' Morning Tea today

Feast of St Francis Xavier and the Launch of the Diocesan Synod

Bishop Michael will be launching the Diocesan Synod at the 9:30am Mass in the Cathedral today. It is also the feast of St Francis Xavier, our patron saint of the cathedral.

Everyone is cordially invited to come together and join the **morning tea at 10am** in the Divine Mercy garden to celebrate these special occasions.



Christmas Busy Bees next Saturday

Christmas Busy Bees at Bluff Point this year is next Saturday, 9th December beginning at 9 am. Please come along to help and bring your own cleaning equipment such as mop, cobweb brush, broom, bucket, dusting cloths, cleaning agents and cloths suitable for cleaning picture frames, displays, woodwork, glass and for cleaning entrance and outside surrounds. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you.



Bulletins available on our website

If you wish to read the parish bulletin online or for any relevant parish information or events, please visit our parish website www.geraldtoncathedral.org

Get your little blue book today!

If you have not received **the little blue book** for the daily advent prayer and reflections, please get it today from the Church for only \$4. If you haven't got money today, not to worry, take your book and bring the money next Sunday.



Next Sunday 10th December
 at Maitland Park, Geraldton



Family Activities 5-6:30pm | Carols start from 7pm
 Featuring The Geraldton City Band
 Smoke & Alcohol free event.

Parish Office & Holy Shop

Opening Hours 9:00am - 1:00pm & 1:30 - 4pm Monday-Friday

Safeguarding Officers 0470 207 707

11 Maitland Street, Geraldton, WA 6530

PO Box 46, Geraldton, WA 6531

sfxcath@westnet.com.au

08 9964 1608 / 08 9964 2716

geraldtoncathedral.org

If you require a priest in emergency, please phone 9964 1608 (24/7)

Dear People of the Geraldton Diocese,
This year, 2023, finds us all affected by a much higher cost of living in Australia than experienced in recent years, affecting the lives of many people and families. We are all seeing more and more homeless sitting on pavements or pushing trolleys. Families are taking to their cars for refuge because they can't afford a place to call home, or if they can afford a place, there simply aren't homes available due to an overwhelming shortage.

There are those who ask, "So what is your community or parish doing to help?" Yes, it may appear as nothing is being offered. If you look at the individual financials of these places, you would see a reflection of what normal households are struggling with, having not much left over to offer any help to anyone. Despite this - it is not the sum total of our community or parishes. It is us, the individuals who make up these communities. It is us, who despite obstacles of uncertainty and doubt with our finances, good is happening in our communities in quiet ways and, as individuals, in our simple ways we are making a difference to people's lives. Because we know that is what we are called to do.

As Pope Francis also encourages us to do, *"...thank the Lord that so many men and women are devoted to caring for the poor and the excluded; they are persons of every age and social status who show understanding and readiness to assist the marginalized and those who suffer. They are not superheroes but "next door neighbours", ordinary people who quietly make themselves poor among the poor. They do more than give alms: they listen, they engage, they try to understand and deal with difficult situations and their causes. They consider not*

only material but also spiritual needs; and they work for the integral promotion of individuals".

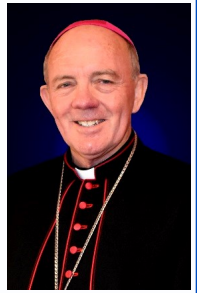
The *Communio Christmas Appeal* is held annually throughout our diocese during the season of Advent, commencing in every Diocesan Parish on Sunday, 17th November, the last Sunday in Ordinary Time before the Feast of Christ the King. This Appeal is a means that individuals can contribute to, to quietly help offer financial assistance and engage with others in need of support and encouragement.

Despite the vastness and remoteness of many communities in our diocese, through this Appeal we are able to care and support each other and the various ministries that assist people's lives. But it is only through your ongoing generosity that any assistance can happen in the first place. What becomes more apparent with the cost of living going up and lack of social housing for people who cannot afford their own home, is that family relationships become strained and children suffer in the fallout of these struggling relationships. Individuals feel frustrated, helpless and forgotten. These all find assistance from Centacare, who rely on Communio funds to be able to assist them.

Our Priests or Pastoral Associates are approached more and more for assistance around the diocese. These are often supported from Communio, as is Nazareth House, who are helped to purchase items not funded by the Government to help improve the wellbeing of the elderly.

Communio continues to support the ministry of Mrs Cathy Jones, Pastoral Leader with the local Catholic and Aboriginal Communities in the Inland Parish of Mt Magnet, Cue and Meekatharra. The small Catholic Inland Communities of Leonora, Laverton and Leinster,

parishes that hold the rich Catholic faith tradition begun in these areas 122 years ago. Your support of Communio lets these communities know they are not forgotten, and we are all connected through our generosity and kindness towards each other in faith.



Thank you to all those who generously contributed to the 2022 Christmas Appeal totaling \$20,735.95 and on behalf of all those who benefited from those funds, I request your prayerful consideration in supporting this year's Appeal.

If you have not received my personal letter to you last week with payment options, I would be grateful if you could kindly get one from the Church today.

Donations of \$2 and over are tax-deductible. If you require a receipt, please indicate your preference as to how you would like to receive it. I assure you that your personal details and contribution details are kept strictly confidential.

Every blessing and peace,
Yours sincerely

+ M. Morrissey
The Most Rev. Michael H. Morrissey

Catholic Caring Services

- Inland Parishes' Ministry
- Centacare
- 'New Mothers' Group
- Nazareth House
- Special and/or urgent requests for assistance



Knights of the Southern Cross meeting next Saturday

Midwest Branch End of Year Meeting: Holy Mass next Saturday, 9th December at 11am in the Cathedral crypt by Fr Cross, with Lunch at Laian's afterwards. All men over 18 are encouraged to attend, children are also welcome throughout. Please RSVP to Daniel, danielhatleyperpetualadoration@gmail.com



Don't Spend Christmas on Your Own

Centacare Family Services invites you to join for **Community Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day at 12 noon** at Catholic Centre, 9 Maitland Street
What to bring? YOURSELF!



To register your interest in attending, please call us.

Also to volunteer or make a donation, please call on 9921 1433.

Diocesan Office

Address 7 Maitland Street, Geraldton, WA 6530

(Opening Hours: 8:30am - 4pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri | 8:30am - 1pm Wed)

Mail PO Box 46, Geraldton, WA 6531
Phone 08 9921 3221

Web www.geraldtondiocese.org.au
Email dioger@diocese-geraldton.org

Special Baptism preparation meeting

Due to a high demand, there will be a special Baptism preparation meeting on Tuesday, 19th December at **5:30pm** in the Parish Seminar Room. This meeting is mandatory for the eldest child to be baptised. **The following meeting will be in February 2024.** For booking, please contact the Parish Office on 9964 1608 or Email: sfxcath@westnet.com.au



Did you buy enough Christmas cards?

Don't be late to send out Christmas greetings to your loved ones! Beautiful Christmas cards are available in our Holy Shop. **Budget cards for just \$3.50 per packet of 8.** If you are looking to buy a nativity set for this Christmas, whether it is small or big in size, we have it in our shop. Please visit the Parish Office during the office hours. EFTPOS available.



When going on a trip, especially overseas, many people spend a good amount of time in preparation. There may be a trip to the doctor, dentist, pharmacy, the supermarket and even the hairdresser. Calls to insurance companies regarding travel and medical cover, requests to neighbours and family members to keep an eye on the house, the dog, the cat ... the list goes on.

Much of the preparation goes into ensuring that when we do leave, there is peace of mind knowing that everything possible has been done. There could also be a last-minute momentary panic. Just as the plane is about to take off, or when the ship is about to leave port, the thought crosses your mind; have I left the kitchen light on?

We hear this in today's gospel. Mark is encouraging his faith community to continue living their lives as best they can in preparation for the second coming of Christ. When Jesus ascended into heaven after Good Friday and Easter Sunday, a lot of the early disciples and followers were left with the impression that Jesus would come back sooner rather than later to

usher in a new era of God's Kingdom. Hence, there was a lot of urgency in the early writings of the early faith communities to

ready and prepared remains the same. Advent is a 'reminder' time to do our best each day to follow in the footsteps of Christ and loving God and loving our neighbour. To take the journey of the path less travelled. To go against the grain of a world that promotes greed, power, and a focus on the self over others. To have hearts that are open to the mystery of God in our lives, in the lives of others and in the wider world, despite all the uncertainties, doubts, anxieties and even fears around us.

Advent is when we begin to prepare for what is to come: When we plant our faith firmly in God's truth so we can better face up to the delays, the unexpected side trips and dark pathways that our lives can unexpectedly take. And that truth is that God so loved the world that God gave his only Son to be born as one of us. So let us stay awake and be witnesses to the wonder of God's love that is continuously at work around us as it was then, as it is now, and as it will be for all time..

Mark Chia CSsR @ Majellan Media 2023 #4051



encourage one another not to lose faith, not to fall by the wayside and to continue to live their lives in accordance with the teachings of Christ. In other words, to maintain their faith and peace of mind.

For us in the 21st century and reading the words of the gospel, the circumstances of our faith and our journey maybe somewhat different from those early communities in Mark's time. However, the overarching message of being

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Next Friday | 8th December

The Immaculate Conception refers to the state that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. Mary is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.



Advent 2023 – Preparing for Christmas

With The Catholic Guy, Bruce Downes

"You don't become who you hope to become, you only become what you do!" You are invited to Prepare for Christmas this Advent (starting 3rd December) with a new Daily Devotional series. Each day, you will receive a short inspirational video from Bruce Downes, known as The Catholic Guy, full of inspiration, real-life stories and practical ways to become all that God has created you to be! *Register now or for more information: <https://BruceDownes.org/Advent>. Email: info@brucedownes.org*

St Lawrence's Parish - Suggestion Box

The suggestion box can be found at the entrance of the church. Your suggestions can be anonymous and we would love to hear from you.

Parish Finances			
Contributions of 26 th November 2023			
	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1441.35	280.00	749.70
Planned Giving \$	979.00	192.00	450.00
Parish Collection \$	520.20	84.20	355.55
Friday Fast \$	108.25		



Feasts of the Week

- 7 Dec Thu Saint Ambrose
- 8 Dec Fri Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Rosary Statue will be with Moira McLean at 124 Fitzgerald Street, Beachlands until 8th December.

Rosary Prayed at **5pm** Monday-Friday
Warm welcome to all!



Holy Hour with Benediction at St Lawrence's

Every second Sunday of the Month 7:45-8:45am.
Last Sunday of each month 3-4pm - Divine Mercy holy hour



Exposition in the Cathedral

Every Thursday after 7am Mass until 8am, Saturdays 8:30-9:00am followed by Mass and First Fridays 7:30-9:30pm with benediction.

Please pray for those who are ill:

Brad Borrows, Ray Sloan, Isabelita Calimag, Sue Harris, Rose Ralph, Noli Soliven, Reg Maisey, Megan Aylmore, Maria Salamone, Bernard Rooney, Tim Conway, Margaret John, Maureen Burke, Maria Masiello, Joe (Giuseppe) Gaudio, Josefina Jalbuena, Hazel Kimoto, Laura Drew, Andres Rodillas, Derek Levett, Peter Scarpuzza, Diana Bennett, Erica Pirrottina and Kim-Maree Kelly.



For the deceased: Frank & Lina Zinetti, Don McDonald, Jim & Nancy Ward, Emilia & Novello Amazzini, Alessandro & Ida Caratti, Giovanni & Severina Giudicatti and Rosetta and Anselmo Scarpuzza.

Anniversaries: Fr Michael O'Flaherty, Fr Tim Manley, Ron Adam and Teresa Teixeira.

Recently Deceased: Trevor McPherson.

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading (Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 79)

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see, Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

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

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness

Second Rite of Reconciliation

In preparation to this Christmas, the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be held on Tuesday, 12th December at 7pm in the Cathedral. There will be many priests available on this occasion for individual confessions. Everyone is invited to attend this grace flowing ceremony.



New Readers' Roster for Cathedral

New roster for Cathedral readers commencing from next weekend is available now. Please get your copy from the sacristy. Thank you.

If you require a priest in an emergency please phone 9964 1608 (24/7)

Children's Cloth Books available in the Holy Shop

A perfect Christmas gift for your children

Gift a colourful cloth book for your children this Christmas! It is also ideal for baptisms, birthdays or any other occasions! Also available many other items. . . . EFTPOS available...



to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! ... Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.....**Alleluia!**

Gospel (Mark 13:33-37)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Communion Antiphon

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (**bow for the following line ***)

*born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 | Psalm 84 | 2 Peter 3:8-14 | Mark 1:1-8

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

Churches	Christmas Eve (Sunday)			Christmas	No Evening Mass
	Vigil	Carols	Night	Morning	
SFX Cathedral	6pm	9:30pm	10pm	7:30 & 9:30	
St John's Rangeway	6pm			8:30am	
St Peter's Greenough				8:00am	
St Lawrence's Church Bluff Point	6pm (Under cover area)	No night Mass		9:00am	
Kalbarri Church	5 pm			No Mass	
SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION					
SFX Cathedral	12 th Dec	Tuesday		7:00pm	