



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 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

Second Sunday of Advent

Year B

10 December 2023

VOCATION VIEW: Isaiah says: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord."
 Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and who are you teaching today?"

Advent

According to the official liturgy documents, the season of Advent is a period for "devout and joyful expectation". Although we celebrate the beginning of the Church's year, we are instructed to look to the end. "The master is coming". We wait and watch for Christ's coming by being faithful to the work he has given each of us to do.



As the minutes of our lives tick by, the Lord's arrival is always unexpected. The work of Christian living is constant watchfulness that discovers the redeeming possibility of every moment.

"Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight!"

Advent Wreath Ceremony

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah who described you as a 'shepherd feeding his flock, gathering the lambs in his arms.'

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you will come again. St Peter reminds us to live holy and saintly lives while we wait and long for the Day of God to come.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you call us to baptism in the Holy Spirit.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Second Rite of Reconciliation this week

In preparation to this Christmas, the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be held this 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.



Christmas Novena Masses

Join the Filipino Community in celebrating "Simbang Gabi" in anticipation of Christmas at St Lawrence's Church Bluff Point from Friday 15th to Saturday 23rd December.



Novena Mass Times

Saturdays 16th & 23rd December at 6pm . All other nights at 6:30pm

Colour coded attire will be observed as follows

15 Dec Orange/Pink	20 Dec Blue
16 Dec Sinulog T-shirt (any colour)	21 Dec Gold/Amber
17 Dec Purple/Violet	22 Dec Green/White
18 Dec Yellow	23 Dec Traditional Attire
19 Dec Red/Pink	

Refreshments will be served in the undercover area after Mass.



Today 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.



Anointing Mass Next Saturday

You are invited to attend the anointing Mass for the Catholic Parishes of Geraldton celebrated in the Cathedral next Saturday, 16th December at 9am.



Bishop's Christmas Communio Appeal

Like Jerusalem's inhabitants, we too are called to go out to Him, repent of our sins and step out of the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. To look inside ourselves and clear a way for the Lord and allow the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and strengthen our commitment. An overflow of any spiritual growth becomes evident in generosity of the material towards those less fortunate. Information on the ways you can donate towards the Christmas Communio Appeal can be found on the parish web page www.geraldtoncathedral.org and click on **Outreach**.



"Together we can make a difference".

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023				
Churches	Christmas Eve (Sunday)			Christmas Morning
	Vigil	Carols	Night	
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

No Evening Mass

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 Friends in Christ,

In 2018, people across our vast diocese got together and participated in small groups to listen, reflect, and share responses to the following questions, *“What are the signs of hope in our local community? In our Parish? In our School? In our Diocesan Agencies? Where are we called to be “more” in our response to God? How could we grow with support of the wider Diocesan Church?”* These questions were taken up at our Diocesan Conference in the same year and set in motion our diocesan journey to the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia. This was our initial synodal journey as a local Church.

On this first Sunday of Advent 2023, at the beginning of a new liturgical year, I wish to formally announce the convocation of the Synod of the Geraldton Diocese. A Diocesan Synod is *“an assembly of selected priests and other members of Christ’s faithful of a particular Church which, for the good of the whole diocesan community, assists the diocesan Bishop.”* (Canon 460) This is a historic first for our diocese since its foundation in 1898. It will be held from Thursday 22 August to Sunday 25 August 2024. In preparation for our Synod, I have selected the members of the Organizing Committee who will lead the process. Dr Mark Copland, who is the Pastoral Projects Director of the Broome Diocese, is the lead facilitator and he will work closely with Fr Gerard Totañes, VG and with the other

members of the Organizing Committee. The Committee will prepare resources that will foster listening and discernment to enable us to engage in spiritual conversations next year during Lent, with the right spirit and right dispositions.

We are undertaking this synodal path of listening and discernment under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. The Church, as a whole, is called to walk the synodal way, totally reliant on the Holy Spirit and with every baptised member contributing their gifts to the entire process. In the words of Pope Francis, *“The journey of synodality is the journey that God wants from his Church in the third millennium”* Since becoming Bishop, I strive to live by my motto, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding”* (Proverbs 3:5), in all aspects of my life and ministry. Therefore, I invite you to walk with me and to *“Trust in the Lord”* as we discern a renewed direction, a way forward for our diocese.

Collectively, as a Catholic community in the Midwest Region, we desire to give a strong witness to the Gospel and foster a more welcoming, compassionate, participatory, missionary, and humble Church. We have a common goal, i.e., to be a Church that is truly alive and brimming with the joy of Jesus Christ as we live out our mission and remain in communion with God and with one another. We seek to *“Open the door, and the heart even more*

so” in response to all the diverse and emergent pastoral challenges of our time, doing it in a responsible and purposeful manner as our Trinitarian God would have us do.

This is an opportune time, a God-given time, a ‘kairos’ moment that will further our growth as Church and strengthen our Eucharistic witness to God’s love. By being faithful and intentional disciples of Christ, our Lord, we are united in a continuing dialogue of love in the spirit of Synodality.

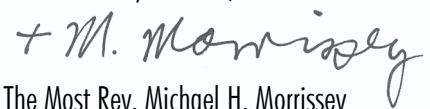
I humbly ask for your prayers and active participation through the days ahead and into the New Year.

St Francis Xavier,

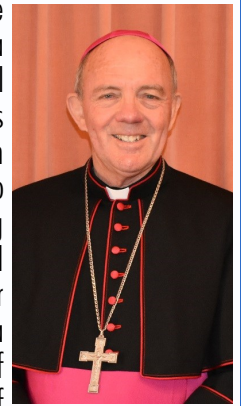
Patron of the Geraldton Diocese, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, pray for us.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



The Most Rev. Michael H. Morrissey
Bishop of Geraldton



Friday Fast

Thank you to all our supporters for your contributions to this project. There are so many requests for help especially at this time of the year, with Communion appeal, Catholic Mission etc, but please try to remember, that a *cup of coffee* or a *slice of cake* that you decide to not have and the money goes to Friday Fast. It all helps!

Sr. May Pauline has been so grateful for \$1,400 to help with the *comfort houses* in the highlands in Vietnam where there are so many lepers and very poor village people. In 2024 we will be helping Sr. Christy at St Mary’s Home for Vulnerable Children in New Guinea as she looks after displaced children. God’s Blessings to you all for a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Any queries to Yvonne Fahl 0400978284

Bulletins available on our website

For parish bulletins online or for important information, please visit our parish website www.geraldtoncathedral.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



Thank you all

On behalf of Guor and the people of Akot Village in South Sudan, we say **Thank you** to everyone who bought a ticket to the movie *Journey to Bethlehem*. We sold over 100 tickets and we hope you enjoyed the movie. Special thanks to Ron and the staff at Orana Cinemas and to the volunteers at Monsignor Hawes’ Heritage Centre for your assistance with the ticket sales.

Thank you for also for your donations to our Health Clinic and to our school, St Benedict’s Under the Tree. Every dollar that you donate goes straight to the people of Akot Village. There are no Administration Fees. There are no paid positions on our Committee. All fund-raising is carried out by our generous volunteers.

If you wish to donate or contribute to the future development of Akot Village, please use the account details listed below.

Health Clinic: BSB 633000 Account Number: 195270988

School Account: BSB 633000 Account Number: 195271036

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.



Diocesan Office

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

Address 7 Maitland Street, Geraldton, WA 6530

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

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

I recall a scripture scholar describing John the Baptist as an extremely eccentric character with an odd wardrobe and an unusual diet. However, you imagine him, certainly John must have had a captivating personality, attracting large followings in less than comfortable surroundings, and this surely suggests that his message carried real conviction.

Mark and his fellow gospel writers are in no doubt that John the Baptist is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecies about the one who would prepare the way for the coming of the messiah. Accordingly, John takes centre-stage in the liturgies of Advent. He invites us to think about our lives and to what extent we have welcomed the Lord into them, and how readily we are responding to his continuing invitation to follow him.

In his second letter Saint Peter is obviously concerned that the enthusiasm of some members of the early Christian community is beginning to wane because the promised Second Coming of the Lord has not arrived, and here are we, two thousand years later, still waiting and wondering. Of course, one of the fascinating

aspects of Advent is that it expects us not only to commemorate the First Coming – the birth of the Christ-child in Bethlehem – but also requires us to look forward to his Second Coming in

weary, wondering how the Lord is going to fulfil his promises for us personally and for the whole of his creation.

Perhaps one of the lessons we can learn from this Sunday's liturgy is that we are not likely to find the answers in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. We do need to withdraw into the desert within ourselves if we are to hear the voice in the wilderness calling us to "make a straight highway for our God". The temptation is to allow the cacophony of voices to distract us and crowd out the one voice that wants to clarify our thinking and give us the inner peace that will put everything into perspective.

Entering the mind of God, we will discover that a day can mean a thousand years, while a thousand years are like a day. With that perspective we may be able to recapture the joy of our youth and the sense of wonder that infused our minds at Christmas in those days. Remember: we need the trust of the little child to be ready for the Kingdom. A very happy Christmas to one and all.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR @ Majellan Media 2023 #4052



glory. As we mature through life, we may well, like those Christians of the first century begin to wane in our zeal and commitment. It can prove difficult to capture the magic of Christmas as we experienced it in our childhood, and the Second Coming may seem like a dim and distant prospect. However hard we try "to live lives without spot or stain", we may be growing

Come sing a song for Joy Christmas Carols



**Combined Hospitals Christmas Carols
Tuesday 19th December at 6:15pm**

Commencing in Geraldton Regional Hospital Foyer then onto St John of God Hospital with light supper to finish All Welcome! No need to practice | Bring your family and friends
Contact Jeremy Rice at Geraldton Hospital or Alison Dawson at St John of God Hospital



Josephite Calendars still available

If you wish to have a beautifully prepared Josephite Calendar, it is still available at the Parish Office for \$10.

Christmas New Year Holidays

Our offices will be closed during the Christmas and New year period as scheduled below:

OFFICES	CLOSING	RE-OPENING
Parish Office	12:30pm Fri 22 Dec 2023	9:00am Wed 3 Jan 2024
Diocesan and CDF Offices	12:30pm Fri 22 Dec 2023	8:30am Tue 2 Jan 2024

Parish Finances

Contributions of 3rd December 2023

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1437.25	346.45	674.30
Planned Giving \$	644.00	482.00	455.00
Parish Collection \$	390.85	76.10	308.55
Friday Fast \$	96.75		



Feasts of the Week

13 Dec Wed Saint Lucy
14 Dec Thu Saint John of the Cross



THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Rosary Statue will be with Espie & Brian Edwardes at 4 Wilton Close, Mount Tarcoola until 15th December. Rosary Prayed at 5pm Monday-Friday **except Tuesday** 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, Joe (Giuseppe) Gaudio, Josefina Jalbuena, Hazel Kimoto, Laura Drew, Andres Rodillas, Derek Levett, Peter Scarpuzza, Diana Bennett, Erica Pirrottina, Kim-Maree Kelly and Derek Levett.



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: Giuseppe Chila and Aldo Salato.

Recently Deceased: Maria Masiello, Sr Emmanuel Crocetti pbvm and Trevor McPherson.

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 84)

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

Second Reading (2 Peter 3:8-14)

A reading from the Second letter of St Peter

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! ... Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.....**Alleluia!**

Gospel (Mark 1:1-8)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



HE WILL BAPTIZE
YOU WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT
AND WITH FIRE.

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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 61:1-2, 10-11 | Luke 1 | 1 Thess 5:16-24 | John 1:6-8,19-28

Have you got your little blue book for Advent?

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.



If you or family members are admitted to hospital (or sick and at home) and wish to receive holy communion/pastoral visit, please ring the parish office on 9964 1608. You can also request the hospital staff to inform the Parish Office that you have been admitted in the hospital.



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.