



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

Third Sunday of Advent

Year B

17 December 2023

VOCATION VIEW: "As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord", (James 5:10). A vocation is responding to the call of God.

Advent

This Sunday is *Gaudete* or Rejoicing Sunday. In the previous two Sundays we have lit purple candles, representing hope and faith, whereas this Sunday we light the pink candle as rose is a liturgical colour used to signify joy.



Every Christian in some way conceives and gives birth to the Word of God. In the faith, we bring Christ to a world that is waiting. The period of Advent and Christmas is a time for us to ponder more deeply and proclaim to the world and word of God made flesh. In this season, every Christian is called to share, through whatever opportunities the Lord provides, the good news that God has entered our human condition to unite us to him.

Advent Wreath Ceremony

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah who cried with joy, for God clothes us in the garments of salvation.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you come among us now as the light of the world. St Paul urges us to be happy at all times and to pray constantly.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you sent John the Baptist to be a witness for the light.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Thanksgiving Adoration and Mass on New Year Eve

Let us join together for a solemn adoration and benediction on the last day of the year at 10pm followed by thanksgiving Mass at 11pm in the Cathedral on Sunday 31st December. It is a great opportunity to reflect and thank God for the abundant blessings we have received this year, despite having pains and tears at times! We will also begin our new year with the Lord of all. All Welcome!



Special Baptism preparation meeting this week

Due to a high demand, there will be a special Baptism preparation meeting this 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



Blessing of Nativity Sets

This year marks the 800th Anniversary of the Christmas Crèche, a tradition began by St Francis of Assisi in a cave in Greccio, Italy in 1223. We invite and encourage parishioners to have their nativity sets blessed next Friday, 22nd December after the midday Mass, and on Saturday, 23rd December after the 9 am Mass in the Cathedral. "Creche" is an old French term for a crib or manger. It has become a symbol of the true essence of Christmas - the simple yet profound mystery of the Incarnation.

Christmas cards and Nativity Sets still available

Beautiful Christmas cards are still 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, we have it in our shop. Please visit the Parish Office during office hours. EFTPOS available.



Christmas Novena Masses

Join the Filipino Community in celebrating "Simbang Gabi" at St Lawrence's Church Bluff Point.



Novena Mass Times

Saturday 23rd December at 6pm. All other nights at 6:30pm.

Colour coded attire will be observed as follows

17 Dec Purple/Violet	21 Dec Gold/Amber
18 Dec Yellow	22 Dec Green/White
19 Dec Red/Pink	23 Dec Traditional Attire
20 Dec Blue	

Refreshments will be served in the undercover area after Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2023

Churches	Christmas Eve (Sunday)			Christmas Morning	No Evening Mass
	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	

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,

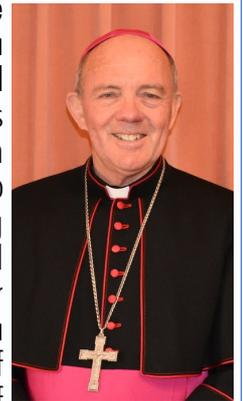
Patron of the Geraldton Diocese, pray for us.

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

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

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

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

Bishop’s Christmas Communion 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 Communion Appeal can be found under the tab **Outreach** on the parish website www.geraldtoncathedral.org *“Together we can make a difference”.*



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



For centuries, the Jewish people had treasured the words of prophets like Isaiah. They would have had the promises we see in today's gospel and first reading inscribed on their minds and hearts.

Isaiah, particularly, spoke of the promise of God's decisive response to the suffering of his people and to evil in the world. Through Isaiah, God promised his people that, in the "year of favour from the Lord and the day of vindication", he would "reveal his glory", "feed his flock like a shepherd" and "gather the lambs in his arms". On that day, God would raise a king from the house of David, whom he

would anoint to "bring good news to the poor", "bind up hearts that are broken" and "proclaim liberty to captives".

And after years of waiting, John the Baptist was telling his people that the day was arriving.

By quoting Isaiah 40, John casts himself as Isaiah's prophesied "voice crying out in the wilderness". John proclaims that he is the herald for the moment when, as Isaiah describes, "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together".

The mention of God's glory is a crucial point, as

the glory of the Lord was often described in the Old Testament as a pillar of consuming fire that showed God's strength and holiness. This glory would go before them in extraordinary moments

God would dwell among them without barrier or division between them.

So, when John the Baptist explains that he is preparing people to meet "the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie", he is describing this person as the revelation of God's glory, coming with the power and holiness of God himself.

Through Jesus, the glory of God witnessed in the gospels is not the fiery presence of the Old Testament but the radiance of the character of God, the grace and truth about which

Moses heard and Isaiah witnessed, in the person and life of Jesus.

In Jesus, who John the Baptist will soon reveal as the "lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world", we can know the God who is so powerful, holy and unlike us that there should be barriers between us. But we know him now as God with us, anointing us with the same Spirit that Isaiah promised would anoint the Messiah.

Joseph Doyle @ Majellan Media 2023
#4053



of salvation and deliverance, such as during the Exodus, or moments of the revelation of God's will, such as the giving of the Law at Sinai. God's presence was so holy and mighty that when it appeared before them, it needed to be concealed from the people of Israel in a pillar of cloud or, later, in the Temple.

The prophets spoke forward to a day when God's glory would be revealed in a way that was no longer concealed but fully disclosed for all to see. John the Baptist's quoting of Isaiah calls to mind this promise of the day when the one true

Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree Project is an endeavour of Prison Fellowship to provide Christmas gifts to the children of prisoners. A child who has a parent (or both parents) in prison is, statistically, 6 times more likely to be incarcerated at some stage themselves. Fathers & mothers inside can feel the separation from their children intensifies at Christmas time as they are unable to purchase a gift for their children. Angel Tree helps maintain the bond between parent and child. It also helps churches connect with these vulnerable, often isolated and stigmatised families in their community.

There are many kids of prisoners in Geraldton, Mullewa, Dongara and Northampton. If you are willing to donate a gift to the kids of Geraldton Prisoners via the Angel Tree Project, go to <https://prisonfellowship.org.au/>

Do not send any donation to the Church in this regard.



Josephite Calendars still available

If you wish to have a beautifully prepared Josephite Calendar for 2024, it is still available at the Parish Office for \$10.

Visit our parish website

For parish bulletins online, Christmas Mass times or for any parish information, visit our parish website www.geraldtoncathedral.org

THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Pilgrim Rosary will be in recession until 3rd January 2024.



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.

The little blue books are still available

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.

Parish Finances

Contributions of 10th December 2023

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1379.15	316.85	774.30
Planned Giving \$	587.35	215.00	617.50
Parish Collection \$	861.40	102.40	527.75
Friday Fast \$	69.60		



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.



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

Anniversaries: Geoff Long, Michael Iaria, Miguel Lechuga, Julia Dayo, Margaret Dolan, Kamilesh Mary Kurusappan.

Recently Deceased: Maria Masiello and Sr Emmanuel Crocetti pbvm.

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading (Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Luke 1)

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

R.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.

R.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

A reading from the First letter of St Paul to Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! ... The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.....**Alleluia!**

Thanks a bunch to all Volunteers

Volunteers have very important roles in the day to day life of our Parishes. Many of our ministries run smoothly because of the generosity of our volunteers. A big thank you to all sacristans, altar servers, special ministers, Acolytes, choir members, readers, hospitality ministers, GodStart team members, children's liturgy team members, catechists, youth ministry members, counters and safeguarding officers.

Thank you also to all other members who are involved directly or indirectly for the hassle free operation of our Parishes. May God bless you all and wish you a very happy, holy and hope-filled Christmas and a bountiful New Year!



Gospel (John 1:6-8,19-28)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.



The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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

2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 | Ps 88 | Romans 16:25-27 | Luke 1:26-38

January Reflection and Prayer: A Whole New Year!

Holy Hour includes The Epiphany of the Lord and Jesus' Baptism.

On Friday 5 January at 11am in the Cathedral followed by mid-day Mass.



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.

