



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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year B

24 December 2023

VOCATION VIEW: Mary's perfect 'yes' to God's will establishes her as a model of discipleship.
 What are you called to say 'yes' to, to enable God to live within you?

Advent Wreath Ceremony

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you established the house of David to be secure forever and from which the Saviour would be born.

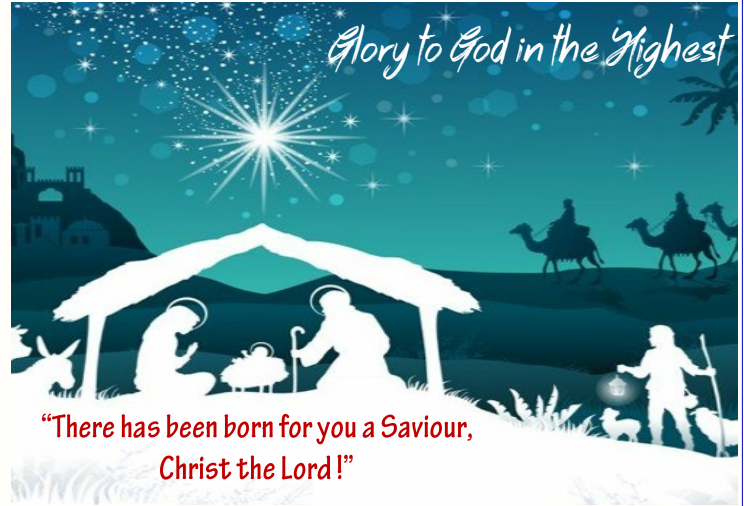
R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you alone are wisdom and as St Paul declares, you will give us the strength to live the Gospel.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you sent the angel Gabriel to give the good news to Mary so that she would bring Jesus into the world through the power of the Spirit.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.



Wish you all a very Happy, Holy and Hope-filled Christmas

Thanksgiving Adoration and Mass Next Sunday

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!



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!



No Wednesday Mass at Bluff Point this week

There will be no Mass at St Lawrence's Church this Wednesday, 27th December. Inconvenience caused to you is highly regretted.

Public Holiday this Tuesday

Holy Mass in the Cathedral this Tuesday, on 26th Dec will be at 9am.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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	

Christmas New Year Holidays

Office	Closed	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

For online bulletins and articles, visit www.geraldtoncathedral.org

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)

Christmas Message from Bishop Michael

These words we hear from the prophet Isaiah at the Christmas Mass are very relevant for our times. Many places in our world are currently caught up in division, turmoil, conflict and war and there is terrible loss of life and homes on every side.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, we may find ourselves pondering on 'Where is the light of hope and joy for people living in darkness and uncertainty?'

There was a wonderful example from the First World War, which was meant to be the war that ended all Wars in Europe. On the Western front around the time of the first Christmas of World War I in 1914, soldiers from both sides of the conflict stopped fighting and exchanged greetings, presents, and even played a soccer game for a brief time. They didn't see

This cross still stands in Belgium as a constant reminder of the WW1 Christmas Truce in December 2014

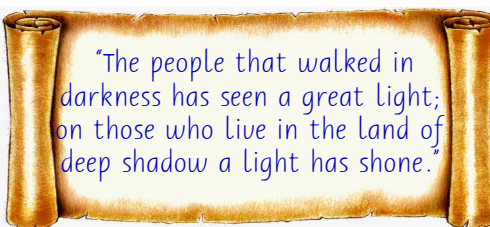


themselves as enemies but fellow human beings.

You can well imagine their action, filled with hope and peace, was very much frowned upon by military leaders. The decision to step up out of the despair of the trenches was not made by political leaders, or those in power, but



of faith, recognise the importance of coming together as families or as friends, to celebrate the gift of life, hope and peace, "...as part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect" [Laudato Si 89].



by ordinary folk who primarily just wanted to live lives in peace and in honour of the birth of the Christ Child who came to bring peace.

It was the ordinary people who, in that moment in time, gave to each other the gift of joy and a glimmer of hope in what seemed impossible. For us it is a reminder of the very deep desire within human beings to want to live in peace.

That is one the powers of Christmas and why it is so special. People of all walks of life and levels

Jesus came into our world encouraging us to leave behind those things that divide, diminish and hinder, and to choose a life filled with hope and joy. No matter how dark things seem, or how difficult things are, an 'ordinary' person has the power to choose a gesture of kindness and goodwill over an act of indifference or hostility. Choose to bring joy and hope in that moment and not despair or anger. Even if it can only be for a moment. A simple message of Christmas, which will never be suppressed, is that God's love is eternal and present to each one of us in all the acts of kindness and the goodwill in our communities, families and friends.

May you have a blessed and happy Christmas as, with the angels, praise God singing,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace, goodwill among people".

Mass at St John of God Hospital Chapel

Mass will be celebrated at 11am this Wednesday, 27th December.

Marist Reunion

All former Marist students are warmly invited to participate in the upcoming annual reunion on Wednesday 24 January 2024.

Venue: Newman College, Empire Ave, Churchlands.

Time: 4.30pm. Mass in the college chapel at 5.30pm

Fellowship to follow. BYO everything. RSVP unnecessary.

Queries: Kevin 0407 511 104. Ambrose 0419 912 187.

Feasts of the Week

26 Dec Tue Saint Stephen

27 Dec Wed Saint John

28 Dec Thu The Holy Innocents

31 Dec Sun The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



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 under the tab **Outreach** on the parish website www.geraldtoncathedral.org "Together we can make a difference".



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.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS OF THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GERALDTON

We thank them for their commitment to the children and the vulnerable of our parishes.



Amy Zinetti



Leonie Golding



Melinda Jupp



Simon Place



Ron Pace



Rosemary Taylor



Contact Number 0470 207 707 | Email: sgo@westnet.com.au

Every Child, in every community needs a fair go



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

In preparation for the birth of Jesus tomorrow, today we celebrate the Annunciation, the announcement to Mary that she is being invited to become the mother of the Saviour. Moreover, we hear the story in the Gospel of Luke who portrays Mary as a true believer and first disciple of Jesus. While Mary is not a disciple like the Twelve who accompany Jesus in his ministry, she is presented as the true disciple who hears the Word of God and acts upon it.

Birth announcements play a significant role in the Hebrew Scriptures turning supposed barren wombs into surprising conceptions: Ishmael is born to Hagar; Isaac to Abraham and Sarah; John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth ["She who was thought to be barren is now in her sixth month!"]. Israel's God is ever full of surprises! The telling of the Annunciation story is also significant because it follows the pattern of the calling of the Jewish prophets (e.g., Moses and Jeremiah): there is a heavenly messenger or angel; the 'prophet' expresses fear but is told to not be afraid; God's intention is announced; objections are given; finally, a sign of divine power is presented.

Mary's objection to the idea of bearing a son is grounded in biological reality: "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel's answer is that the Holy Spirit will overshadow her and enable

that implies enormous risk and danger. After all, if the law of Deuteronomy was applied, as an unwed mother Mary could be stoned to death!

The birth of the Lord in human flesh coming into the world to deliver us from power and greed relies on this poor, peasant Jewish woman saying yes to God's invitation. Certainly, Mary's call is unique insofar as she alone is invited to conceive and deliver Jesus. Yet, like Mary, we are all called to give Jesus Christ in our own lives.

God's gracious care and desire to repair our lives and planet earth is occurring today. Do we have Mary's faith, hope and courage to say "Yes" to the divine invitation to be missionary disciples of Jesus in the way of Mary. Like Mary, we are all called to be prophets, people who denounce the world's injustices, and cry out to God to bring peace and reconciliation to all peoples. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ may we, like Mary, learn to hear the Word of God and put it into practice.

Gerard Hall SM @ Majellan Media 2023 #4054



this 'miracle' to occur in the same manner the Spirit hovered over the waters at the origin of creation. This same Spirit was again present at the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus.

Mary's final response – "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me" – is not an expression of passive servitude. Mary's fiat ('let it be done') demonstrates a conscious and active faith; and it shows an almost outrageous authority as she first questions the angel before making a decision

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.

✠ EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday, with prayers of St Joseph and solemn benediction. on Friday, 5th January 7:30 - 9:30pm in the Cathedral. Everyone welcome!



WA Professional Standards Office

for abuse complaints against the Catholic Church

Professional Standards Office WA

Saxon Gee (Perth) 1800 072 390 / 08 9221 7762

Email director.wapso@perthcatholic.org.au



THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Pilgrim Rosary will be in recess 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.



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, Mick Clarke, Rosetta & Anselmo Scarpuzza, Kitty Rowe, Peter Rowe, Iszav Rowe, Colleen & Ian Shanks; Geoff Long; Sheila & Phil Bunter Armanasco & Marsden families and Fr Johnny Carpenter.

Anniversaries: Fr Robert Pocock, Sr Dolores Desmond, Don McDonald, Philomena Wendt, Gwen Clarke, Monica Clune, Peg McCormack, Bill O'Neill and Frank Knucky.

Recently Deceased: Maria Masiello and Cecilia Norris.

Parish Finances

Contributions of 17th December 2023

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1285.15	342.40	727.75
Planned Giving \$	1003.00	202.00	435.00
Parish Collection \$	677.35	132.75	324.45
Friday Fast \$	186.65		



Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading (2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16)

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 88)

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R.**

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **R.**

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

Second Reading (Romans 16:25-27)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! ... I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.....**Alleluia!**

*May his will
for me be done.*

Gospel (Luke 1:26-38)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*The baby to be born
will be holy, and he will
be called the Son of
God.*

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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

Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3 | Ps 104 | Hebrews 11:8-19 | Luke 2:22-40

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.



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



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.