

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GERALDTON



St Francis Xavier Cathedral

Administrator Fr Gerard Totanes VG
Assistant Priest Fr Savio Nguyen
Nagle Chaplain Fr Joel Nyongesa

Mass Times
 Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
 Sunday 7:30am, 9:30am and 6:00pm
 Monday – Friday 7:00am Friday 12:05pm
 Saturdays & Public Holidays 9:00am

Confessions
 Friday 11:30am – 11:55am
 Saturday 11:00am – 12:00pm & 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 Currently Suspended

St Peter's Greenough

Sunday Mass 8:00am

Second Sunday of Lent

Year C

16 March 2025

VOCATION VIEW: After the transfiguration, Peter, John and James wanted to stay up the mountain. But Jesus said, "Move," with the knowledge that ships are safe in harbours, but not meant to stay in harbours.

Project Compassion

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) is a 13-year-old primary school student from Samoa. Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result. Toefuata'iga's school community struggled without reliable access to clean water, which impacted students' education and hygiene. Teachers often had to leave the school to fetch water from nearby homes, disrupting lessons and adding strain to the community. When the water ran out at the school, students were sent home which meant they missed out on valuable learning time.

Thanks to the support of Caritas Australia in partnership with Caritas Samoa, Toefuata'iga's school now has a 10,000 L water tank through a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education. "Now that we have the water tank, things are so much better, we can stay at school all day, and I get to spend more time learning and playing with my friends. I'm



happy that we don't have to go home early anymore." – said Toefuata'iga.

This transformative story is just one example of how Caritas Australia's Project Compassion creates waves of change around the world. Will you stand with students like Toefuata'iga this Lent?

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes or envelopes available in the Church today or by scanning the QR code. Alternatively by calling 1800 024 413 or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Please Donate Today!



The Prayer of St Patrick | Feast on 17th March

I arise today through
 God's strength to pilot me;
 God's might to uphold me,
 God's wisdom to guide me,
 God's eye to look before me,
 God's ear to hear me,
 God's word to speak for me,
 God's hand to guard me,
 God's way to lie before me,
 God's shield to protect me,
 God's hosts to save me
 Afar and anear,
 Alone or in a multitude.
 Christ shield me today
 Against wounding
 Christ with me,
 Christ before me,



Christ behind me,
 Christ in me,
 Christ beneath me,
 Christ above me,
 Christ on my right,
 Christ on my left,
 Christ when I lie down,
 Christ when I sit down,
 Christ in the heart of everyone
 Who thinks of me,
 Christ in the mouth of everyone
 who speaks of me,
 Christ in the eye that sees me,
 Christ in the ear that hears me.



**I arise today
 Through the mighty strength
 Of the Lord of creation.**

Congratulations Fr Gerard

Fr Gerard Totanes is celebrating the 24th anniversary of his Priestly Ordination tomorrow on 17th March. Let us congratulate and keep him in your prayers and thoughts.



MHHE Presents Encountering Beauty

Encounter the Beauty of Music & Song in the sublime architecture and acoustics of St Francis Xavier Cathedral Geraldton

**Featuring Renowned International Performers
 Johann Vexo (Organist) & Damien Riviere (Tenor)
 Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7pm | Tickets \$55**



All proceeds used to conserve the buildings of Monsignor Hawes
 Scan the QR Code to purchase your ticket
 or contact Fr Robert Cross on 99213221

Carols by Candlelight

Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 7th April 7.30pm. All positions become vacant and are voted on for election at this meeting. Always keen for extra people to assist with the planning of this annual event. 2025 Carols by Candlelight planned for Sunday December 7th. Please contact your pastor or the Carols Committee on geraldtoncarols@gmail.com if you are interested in being a part of the event preparations this year.



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

Solemnity of St Joseph - this Wednesday 19th March

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Guardian of our Lord and Patron of the Universal Church.

St Joseph, Protector of the Holy Church, pray for us.



Parish Office & Holy Shop

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

11 Maitland Street, Geraldton, WA 6530

PO Box 46, Geraldton, WA 6531

gtonparish@geraldtoncatholic.org.au

www.geraldtoncatholic.org



Safeguarding Officers 0470 207 707

08 9964 1608 / 08 9964 2716

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

Update on impending repairs to St John's Church, Rangeway

To update everyone, especially the St John's Church community, as you all know, it has been over 12 months now, since the ceiling collapsed at St John's Church Rangeway.

After several months of serious deliberations and a recent meeting, it is my intention to fix the damage and reopen the church.

Recent inspections were carried out by the various skilled trades people and the preferred builder has been appointed to assess the damage, quote and undertake the repairs required to fix and reopen the Church. The Inspections of the building revealed that there is extensive deterioration of the roofing tiles. The roof tiles are made of terra cotta and are deteriorating, crumbling through age and various weather elements and (*likely impacts of tropical Cyclone Seroja included*) the tiles need replacing to make the repair works effective and long lasting.

The total cost of the repairs to the entire interior of the church ceiling, entire exterior roof tiles including replacing the tile battens and electrical rewiring, has been estimated to be in the vicinity of \$500,000.

To meet the large costs of the necessary repair works, a financial loan will be required (to supplement the CCI insurance payout of \$81,000) to commence the works. As there is insufficient funds at present to maintain such a large debt, the diocesan financial manager and the diocesan finance team have put together ideas of proven methods of servicing the loan repayments, taken from examples of various other churches who've faced the same or similar situations.

Options proposed are, the buildings at St John's Church, Rangeway, that is the Presbytery, Family Room and the Church itself could become sources of income by converting them into multipurpose use in ways of the following suggestions/options as

an example:

The Church building

This can become a multipurpose use building when the church is not being used for church/religious reasons. (e.g. outside of Sunday Mass, funerals, baptisms and school liturgies etc.)

The interior can be modified by screening off the current front area where the altar / sanctuary area is, will be kept for religious purposes and accessible only to the church community.

The gradient floor can be improved and an architect will be called in, to assess the possibilities of repurposing the building.

Removing the church pews to open up the floor space to create a versatile area by replacing the pews with movable and stackable chairs and adding in some storable, stackable trestles etc.

This floor area can then be hired out (when not in use for church reasons, (e.g. Mass etc.) to various external groups (management approved) and managed by the parish/diocesan office staff.

The Sacristy could be converted into a functional kitchen/ server area to further enhance the use of the building for hire to external users.

Presbytery

When the presbytery is made vacant, it can be rented out as a home (to vetted tenants) for an estimated rental of \$600 per week. This approximate rental income could bring in a total of \$31,200 per annum. It will be adequate to service the loan repayments over a period of 10 or 15 years. There would need to be some upgrades made to the presbytery interior to bring it to a rentable

standard e.g. carpets replaced with new, a front fence erected to define the rented area etc.

Family Room

There is potential to also rent out the family room space to approved tenants e.g. clubs for meetings or family day care groups. (*Some upgrades will be needed to the building*). The rental income again, is another financial source to service the loan debt.

Even though it has taken a long time to get to this point, it is my intention to fix St John's church and reopen it as soon as possible, and the above options are to give an example of ways and means of securing a regular income from the property which will help service the loan without burdening the parishioners who contribute via Planned Giving program and with fundraising in having to repay the loan off.

The financial loan is needed to commence the repairs to the church building so that it can reopen and function again. The purpose of renting the buildings out is also a better way of having an active and constant presence on the Rangeway church premises which then brings benefits of deterring the constant vandalism that occurs due to low activity and the vacant buildings that attract those passersby with intent to cause damage, misuse and vagrancy.

I hope this gives a good example of what is possible and how we can meet the needs of our church community of Rangeway and the Parishes of Geraldton, the school, and various community needs by making these building assets multipurpose and has the potential to bring in a substantial income to meet the financial needs and maintenance.

† Bishop Michael Morrissey



Lent 2025

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 6pm in the Cathedral. Everyone is invited to take part in it.

Lenten Reflections - Metanoia - every Thursday

Lenten reflections for spiritual renewal will be held every Thursday during Lent at 5:30pm in the Parish Seminar Room. Welcome all.

MHHC Museum & Tours

The Museum is open daily from 10am-4pm. If you would like to learn more about John Hawes and the SFX Cathedral, tours are available on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday at 2:30 and Friday at 4:00. Tickets (\$5) are available at the museum.



Young Chorister - Have a go sessions

Join us for a unique opportunity to sing in our iconic Cathedral.

Sing lots of exciting music... Learn lots about music and our rich heritage of music... Contribute to the community life...

Make new friends..

Open to boys and girls aged 6-14 years. No prior experience needed.

Dates & Times

⇒ Sunday 6th April 9:30am Mass (sit-in),
10:45-11:45am singing session

⇒ Monday 7th April 4:30-5:45pm Singing session

Registration essential!! **Contact: Jacinta at jacinta111@icloud.com**

Registrations close on Friday 4th April



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@geraldtoncatholic.org.au



In Celtic Christianity, there is a concept of "thin spaces"—places where the boundary between the earthly and the divine feels particularly close. In the Biblical stories, mountains often serve as "thin spaces", where moments of transcendence lead to direct encounters with the sacred.

In the Old Testament, mountains are consistently portrayed as spaces where the divine presence breaks into the phenomenal world. Abraham's profound test of faith occurs on Mount Moriah, where his willingness to sacrifice Isaac leads to an encounter with God's fidelity (Genesis 22:1-14). Moses' transformative moments with God also take place on mountains—first the mountain of the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-2), and later Mount Sinai, where he receives the law amidst thunder, lightning, and divine glory (Exodus 19).

Elijah, too, finds God not in the dramatic but in a gentle whisper on the same mountain (1 Kings 19:8-18). These stories highlight the mountain as a place where ordinary life is interrupted, and profound clarity and divine presence are experienced.

In the New Testament, Jesus exemplifies the importance of seeking out these thin spaces. He

goes up a mountain to pray alone (Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12), teaches his disciples on mountains (Matthew 5:1; Mark 3:13), and resists Satan's temptations there (Matthew 4:8;



Luke 4:5). The Transfiguration, one of the most striking mountain episodes, occurs when Jesus ascends with Peter, James, and John and is revealed in divine glory, speaking with Moses and Elijah (Luke 9:28-36). These moments are pivotal, as they illuminate the necessity of stepping away from the world to gain spiritual insight and strength.

The Transfiguration story reminds us of the rhythm between mountain-top experiences and the everyday challenges of life. After descending from the mountain, Jesus embarks on his journey to Jerusalem, encountering the complexities of human suffering and marginalised communities. This pattern mirrors

our own lives, where moments of spiritual clarity must eventually translate into action and compassion in the thick of daily existence.

Taking time to "go up the mountain" and enter the rarified atmosphere above is essential. It is only there that we step away from the noise of daily life to seek clarity and gain perspective. These encounters are opportunities to pray, reflect, and encounter God. They help us to take stock of our priorities and discern the path ahead for the "thick spaces" where we live our lives rarely mindful of the divine reality that underpins all existence.

This Lent, we are called to embrace the mountain as a metaphor for renewal. Whether through prayer, retreat, or silent reflection, let us ascend to meet God in the thin spaces, allowing these moments to transform our hearts. May these experiences empower us to live with renewed purpose, carrying the grace of our divine encounters into every interaction and challenge. The mountain is not an escape but a vantage point, reminding us of the deeper call to love, serve, and remain rooted in God amidst the complexities of the world.

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Thank you from Guor

To everyone who attended the Multicultural Fundraising Dinner on Saturday night, thank you. To those who helped set up, serve dinner, pack up and clean up, thank you. We want to give a special mention to Lea Obadia and the Youth Group. Your contribution was amazing. To those who supported Akot Village in South Sudan with online donations and cash, thank you all so much. Every dollar that you donate goes directly to the Village to help fund our school and our Medical Centre. So far, we have raised \$2200, and donations are still being received.

Our bank details are: Athiolget Women's and Children's Health
BSB 633 000 Account Number 195 270 988

Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th April at **5:30pm** in the Parish Seminar Room. This meeting is mandatory for the parents of the eldest child to be baptised. *For booking, please contact the Parish Office on 9964 1608 or Email: gtonparish@geraldtoncatholic.org.au*

Looking for Easter Cards?

Beautiful Easter Cards are now available in our parish holy shop to purchase. Other piety gift items and greeting cards are also available. Welcome to browse and buy during office hours.



Thank
You

Parish Finances

Contributions of 9th March 2025

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1815.00		705.65
Planned Giving \$	724.00	177.00	420.00
Parish Collection \$	1014.35		450.50
Friday Fast \$	91.50		

Make your contributions online

If you forgot to bring money for Cathedral collections, scan this QR code and donate online using your debit/credit card (A surcharge of 2.2% will be deducted from your donation). Alternatively you can make EFT transfer using **BSB 086 006** and **Account Number 826504934**, AC Name: SFX Cathedral Parish. Please put an appropriate reference/description such as **"donation, second collection, Planned Giving"** etc.



THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The pilgrim rosary statue will be with Anne Dempster at 33 Eakins Crescent, Wandina, until 28th March.

Rosary prayed at **5pm** Monday-Friday.

All welcome.



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.

Adoration with Benediction at St Lawrence's

Last Sunday of each month 3-4pm - Divine Mercy holy hour.

Please pray for those who are ill:

Fr Peter Downes, Rose Ralph, Maria Salamone, Tim Conway, Margaret John, Maureen Burke, Joe (Giuseppe) Gaudio, Andres Rodillas, Peter Scarpuzza, Diana Bennett, Erica Pirrottina, Kim-Maree Kelly, Shirley Travis, Allan Malonzo, Zenaida Tan, Cherrille Quilty, Andrew Benzie, Pat Miragliotta, Yvonne Fahl and Pamela Harris.



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

Anniversaries: Phil Miragliotta.

Entrance Antiphon

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading (Genesis 15:5-12,17-18)

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 26)

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' **R.**

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **R.**

Second Reading (Philippians 3:17-4:1)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



Gospel (Luke 9:28-36)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. **(all bow)**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Exodus 3:1-8,13-15 | Ps 102 | 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12 | Luke 13:1-9

Lent and Holy Week Service Times are available online

Please visit <https://geraldtoncathedral.org/len/> or scan this QR Code to check the Lenten programs and Holy Week Service times in our parishes.

