

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** Currently Suspended

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



Second Sunday of Lent

Year B

25 February 2024

VOCATION VIEW: If you need an example of a person responding to a vocational call, look at Abraham – called in old age to leave his country, then asked to sacrifice the child. What faith! Vocation is a risky response to a unique call

Project Compassion



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines. Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child. After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family. I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful



for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Please donate to Project Compassion

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available in the Church.



Alternatively by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Lent 2024

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent, at 6pm in the Cathedral.



Lenten Reflections Every Monday

All are welcome to attend the weekly reflections on Sunday Gospels during Lent, on every Monday 5:30-6:30pm in the Catholic Centre. Resources of this program are from the Diocese of Wollongong.



Little Black Book for Lent

A beautiful resource for daily reflections in Lent, the *Little Black Book* is still available in the Church for \$4 each. Please put the money in the bowl and take your copy. If you haven't got the money today, take the book and bring the money next week. Thank you.

The Annual Mass of the Holy Oils (Chrism Mass) and renewal of Commitment to Christian Service

Wednesday, 13th March at 5pm in the Cathedral

This is a Diocesan celebration.



Priests ministering in the Geraldton Diocese gather to celebrate Mass with Bishop Michael and renew their Priestly commitment. Parishioners are invited to attend and offer prayerful support for their Priests. Representatives of Confirmation Candidates and RCIA candidates for this year also will be attending this Mass.

Roster for Cathedral Readers

New roster for Cathedral readers, commencing from next weekend is available now. It was emailed last week to all. If you wish to have a hard copy, please collect it from the Sacristy today and arrange a substitute if you are not available on the day. Thank you.

First Friday Reflection and Prayers

Holy Hour in the Cathedral next Friday, 1st March at 11am, followed by Holy Mass at 12:05pm.

We invite everyone to join us.



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



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

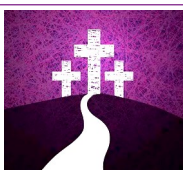
Parish Lenten Retreat

with Dr Pina Ford
(CEWA Catechist Service Team Leader)

Saturday, 9th March 9.30 am – 3.30 pm
in the Catholic Centre

All welcome. This is a free event! Morning Tea & Lunch provided.

Please email Benny on sfxcath@westnet.com.au or phone 99642716 to register.



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

sfxcath@westnet.com.au

Safeguarding Officers 0470 207 707

08 9964 1608 / 08 9964 2716

www.geraldtoncatholic.org

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

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday 24th March Regular Sunday Mass times in all churches

We recall Christ's triumphant entry to Jerusalem in the days leading up to his Passion and Death. Palms will be blessed at all Parish Masses and these can be taken home afterwards for safe keeping during the year ahead. St. Mark's Passion will be read at all Masses. The congregation are invited to take part in this.

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

Wednesday 13th March 5:00pm Mass of the Holy Oils
Tuesday 26th March 7:00pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Holy Thursday 28th March (No Morning Mass)
7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by adoration before the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

Good Friday 29th March
10:00am Stations of the Cross followed by confessions
3:00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion followed by confessions

Holy Saturday 30th March (No Morning Mass)
11-12nn Confessions
7:00pm Easter Vigil
The Easter Vigil includes the lighting and blessing of the Easter Fire and Candle, Old Testament readings, Baptism, Reception and Confirmation.

Easter Sunday 31st March
7:30am, 9:30am & 6:00pm Resurrection of the Lord

St. Lawrence's Church, Bluff Point

Holy Thursday 28th March
6:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by adoration

Good Friday 29th March
3:00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Easter Sunday 31st March
9:00am Resurrection of the Lord,

St. John's Church, Rangeway


No Service - Church closed for renovation

St. Peter's Church, Greenough

Good Friday 29th March
10:00am Stations of the Cross followed by confessions

Easter Sunday 31st March
8:00am Resurrection of the Lord



 If you forgot to bring money for Cathedral collections, scan this QR code and donate online using your debit/credit card. Alternatively you can make a transfer using BSB 086 006 and Account Number 826504934, AC Name: SFX Cathedral Parish.

For the time table of Lent and Holy Week Services, please visit <https://geraldtoncathedral.org/lent/> or scan this QR code->



Knights of the Southern Cross

Knights of the Southern Cross - Midwest Branch Meeting will be held on Saturday, 9th March with 9am Mass in the Cathedral followed by Prayers and Lectio Divina Spiritual Exercise guided by Fr Cross in the Crypt with Brunch at Laian afterwards. All men over 18 are encouraged to attend.



Stella Maris Girl's Reunion next Sunday

Stella Maris College 1974 batch reunion will be held next Sunday, 3rd March commencing with Holy Mass celebrated in the Cathedral at 9:30am followed by tours and other activities.

Sounds Sublime Concert in the Cathedral

12th April \$50 7:00-9:00 pm

Thanks to **Crothers Construction** for making it possible for **Hawes Heritage Events** to attract world class artists to Geraldton for the Sounds Sublime Concert. A visiting Polish organist and clarinettist will be joined by Perth vocalist Katja Webb in a night to remember. General Seating is \$50 Ticket. Reserved seating with an opportunity to join with the artists for refreshments at **Laian Restaurant** after the concert is also available.

Go to our website www.monsignorhawes.com to book or Phone Mrs Gerry Eastman on 0417 912997.



The Wondrous Gems of John Cyril Hawes

26th April \$75 3:00-7:30pm

Here's your chance to spend a relaxing afternoon discovering all the hidden gems of Monsignor Hawes in Geraldton. Have you been in the Cathedral Crypt or The Hermitage? Have you seen the artwork inside the chapel in the grounds of Utakarra Cemetery? Have you enjoyed the hospitality of the Irish Club? Join us on a Coach Tour of these and other buildings and learn a little more about our amazing Priest/Architect. Book online www.monsignorhawes.com or Phone Mrs Gerry 0417 912997.



Looking for Easter Cards?

Beautiful Easter Cards and other greeting cards are available in the parish office holy shop.

There are beautiful statues, plaques and other gift items...

Bibles, Missals, Crucifix, religious books, medals, rosary beads are also available. **Welcome to visit during the office hours!**



THE FIRST RECONCILIATION | PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

CELEBRANT: Candidates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, are you fully aware that you have begun a program which will lead you to deeper commitment to Christ and his Church?

CANDIDATE: Yes we are.

CELEBRANT: Are you willing to participate and cooperate in this preparation program for the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

CANDIDATE: Yes we are.

CELEBRANT: Parents, are you prepared to support your children in their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation by word and

example as well as participating in parent meetings and endeavouring to participate in Sunday Masses?

PARENTS: Yes we are.

CELEBRANT: Children, on the day of your Baptism you were signed by the sign of the Cross. Receive again this sign on your forehead. By this sign of his love, Christ will be your strength. (Priest and /or parents sign a cross on the forehead of each child).

CELEBRANT: On behalf of our parish community, I accept your commitment as candidates for Reconciliation. I know the members of our parish join with me in praying for you during this time of preparation.

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@geraldtoncatholic.org.au

Abraham is a problematic figure in the biblical story. He lies to Pharaoh about his wife, hanging her out to dry to protect his own skin. He does the same thing a few chapters later to another king, Abimelech. But when push comes to shove, at the moment of the test, he ... 'passed with flying colors' as we used to say in school.

Abraham was not perfect, but he did pass where Adam and Eve failed. The Parents of humanity were called to partnership with God in accomplishing his creation plan. They were given a privileged place of rule in the world; they named the animals; they were fruitful and multiplied. But when push came to shove, at the moment of the test, they took the fruit of the tree and ate it. They failed the test. The serpent deceived them, saying, in effect, that God, in forbidding them access to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, did not have their good in mind.

They needed to take for themselves the good thing that God held back from them. They decided to determine right and wrong for themselves. Taking the fruit was 'good in their own eyes'. They rejected the only possible path

by which they - we - can find the fullness for which we were made. That path is obedience to God's commands. In obedience we are liberated. To ride a bicycle you must obey, so to speak, the



law of gravity. You must trust that collaborating with the bicycle's pedals, seat, and handlebars, and through them, the wheels, will work. You must submit yourself to be free. Otherwise, you are going to get hurt. The price of being God's (GOD'S!) special collaborator in his creation project is obedience. Trust. We must trust that God has our good in mind, that our Creator is supremely good, even when - most especially when - we do not see how that can be the case.

Abraham is the Old Testament exemplar of

obedience. He was put to the most difficult test imaginable. He trusted God's goodness even through the command to sacrifice his 'one and only son', Isaac. He trusted what God had promised him (through his numerous descendants all nations will be blessed) and what God gifted him to initiate the fulfillment of that promise (a son). Obedience brings the blessing. For Abraham, this meant being the father of the people Israel, through whom, finally, the Messiah would come to bless all creation, to bring, in Jesus' words, the kingdom of God.

Beyond Abraham, the Messiah, Jesus, passed the test. That test reached its make-or-break moment in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he sweated drops of blood, bringing his fully human will to complete transparency with the divine will, obedience to the point of death, death on the cross. In that obedience, Christ Jesus won the ultimate blessing for himself, for humanity, for the world. And he makes us now his collaborators in the project.

W Chris Hackett @ Majellan Media 2023 #4064

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



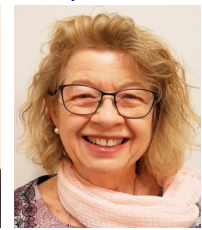
Melinda Jupp



Simon Place



Ron Pace



Rosemary Taylor

Safe and Supported

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

Every Child, in every community needs a fair go



THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Pilgrim Rosary statue will be with Sisi & Soosa at 50 Koojara Street, Strathalbyn until 8th March.

Rosary prayed at 5pm on Tuesday-Friday



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every First Friday, with prayers of St Joseph and solemn benediction. next Friday, 1st March 7:30 - 9:30pm in the Cathedral.



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, Laura Drew, Andres Rodillas, Derek Levett, Peter Scarpuzza, Diana Bennett, Erica Pirrottina, Kim-Maree Kelly, Shirley Travis, Allan Malonzo, Una McFadden.

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

Anniversaries: Fr Keith Spain, Fr Robert Dowglass, T T Ouseph, Gliceria Chan-Rebano and Maria Fiocco.

Recently Deceased: Fr Des Reid CSSp, Joan Clarkson and Robert Levett

Parish Finances

Contributions of 18th February 2024

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1760.05		746.80
Planned Giving \$	874.00	142.00	440.00
Parish Collection \$	696.80		467.70
Friday Fast \$	109.90		

Thank You

Entrance Antiphon

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

First Reading (Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18)

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 115)

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

Second Reading (Romans 8:31-34)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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.

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!

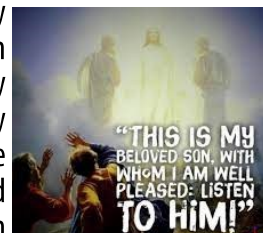
Gospel (Mark 9:2-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said '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 to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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.

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

Exodus 20:1-17 | Psalm 18 | 1 Corinthians 1:22-25 | John 2:13-25

Divine Mercy Holy Hour

today, Sunday 25th February 3 - 4pm
at St Lawrence's Church, Bluff Point.

Welcome all to be with our Lord for an hour!



Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th March at 5:30pm in the Parish Seminar Room. This meeting is mandatory for the eldest child to be baptized. For booking, please contact the Parish Office on 9964 1608 or Email: sfxcath@westnet.com.au

