



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** Currently Suspended

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

21 July 2024

VOCATION VIEW: When the apostles were trying to reflect on their ministry, Jesus asked them to "come by yourselves to an out-of-the-way place." Listening to God in quiet prayer is very important in vocational discernment. Listen to God's voice in an out-of-the-way place.

Diocesan Synod Prayer

Ever loving and merciful Father,
 Your presence is all around us.

We, Your people, freely come together seeking
 Your will and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
 as we work together to discern our way forward as
 a local Church.

You feed us with Your Word, who is Christ our Lord.
 Open our hearts to listen, to understand,
 and to respect each other as we humbly walk
 together on this synodal journey.

Renew us in the light of Your Truth
 and give us the wisdom to participate with open hearts
 and minds, that we may grow in communion
 and engage in mission to the world.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Francis Xavier, Patron of the Geraldton Diocese, pray for us.

Our Newest Aussie

Big congratulations to Huu Tuan Nguyen aka Fr Savio on becoming an Australian citizen. We warmly welcome you as our newest Aussie. You're not just an Australian on paper now, you're in our hearts too. Aussie Aussie Aussie, Oi Oi Oi!!!

CATHOLIC YOUTH GROUP GERALDTON

Are you 14-20 years old and looking to be part of a fun and dynamic Youth group? JOIN US!

Meet us on **Friday 27th of July from 6pm to 8pm** at the Catholic Centre, 11 Maitland St, Geraldton WA 6530
 For more information, please contact Lea, 0437 612 006 or send an Email : Lea-obadia@outlook.com



Important Information For Confirmation Candidates

Please present the completed mandatory *Sacramental Commitment* form along with a copy of your baptism certificate while attending the Commitment Mass next weekend. Commitment form is available from your School or can be downloaded from the parish website at <https://geraldtoncathedral.org/confirmation/> or scan the QR code. These forms will be collected in the Church and kept in the Parish Office until after the Confirmation details are entered in the Register and the notifications sent to the Church where you have been Baptised.



The Door is Open, The Heart Even More | "Janus Patet Cor Magis"

An Hour of Prayer

"The Synod is a process of spiritual discernment, of ecclesial discernment, that unfolds in adoration, in prayer and in dialogue with the word of God... That word summons us to discernment and it brings light to that process. It guides the Synod, preventing it from becoming a Church convention, a study group or a political gathering, a parliament, but rather a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit."

Pope Francis, 10 October 2021

Please support our diocesan synodal journey. Join with us in praying for our Synod next month, to pray for Bishop Michael and all delegates, and for the needs of our local Church.

Mondays, 5, 12, 19 August 2024 5.00-6.00 pm
 St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Geraldton

Prayer focus for these days of prayer - "To be a synodal Church" and for a renewed experience of Communion, Participation, and Mission. All are encouraged to pray and seek the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire us.

Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in our parishes in September this year.



Parent/Child Meeting this week

All Candidates for Confirmation from the St Francis Xavier Primary School, St John's School and After School Program, along with their parents have to attend the parent/child meeting to be held in the Catholic Centre this Wednesday, 24th July at 5pm.

Commitment Masses next weekend

Confirmation Candidates this year should attend one of the Masses next weekend as follows for making their commitment:

Saturday 27th July 6pm Vigil, Cathedral & St Lawrence's
Sunday 28th July 7:30am, 9:30am or 6pm, Cathedral
9:00am St Lawrence's Church, Bluff Point
Saturday 3rd August 6pm Vigil, Cathedral

Students from St John's School also have to attend either in the Cathedral or St Lawrence's on the above dates.

Celebration of Confirmation

St John's : Tues 3rd September at 6pm
 At St Lawrence's Church, Bluff Point
 St Francis Xavier's : Wed 4th & Fri 6th September at 6pm, Cathedral
 St Lawrence's : Thurs, 5th September at 6pm, St Lawrence's UCA
 After School Program : Friday 6th September at 6pm, Cathedral

Parish Office & Holy Shop

11 Maitland Street, Geraldton, WA 6530
 PO Box 46, Geraldton, WA 6531

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

@gtonparish@geraldtoncatholic.org.au
 www.geraldtoncathedral.org



Safeguarding Officers 0470 207 707

08 9964 1608 / 08 9964 2716

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

“Do not cast me off in my old age” (Ps 71:9)

Dear brothers and sisters,
God never abandons his children, never. Even when our age advances and our powers decline, when our hair grows white and our role in society lessens, when our lives become less productive and can risk appearing useless. God does not regard appearances (1 Sam 16:7); he does not disdain to choose those who, to many people, may seem irrelevant. **God discards no stone; indeed, the “oldest” are the firm foundation on which “new” stones can rest, in order to join in erecting a spiritual edifice** (1 Peter 2:5).

Sacred Scripture as a whole is a story of the Lord’s faithful love. It offers us the comforting certainty that God constantly shows us his mercy, always, at every stage of life, in whatever situation we find ourselves, even in our betrayals. The Psalms are filled with the wonder of the human heart before God who cares for us despite our insignificance (Ps 144:3-4); they assure us that God has fashioned each one of us from our mother’s womb (Ps 139:13) and that even in hell he will not abandon our life (Ps 16:10). We can be certain, then, that he will be close to us also in old age, all the more because, in the Bible, growing old is a sign of blessing.

At the same time, in the Psalms we also find this heartfelt plea to the Lord: *“In my old age do not abandon me”* (Ps 71:9). Words that are strong, even crude. They make us think of the extreme suffering of Jesus, who cried out on the cross: *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”* (Mt 27:46).

In the Bible, then, we find both the certainty of God’s closeness at every stage of life and the fear of abandonment, particularly in old age and in times of pain. There is no contradiction here. If we look around, we have no difficulty seeing that its words reflect an utterly evident reality. All too often, loneliness is the bleak companion of our lives as elderly persons and grandparents. Often, when I was Bishop of Buenos Aires, I would visit rest homes and realize how rarely those people received visits. Some had not seen their family members for many months.

There are many reasons for this loneliness: in many places, above all in the poorer countries, the elderly find themselves alone because their children are forced to emigrate. How many of the elderly are left alone because men – youths and adults – have been called to battle, and women, above all women with small children, have left the country in order to ensure safety for their children. In cities and villages devastated by war, many elderly people are left alone; they are the only signs of life in areas where

abandonment and death seem to reign supreme. In other parts of the world, we encounter a false belief, deeply rooted in certain local cultures, that causes hostility towards the elderly, who are suspected of using witchcraft to sap the vital energies of the young; when premature death or sickness, or any other misfortune strike the young, the guilt is laid at the door of some elderly person. This mentality must be combatted and eliminated. It is one of those groundless prejudices from which the Christian faith has set us free, yet which continues to fuel generational conflict between the young and the elderly.

Yet if we think about it, this accusation that the elderly *“rob the young of their future”* is nowadays present everywhere. It appears under other guises even in the most advanced and modern societies. For example, there is now a widespread conviction that the elderly are burdening the young with the high cost of the social services that they require, and in this way are diverting resources from the development of the community and thus from the young. This is a distorted perception of reality. It assumes that the survival of the elderly puts that of the young at risk, that to favour the young, it is necessary to neglect or even suppress the elderly. Intergenerational conflict is a fallacy and the poisoned fruit of a culture of conflict. To set the young against the old is an unacceptable form of manipulation: *“What is important is the unity of the different ages of life, which is the real point of reference for understanding and valuing human life in its entirety”* (Catechesis, 23/02/2022).

The Psalm cited above – with its plea not to be abandoned in old age – speaks to a conspiracy surrounding the life of the elderly. This may seem an exaggeration, but not if we consider that the loneliness and abandonment of the elderly is not by chance or inevitable, but the fruit of decisions – political, economic, social and personal decisions – that fail to acknowledge the infinite dignity of each person, “beyond every circumstance, state or situation the person may ever encounter”.

This happens once we lose sight of the value of each individual and people are then judged in terms of their cost, which is in some cases considered too high to pay. Even worse, often the elderly themselves fall victim to this mindset; they are made to consider themselves a burden and to feel that they should be the first to step aside.

Then too nowadays many women and men seek personal fulfilment in a life as independent as possible and detached from other people. Group memberships are in crisis and individualism is celebrated: the passage from “us” to “me” is one

of the most evident signs of our times. The family, which is the first and most radical argument against the notion that we can save ourselves by ourselves, has been one of the victims of this individualistic culture. Yet once we grow old and our powers begin to decline, the illusion of individualism, that we need no one and can live without social bonds, is revealed for what it is. Indeed, we find ourselves needing everything, but at a point in life when we are alone, no longer with others to help, with no one whom we can count on.

Solitude and abandonment have become recurrent elements in today’s social landscape. They have multiple roots. In some cases, they are the result of calculated exclusion, a sort of deplorable “social conspiracy”; in others, tragically, a matter of an individual’s personal decision.

On this Fourth World Day devoted to them, let us show our tender love for the grandparents and the elderly members of our families. Let us spend time with those who are disheartened and no longer hope in the possibility of a different future. In place of the self-centred attitude that leads to loneliness and abandonment, let us instead show the open heart and the joyful face of men and women who have the courage to say “I will not abandon you”, and to set out on a different path. To all of you, dear grandparents and elderly persons, and to all those who are close to you I send my blessing, accompanied by my prayers. – Pope Francis

World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2024



PRAYER

I thank You, Lord, for the comfort of Your presence: even in times of loneliness, You are my hope and my confidence; You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family and for having blessed me with a long life.

I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty, for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for those that are still ahead of me.

I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith, make me a channel of your peace, teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me, to never stop dreaming and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church, that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.

Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world, that the storm of all troubles be calmed, the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness and help me to live life to the full in each moment that You give me, in the certainty that you are with me every day, even until the end of the age. Amen.

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

Two common images presented to us in the Scriptures are those of shepherds and banquets. First and foremost, God shepherds his people Israel by caring for them like sheep, keeping them from danger, and preparing a banquet for them.

Many key biblical figures were originally shepherds such as the prophets Moses and Amos, patriarchs Abraham and Jacob, and it was the young shepherd, David, whom God called to be king of his people Israel. Moreover, it was this same King David who wrote today's wonderful psalm acclaiming "The Lord is my shepherd".

Unfortunately, the rulers of Israel ceased to act like shepherds turning to idolatry and resulting in all kinds of hostility among the different tribes. Eventually, this led to the annihilation of Israel by the Assyrians and the captivity of the people of Judah by the Babylonians. The prophet Micah laments that he saw "Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd" (1 Kings 22:17). Today, we hear God speaking through the prophet Jeremiah pronouncing "doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered" (Jer. 23:1).

Two further promises are made: God will punish the misdeeds of the unfaithful leaders who do not act like shepherds; and God will bring back the scattered flock under the guidance of new shepherds who will feed and care for them (Jer. 23:3-4). God also goes a step further

sheep" (Jn. 10:11). So, Jesus the Good Shepherd is also "the Lamb of God" giving his very life that we may live.

Much of Jesus' ministry is expressed through parables and events that emphasise table-fellowship: God's reign is likened to a great banquet where all are invited; Jesus feeds the five-thousand through the miracle of loaves and fish, and the Prodigal Son is greeted on his return with a mighty feast. We also know that Jesus provides his disciples at the Last Supper with a ritual of remembrance and thanksgiving that we re-enact when we celebrate the Eucharist.

Pope Francis consistently speaks of Christ the Good Shepherd as the model of Christian service and leadership. In particular, he calls on priests and pastors to be "shepherds living with the smell of the sheep". We need to heed St Paul who warned Christians to overcome division and hostility, repent of sinfulness, and receive the Good News of grace and peace.

All Christians are called to be shepherds of God's mercy.

Gerard Hall SM @ Majellan Media 2024
#4085



announcing He will shepherd Israel by "gathering the lambs in his arms and carrying them close to his heart" (Isaiah 40:11).

It is Jesus who most perfectly enacts this prophecy of the shepherd leader through his ministry of teaching and healing, his call to discipleship and communion, sharing bread with the hungry, dining with sinners and being the "Good Shepherd (who) lays down his life for his

Casual Cleaners Required

Are you looking for some ongoing casual cleaning work? The Diocese of Geraldton is looking for a person or persons that may be interested in 10-12 hours per fortnight cleaning work. The work can be scheduled at times that are suitable to both the Diocese and successful person or persons. If you interested, please call the Diocese Office on 9921 3221 and ask for Vince.

FRIDAY FAST Update

A second amount of \$1000 has been forwarded to Sister Christie for her work with vulnerable children at the Mission in Mt Hagen -New Guinea. You are all sincerely thanked for continuing to support this project. Remember the "small yellow envelopes" are at the back of the church and you are very welcome to take one or more and to put your small coins in and place this in the collection plate at Mass.

An exciting time for Mt Hagen is coming up with the EPISCOPAL ORDINATION of the Most Reverend Clement Papa PhD to Coadjutor Archbishop on the 3rd of August. There is a very full program of 3 days involving many folk in the Archdiocese of Mt. Hagen. Many of you will remember Father Clement when he visited us here in Geraldton and none more so than our own Maria Flavel who would dearly love to be present at this celebration. Any Friday Fast queries please contact Yvonne Fahl 0400978284

Parish Finances

Contributions of 14th July 2024

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1564.95		750.70
Planned Giving \$	624.00	115.00	890.00
Parish Collection \$	800.30		379.95
Friday Fast \$	91.60		

Thank You

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 rosary statue will be
At **St John's Rangeway Presbytery**
Rosary prayed at **5pm, Monday-Friday.**



Adoration with Benediction at St Lawrence's

Every second Sunday of the Month 8.15-8.50 am
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:

Fr Peter Downes, 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 and Cherrille Quilty, Andrew Benzie.



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

Anniversaries: Elizabeth Thomas, VJ Francis, MS Thomas, Vincenzo Iaria, Maria Fiume, Sr Mary Evangelist pbvm, Cesarina Marchetti and Lesley Cream.

Recently Deceased: Kay Power, Mary Desmond

Entrance Antiphon

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading (Jeremiah 23:1-6)

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered - it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds - it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost - it is the Lord who speaks! 'See the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks-when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. and this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 22)

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

Second Reading (Ephesians 2:13-18)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! . . . My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. . . . **Alleluia!**

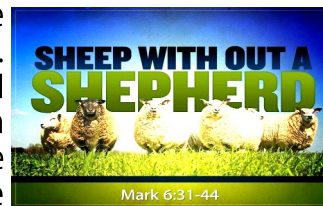
Gospel (Mark 6:30-34)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Communion Antiphon

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, Almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son; Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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 Kings 4:42-44 | Psalm 144 | Ephesians 4:1-6 | John 6:1-15

Divine Mercy Holy Hour

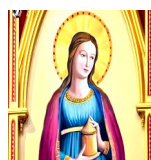
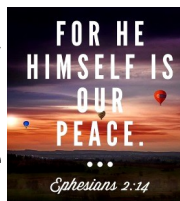
next Sunday 28th July 3 - 4pm

at St Lawrence's Church, Bluff Point.

Welcome all to be with the risen Lord for an hour!



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



Feasts of the Week

22 Jul Mon Saint Mary Magdalene
25 Jul Thu Saint James
26 Jul Fri Saints Joachim and Anne

