

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 Advent

Year C

8 December 2024

VOCATION VIEW: The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness".
 Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?

Advent

According to the official liturgy documents, the season of Advent is a period for "devout and joyful expectation". Although we celebrate the beginning of the Church's year, we are instructed to look to the end. "The master is coming". We wait and watch for Christ's coming by being faithful to the work he has given each of us to do. As the minutes of our lives tick by, the Lord's arrival is always unexpected.

The work of Christian living is constant watchfulness that discovers the redeeming possibility of every moment.

"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Advent Wreath Ceremony

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Baruch when he proclaimed that God will show your splendour.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you will bring us to the perfect goodness for the glory and praise of God.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you call us to repentance and to prepare the way for you so that all humankind shall see the salvation of God.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.



Second Rite of Reconciliation this week

As we are getting closer to Christmas and to *prepare the way of the Lord*, the Second Rite of Reconciliation (confession) will be held in the Cathedral this week on **Wednesday 11th of December at 7pm.**

Welcome all to attend this grace flowing ceremony.



Christmas Lunch for all Volunteers today

All Church Volunteers are invited to the Christmas lunch in the Catholic Centre, held today on 8th December to acknowledge and express thanks for their great involvement in the day to day operations of our Churches.

Arrival time is 11:30am for a 12:00pm start.



No Mass on Christmas day at St John of God Hospital

There will be no Mass on Christmas day at St John of God Hospital.

Christmas Novena Masses

Join the Filipino Community in celebrating "Simbang Gabi" in anticipation of Christmas at St Lawrence's Church Bluff Point from Sunday 15th to Monday 23rd December.

Novena Mass commences at 6pm every day.

Colour coded attire will be observed as follows

15 Dec Orange/Pink	20 Dec Blue
16 Dec Sinulog T-shirt (any colour)	21 Dec Gold/Amber
17 Dec Purple/Violet	22 Dec Green/White
18 Dec Yellow	23 Dec Traditional Attire
19 Dec Red/Pink	

Refreshments will be served in the undercover area after Mass.



Grand Nativity Display

This is a resounding thank you to every single person who helped in any way, along with our Catholic schools and Organisations who were involved in special ways to make the Nativity Display such a remarkable and momentous occasion as it turned out to be. It was history making being the only event of its kind in Geraldton. Fr Savio is to be commended for his tireless efforts and meticulous work, artistic design and coordination of the entire nativity display which drew over 2,000 people young and old. A big Thank You to everyone who donated, those who loaned their personal nativity sets to make the display so special and wonderful and to our generous supporters and donors, especially John and Beryl Rigter, Rigtors IGA, BV Nails Care, Radio Mama, ABC Radio, Geraldton Cinema, Mayor Jerry Clune, MHHI, The Sisters of Nazareth, Presentation Sisters, All local Catholic Schools and many more who are thanked for their kindness and generosity during the week long display.

Thank You



today Sunday, 8th December

at Maitland Park, Geraldton

Family Activities 5-6:30pm | Carols 7-9pm

Smoke, Vape & Alcohol free event.

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.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)

Syro Malabar Mass tomorrow and Youth Retreat

Malayalam Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral tomorrow Monday, 9th December at 6pm. Confessions start at 5:30pm. Children and youth from Year 1 to Year 12 and above are invited to attend a one day retreat in the Catholic Centre on Tuesday 10th December, commencing with Mass at 8am in the Cathedral and concluded by 3pm. It is lead by Fr Anish James VC and a team of Syro Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) in Perth.



Parents are requested to drop them off at the Cathedral before 8am and pick them up at 3pm. Thank you

Bishop's Christmas Communio Appeal

Please support the Bishop's Communio Appeal. All donations are tax deductible.

"Together we can make a difference".

Scan the QR Code or click on the link <https://geraldtoncathedral.org/bishops-communio-appeal/> for more details and mode of payments.



Cathedral Busy Bees next Saturday

In preparation for Christmas the Cathedral is holding a Busy Bee next Saturday 14th December 9.30am to 12 noon. Morning tea is provided. Please bring your own cleaning gear such as cleaning cloths, broom, banister brush and dustpan. Gloves and masks supplied. Thank you.



St Lawrence's Busy Bees

St Lawrence's Church is holding a Busy Bee on Saturday 21st December starting at 8:00am. We are asking for volunteers to please come and help and to bring own cleaning gear such as cloths for dusting pews, broom, cobweb broom, banister brush, bucket and gear for window cleaning and etc. Thank you.



God's Word 2025 still available in the Parish Office

God's Word for daily readings and reflections for 2025 is still available in the Parish Office for \$22. Only 3 more copies left.

Donate to the Babies Born Alive Fighting Fund

The Right to Life Association of WA is building a fund to fight for the rights of children born alive after so-called 'failed' abortions. We are appealing to all pro-life Christian people and all pro-life Christian organisations in Australia and internationally to help us with this critical cause. At least one baby is born alive in this way every week in Australia and there are probably significantly more. These children are given no help to breathe, no comfort, no warmth, and no sustenance. They are left to die alone, and their death may take many hours. Many of these children are perfectly healthy and would survive with basic medical help.

They are not given a birth certificate or a death certificate. In fact in most states their life is not acknowledged at all. These little ones are literally thrown out with the trash. We cannot ignore their plight. We cannot ignore the devastating mental health effect this has on their mothers. Help us reach our target of \$800,000.

A GoFundMe account is being set up but in the meantime please donate to **RTLAWA Building and Investment Account BSB 633000 Account Number 218422558** Use the reference 'Donation to the Babies Born Alive Fighting Fund' If you have any questions please call Steve Klomp 0417 184 789



Join the Cathedral Christmas Choir

We all love singing Carols at Christmas and our Cathedral Choir is looking for extra voices to boost their number at Christmas and if possible to have singers at all the Masses. If you would like to join the choir for Christmas please come along to our choir practices in the Cathedral every Thursday evening commencing at 5pm for an hour. If you play a musical instrument you are also most welcome to come along. *The more the merrier our Christmas will be!*



Knights of the Southern Cross

KSC Midwest Branch, End of Year Meeting next Saturday 14th December at 11am in the Cathedral Crypt. Holy Mass by Fr Cross with Lunch at Laian's afterwards. All men over 18 encouraged to attend.

Please RSVP to Daniel, danielhatleyperpetualadoration@gmail.com



Free Community Christmas Lunch at QEII Centre

Wednesday, 25 December 12 - 2pm

Centacare warmly invites community members in need, or those who find themselves alone this festive season, to join us in a joyous celebration on Christmas Day.

To register your interest in attending, volunteering or to make a donation, please call 9921 1433.



Friday Fast

We would like to thank all of you who have contributed to the Friday Fast project in 2024. Your help and support is wonderful and it is amazing how the money in the "little yellow envelopes" can add up and enable four payments a year to a chosen Mission working with young children to be made. This year, we were able to support Sister Christie in New Guinea, who works with vulnerable Children and now we move on to a different group next year. *May Christmas be a joyful time for everyone. Thank you again, and any queries to Yvonne Fahl 0400978284*

Feasts of the Week



9 Dec Mon Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary
13 Dec Fri Saint Lucy
14 Dec Sat Saint John of the Cross



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

Churches	Christmas Eve (Tuesday)			Christmas	No Evening Mass
	Vigil	Carols	Night	Morning	
SFX Cathedral	6pm	9:30pm	10pm	7:30 & 9:30	
St John's Rangeway	No Mass				
St John of God Hospital	No Mass				
St Peter's Greenough				8:00am	
St Lawrence's Church Bluff Point	6pm (Under cover area)			9:00am	
St Mary's Northampton				8:30am	
OLHC Church Kalbarri				11:30am	
OLF Church Nanson	5:30pm				
SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION					
SFX Cathedral	11 th Dec	Wednesday		7:00pm	

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

One of British street artist Banksy's famous pictures is The Flower Thrower. In this powerful image of peaceful resistance, a figure leans backwards with his arm poised to throw an object. A similar figure in other protest posters would be poised to hurl a violent projectile. Instead, Banksy subverts a potentially violent image with his figure holding a bouquet of colourful flowers.

John the Baptist emerges from the wilderness, clothed in camel's hair, surviving on a diet of locusts and honey. His wild appearance is juxtaposed against his peaceful, steadfast call to repentance and the forgiveness of sins. He calls people to turn towards the One who is coming, the One who will be the embodiment of all

Jesus's spiritual kingship subverts and overturns all notions of a powerful earthly leader who dominates his subjects and rules with power. Indeed, the God whom John proclaims not only meets his people in love but also accompanies them all the way to the cross. Jesus embodies a love which is tender and compassionate but which is also fiercely committed to accompaniment and solidarity with us, in the

entirety of life's circumstances. Philosopher Hannah Arendt explained that power is the human ability not just to act, but to act in concert (On Violence, 1969). In contrast to conventional notions of power, she held that power is the ability to communicate and cooperate, not to coerce and dominate.



In contemporary times, John's call to prepare for the Lord's coming, by making rough roads smooth so that humanity will see the salvation of the Lord can perhaps be heard in the voices calling to us from the margins: the voices of women, LBGTIQ+ sisters and brothers, ethnic minorities, victims of abuse, and those fleeing persecution among others. We are invited to welcome everyone with compassion, to

collaborate and stand with them. Together, we are witnesses to a community of faith which is united by love.

Building God's kingdom is almost always an uphill struggle, yet it helps to hold fast to the vision that his kingdom is both "now and not yet" and to persist with our efforts for mercy, justice and unity.

In the first reading, the prophet Baruch uses the metaphor of beauty to encourage Jerusalem to hold fast to its vision of God: Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress; put on the beauty of the glory of God forever.

In challenging times, a helpful way to remind ourselves of the presence of God is to notice and rejoice in the beauty which surrounds us, to recognise God's presence, amidst our struggles. French philosopher Simone Weil in Waiting for God describes it quite profoundly: The beautiful is the experiential proof that the incarnation is possible ... "Christ is really present in the universal beauty ... the beauty of this world is Christ's tender smile coming to us."

Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2024 #4105

New Year's Cheer at QEII

Everyone is invited to New Year's Cheer at QEII Centre on Saturday 4th January 2025.

Free Lunch, Lots of Fun. Community Event. No RSVP required.



Christmas Mass Times available online

Please visit the parish [website](#) or scan the QR Code for Christmas Mass Times.



Christmas Gifts from Palms!

Are you looking to give something really special this year? Something that makes a tangible difference? Palms has the shop for you! Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here! Just scan the QR or go to palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop



Advent Retreat Online

Advent is a time when we as Catholics are encouraged to focus more on our spiritual life to prepare for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

This Advent, we are inviting people around the world to join us for a weekend Advent Mission Event online Retreat on 7-9th December and accessible online for all of Advent. To find out more, the website link is: <https://TheCatholicGuy.com/missionevent>

Parish Finances

Contributions of 1st December 2024

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1783.15		626.25
Planned Giving \$	404.00	240.50	605.00
Parish Collection \$	1068.25		332.45
Friday Fast \$	122.90		

Thank You

Feast | Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

tomorrow 9th December | Mass at 7am in the Cathedral

The Immaculate Conception refers to the state that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. Mary is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.



THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The rosary statue will be with Brian & Espie Edwardes at 4 Wilton Close, until 13th of December.

Rosary prayed at 5pm, Monday-Friday



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, Brad Borrows, Ray Sloan, Isabelita Calimag, 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, Zenaida Tan, Cherrille Quilty, Andrew Benzie, Dymrna Kipps, Jim Grego, Pat Miragliotta and Nadeem Turkia.



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

Anniversaries: Fr Michael O'Flaherty, Giuseppe Chila, David Edser, Keenan O'Donoghue and Miguel Lechuga.

Recently Deceased: Fr John Prendiville sj (Perth), Geoff Major and John Sancho.

Entrance Antiphon

O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading (Baruch 5:1-9)

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 125)

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

R.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

R.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

R.

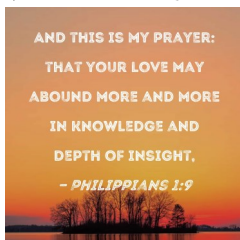
They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves

R.

Second Reading (Philippians 1:3-6:8-11)

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

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never



New Roster for Cathedral Readers

New roster for Cathedral readers, commencing from this weekend is available. It was emailed to all a week ago. If you wish to have a hard copy, please collect it from the Sacristy.

Little blue books

A beautiful resource for daily reflections during Advent, the *Little Blue Books* are available in the church for only \$4.

stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 3:1-6)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

Zephaniah 3:14-18 | Isaiah 12 | Philippians 4:4-7 | Luke 3:10-18

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

Advent Reflection this Thursday

Everyone is invited for Advent Reflection on Sunday Gospel this Thursday, 12th December at 6pm in the Parish Seminar Room Resources of Liturgy Brisbane are used this year.



Looking for Christmas Cards or Nativity Sets?

Available in the parish holy shop. Christmas Cards are selling fast!