

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Year C

15 December 2024

VOCATION VIEW: Have you ever asked: "What ought I do?" Simply, tell the good news to people. Nothing else matters.

Advent

This Sunday is *Gaudete* or Rejoicing Sunday. In the previous two Sundays we have lit purple candles, representing hope and faith, whereas this Sunday we light the pink candle as rose is a liturgical colour used to signify joy.

Every Christian in some way conceives and gives birth to the Word of God. In the faith, we bring Christ to a world that is waiting. The period of Advent and Christmas is a time for us to ponder more deeply and proclaim to the world and word of God made flesh. In this season, every Christian is called to share, through whatever opportunities the Lord provides, the good news that God has entered our human condition to unite us to him.

"Rejoice the Lord is near!"

Advent Wreath Ceremony

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Zephaniah as the one who will exult over us and renew us by your love.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you revealed to Paul that if there is anything, we need we just have to ask for it with prayer and thanksgiving.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, as declared by John the Baptist, you will baptise us with the Holy Spirit and fire.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.



St Lawrence's Busy Bees

St Lawrence's Church is holding a Busy Bee next 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.



Join the Cathedral Christmas Choir

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!*



Christmas Novena Masses begin today

Join the Filipino Community in celebrating "Simbang Gabi" in anticipation of Christmas at St Lawrence's Church Bluff Point from today, 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.

Congratulations Gerry Eastman

Congratulations to Gerry Eastman on being awarded the Centacare 2024 Geraldton Volunteer of the Year. For Gerry to receive the award amidst a strong group of 37 nominations is illustrative of how amazing her selfless voluntary services have been, and thank God she continues to be in our Geraldton community, particularly in the area of heritage conservation and its celebration through Monsignor Hawes Heritage Events and its parent organisation Monsignor Hawes Heritage Incorporated.

Have you received your little blue book?

The **Little Blue Books** for daily reflections during advent are still available in the church for only \$4. Only a few copies left.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

Churches	Christmas Eve (Sunday)			Christmas
	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			9:00am
St Mary's Northampton				8:30am
OLHC Church Kalbarri				11:30am
OLF Church Nanson	5:30pm			

No Evening Mass

Parish Office & Holy Shop

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



Safeguarding Officers 0470 207 707

11 Maitland Street, Geraldton, WA 6530

@ gtonparish@geraldtoncatholic.org.au

08 9964 1608 / 08 9964 2716

PO Box 46, Geraldton, WA 6531

www.geraldtoncathedral.org

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

Bishop's Christmas Communion Appeal

Please support the Bishop's Communion 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.



Help Seafarers Celebrate Christmas

With the support of the local community and industry, the Mission to Seafarers will deliver over 300 Christmas gift bags to seafarers in Geraldton this year including gifts, toiletries, Christmas materials and tasty treats. **You can help! Pack Gift Bags**



Wednesday Dec 18, 10-12

at the Mission to Seafarers, 272 Marine Tce

Donate/Sponsor Instore, or via bank deposit

Name: Mission to Seafarers Geraldton

BSB 066 512 **Account No.** 1067 9305

Reference: CB <Your name/organisation>

Thanks a bunch to all Volunteers

Volunteers have very important roles in the day to day life of our Parishes. Many of our ministries run smoothly because of the generosity of our volunteers. A big thank you to all sacristans, altar servers, special ministers, Acolytes, choir members, readers, hospitality ministers, GodStart team members, children's liturgy team members, catechists, youth ministry members, counters and safeguarding officers.

Thank you also to all other members who are involved directly or indirectly for the hassle free operation of our Parishes. May God bless you all and wish you a very happy, holy and hope-filled Christmas and a bountiful New Year!



Is your child in a Non-Catholic School and in Year 3?

ENROL NOW FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION NEXT YEAR

Any child in year 3 (or higher) in 2025 and not attending a catholic school, who wishes to make their First Confession in the first term of 2025, please enroll now for the **After School Program**. No admissions will be accepted once the lessons have started in February. Enrolments invited also for other sacraments.

For enquiries or enrolment please visit our website using the QR Code or the link <https://geraldtoncathedral.org/after-school-sacrament-program/>



Candidates for receiving First Holy Communion or Confirmation next year can also enroll now.

Reserved Parking Bays of the Cathedral

The Reserved Parking bays behind the Cathedral are intended for the use of Clergy and Sacristans only, as they need entry and exit at any time. If you are not an intended person to park in the parking bays whether it is in the Church ground or elsewhere, please find other spots to park your car for whatever the reason be. Thank you.



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.

Caritas Lebanon Emergency Appeal

Caritas Australia in support of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has launched an emergency appeal for standing in solidarity with the long-suffering brothers and sisters in Lebanon. The Maronite & Melkite Eparchies in Australia are requesting your constant prayers for peace and healing in the region. They are also seeking financial support which will be distributed by Caritas Lebanon to provide urgent assistance to displaced families and those in dire need.



The Account details for the Caritas Appeal are as follows:

BSB 062 217 **Account Number** 10072446

Account Name: Caritas Australia **Reference:** ACBC Lebanon Appeal

Alternatively you can scan the QR code and pay online.

Thank you for your generosity, compassion and commitment to helping those most in need.

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

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 633 000 **Account Number** 218 422 558

Use the reference 'Donation to the Babies Born Alive Fighting Fund'

If you have any questions please call Steve Klomp 0417 184 789



Have you bought enough Christmas Cards?

Cards and Nativity Sets are available in our Holy Shop

Christmas is fast approaching! Be on time to send out your messages to your loved ones.

Budget cards for just \$3.50 per packet of 8.

If you are looking to buy a nativity set for this Christmas, whether it is small or big in size, we have it in our holy shop. We also have other beautiful gift items. Please visit the parish office during the office hours. EFTPOS available.



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

The two themes of Sunday's readings are repentance and joy. We do not usually associate these two themes with each other, but they go hand in glove in the kingdom of God.

The prophets of the Old Testament often spoke of what it would mean for God to live with his people. As we read in today's first reading, it would mean the total flowering of love between God and humanity, the permanent establishment of justice and the overthrowing of everything that afflicts and enslaves people. In the words of the prophet Zephaniah, it will be a day for God's people to "shout for joy" and "exult with all your heart".

However, this joyful uniting of God with his people requires our cooperation. A significant theme in the Old Testament is that God will only be actively present in the midst of a just and holy community. This is because to remain close to God is to become like him and for everything else to fall away.

As a result, we have to prepare ourselves to be able to operate in God's presence. For John the Baptist in today's Gospel, the kind of spiritual labour involved in this preparation begins with

repentance. Repentance for John starts with giving up those habits of ours where we get an advantage at the

afraid to let God have control. When we turn towards God in repentance, we do not find condemnation or judgement but the peace and joy that come from living in lockstep with Christ. This is why the coming of Christ, celebrated at Christmas, is celebrated with such rejoicing. God has come to live among his people and, where there was separation due to sin, God can make the repentant heart both whole and holy.

And our joy is assured because, when we do turn back to God, we are responding to the great love and joy that God has called us with. Zephaniah depicts the moment of God coming to live among his people as God "dancing with shouts of joy". As it says elsewhere in the Gospel of Luke, there is great "joy in heaven over one sinner who repents." Repentance, then, is nothing to fear but is instead the path to true joy. All it takes is listening to God's daily invitation to turn back towards his way of living and start on the journey of a life lived with Christ.

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expense of others or where we live in a way contrary to God's love and law. It may mean, as it did for the people in today's Gospel, that we need to change how we use our money, our relationships with others or how we go about our jobs and careers.

However, repentance is not a process that should cause us anxiety. When we are moved to repentance, we know that we do so with God's accompaniment and patience. As Paul says, through prayer, we can invite God into every area of our lives, even those places where we are

Angel Tree Project

Angel Tree Project is an endeavour of Prison Fellowship to provide Christmas gifts to the children of prisoners. A child who has a parent (or both parents) in prison is, statistically, 6 times more likely to be incarcerated at some stage themselves. Fathers & mothers inside can feel the separation from their children intensifies at Christmas time as they are unable to purchase a gift for their children. Angel Tree helps maintain the bond between parent and child. It also helps churches connect with these vulnerable, often isolated and stigmatised families in their community.



There are many kids of prisoners in Geraldton, Mullewa, Dongara and Northampton. If you are willing to donate a gift to the kids of Geraldton Prisoners via the Angel Tree Project, go to <https://prisonfellowship.org.au/>

Or you can give directly into Prison Fellowship's bank account
BSB: 083-004 Account No: 86 300 9174

Reference: FirstNameSurnameDonorNumberState

If you don't know your donor number, or are giving for the first time, please email donate@prisonfellowship.org.au to let us know you've made a donation to ensure it is allocated correctly.

Please call 03 9848 1224 or email donate@prisonfellowship.org.au to confirm your direct deposit. **(Do not send donation to the Church)**

Parish Finances

Contributions of 8th December 2024

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1750.20		735.55
Planned Giving \$	744.00	202.00	385.00
Parish Collection \$	980.85		452.15
Friday Fast \$	143.85		

Thank You

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



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 copies left.

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, Dympna Kipps, Pat Miragliotta and Nadeem Turkia.



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

Anniversaries: Geoff Long, Michael Iaria, Aldo Salato, Mina Rouyer.

Recently Deceased: Fr Thomas Smith, Geoff Major, Jim Grego, John Sancho, Loris Reed and Antonio Coniglio.

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading (Zephaniah 3:14-18)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Isaiah 12)

**R. Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.**

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R.**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R.**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R.**

Second Reading (Philippians 4:4-7)

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

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel (Luke 3:10-18)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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

Micah 5:1-4 | Psalm 79 | Hebrews 10:5-10 | Luke 1:39-44

"One who has hope lives differently." Pope Benedict XVI

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.



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.



THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The pilgrim rosary will be in recess until further notice.



Christmas New Year Holidays

Our offices will be closed during the Christmas and New year period as scheduled below:

OFFICES	CLOSING	RE-OPENING
Parish Office	4:00pm Mon 23 Dec 2024	9:00am Mon 6 Jan 2025
Diocesan and CDF Offices	12:30pm Fri 20 Dec 2024	8:30am Mon 6 Jan 2025

Christmas Mass Times available online

Please visit the parish [website](#) or scan the QR Code



Christian Meditation Group

The Christian Meditation will be in recess from 18th December until 8th January.