

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year C

22 December 2024

VOCATION VIEW: Can you honestly pray: "I have come to do your will, O God"?

Blessed are you who trusts that the Lord's words to you will be fulfilled.

Advent

God's saving action neither begins nor ends with Christ or Christmas. Nor is our understanding of this action to be contained by the weeks of Advent and the celebration of Christmas. Salvation history is ongoing and demands ongoing contemplation on our part.

Advent is both waiting and preparing. Waiting focuses on what God does; preparing focuses on what we do. These divine and human activities come together in Christ.



'Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?'

Advent Wreath Ceremony

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Micah as coming from the house of David and who will rule over all Israel and be peace.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you make us holy by the offering of your body made once and for all.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, you are the blessed fruit of the womb of she who believed that the promise made to her would be fulfilled.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Wish you all a very Happy, Holy and Hope-filled Christmas

St John's Church - Garage Sale

The Garage Sale held on 7th December was a **Thank You** wonderful success due to the tireless work and donations and the support of our many volunteers and sponsors, including Principal Melissa Marquis, parents and students of St. John's School, Mitchell and Brown, All Decor, SJT Electrical, Geraldton Fruit and Vege, Mayor Jerry Clune, Frankie Clancy's Family, Filipino ladies, and to ABC Radio, Radio Mama for broadcasting our event.

With gratitude and sincere thanks to each and everyone, for your valuable contribution and time put in to make the day memorable and successful. Over \$3,500 was raised on the day. All raffle prize winners were notified and prizes collected.

Table of Blessings

Table of Blessings at Fitzgerald Hall held its Christmas lunch and windup for the year last Monday, 16th December with over 40 guests and 15 helpers. The attendance reflects the success of this much needed ministry. It will resume on Monday, 27th January.

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 or to make a donation, please call Centacare on 9921 1433.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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

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

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)

Christmas Message from Bishop Michael

As I draft my Christmas Message my time with the Diocese of Broome has drawn to a close, and I find myself reflecting on the landscape of this timeless land and the people who call it home.



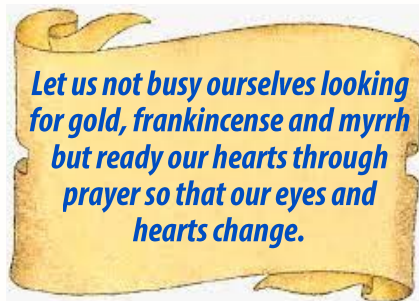
In my three years in the Kimberley, it was noticeable how everyone waits anxiously for the coming of the first rains of the wet season. This period is known as the 'build-up', or in Broome's Yawuru language, "Laja" time! For Aboriginal People, with their keen eye, a lot is happening throughout God's creation as it moves through this uncomfortable time with the weather. Tensions build, not only in the atmosphere, waiting for the heavens to deliver!

For the past three years the Kimberley people of Faith have been waiting patiently for a new Bishop for their Diocese! Wondering if it was ever, ever going to happen! Their long wait has ended and their hopes have finally been realised with the installation of Bishop Tim Norton.

Similarly, the people of the Old Testament, waited a long time, longing for the promised Messiah. A promise Jeremiah heralded in the 1st Sunday of Advent readings, "See, the days are coming, it is the Lord who speaks, when I am going to fulfil the promise, I made...I will make a virtuous Branch grow who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah will be saved". [Jer 33:14-16]

The arrival of Advent sees a similar 'build-up' before Christmas. A lot is happening around us, with everyone having much to do and organise, and a happy season easily slips into a tense season, as we wait eagerly for heaven to deliver the Christ child on Christmas Night!

St Francis of Assisi 800 years ago built the first Crib reminding us of the simplicity of God coming among us in a stable. People of all walks of life love the Christmas Crib. Mysteriously it speaks to our deepest needs for connection with God, family and community. Yet somewhere we often let all that 'buildup' cloud our thinking, and feeling



overpowered by tension, allow it to affect our relationship with others.

St John believed Jesus, born in a stable, was "a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower"[Jn1:5]. For people of Faith, that Jesus is our Saviour. He went through the same experiences and feelings, and He now sits with each one of us, listening, and is present with us through everything as a light shining through our

darkness. This sitting with humanity didn't just end with the Shepherds and Magi 2000 years ago, it occurs here and now in your life. Allow the peace his presence brings to overpower the darkness.



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As we wait throughout Advent remember how Jesus came into our world revealing, "the kindness and love of God our Saviour" [Titus 3:4] and ponder the wisdom of Br Damien Price cfc, "Let us not busy ourselves looking for gold, frankincense and myrrh but ready our hearts through prayer so that our eyes and hearts change. Then, when we gather to celebrate Christmas... we shall see Emmanuel, God with us, all around us".

After our waiting has ended and we gather for Christmas 2024, let us never tire of praying for peace in our heart and spirit, in our relationships and friendships in our communities and among nations. That peace that is eternally present among us in Jesus Christ. May you be truly blessed with a Happy Christmas with family and friends and a new year full of faith filled hope for all.

† Most Reverend Bishop Michael Morrissey

Thanksgiving Adoration and Mass at New Year Eve

Let us join together for a solemn adoration and benediction on the last day of the year at 10pm followed by thanksgiving Mass at 11pm in the Cathedral on Tuesday 31st December. It is a great opportunity to reflect and thank God for the abundant blessings we have received this year, despite having pains and tears at times! We will also begin our new year with the Lord of all. All Welcome!




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.



Pastoral Care 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  **Caritas AUSTRALIA** 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.

Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th February 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*



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

Fresh from her encounter with the angel Gabriel, "Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country" to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant in her old age. This meeting of two Spirit-filled pregnant women, seeking to understand what God is doing in their lives, is remarkable in the way it captures their very human interaction and their prophetic voices.

In Scriptural terms, all this occurs with the highly unusual absence of male voices in the conversation. Although the meeting occurs in Zechariah's house, he had been struck dumb. Joseph is presumably back in Nazareth. For the most part, we can only imagine the conversations between Elizabeth and Mary as they share their joy and confusion in the unforeseen events.

Elizabeth no doubt had long resigned herself to being childless, but now has to deal with her unexpected blessing. Mary has to come to terms with a blessing that seems to cause more problems than it solves. How will she explain her pregnancy to Joseph?

In Luke's account, the encounter between Elizabeth and Mary is presented in the form of two scriptural hymns or songs of blessing. Today

we hear the first of these, which is Elizabeth's song prophetically proclaiming Mary to be the "mother of my Lord". Even though filled with joy in her own blessing of pregnancy, Elizabeth exudes humility, compassion and living faith by

In doing so, they stand in the long Jewish tradition of female voices – Miriam with her tambourine, Deborah, Hannah and Judith – who likewise sing provocative songs of God's coming salvation for the poor and oppressed.



focussing on the blessing that Mary's presence is for her – and that Mary's child will be for the world.

Mary's response to Elizabeth is the second song – the 'Magnificat' – which proclaims God's redeeming love for the oppressed and downtrodden people of our world. Together then, Elizabeth and Mary are presented to us as two Spirit-filled, peasant women prophets supporting each other in adversity by singing of God's justice and mercy.

Although the Visitation has been used to depict such lofty themes as the Church's march throughout history crossing mountains to proclaim Christ to the world (St Ambrose 4th century), we also do well to recognise how the story highlights the role of women throughout Luke's Gospel. They are not only major figures associated with Jesus' birth, but they are clearly friends and disciples of Jesus during his ministry, are present at the crucifixion, and are the first to encounter the risen Lord.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us ask for the gift of being open to the surprise of grace in our own lives in the ways of Mary and Elizabeth. May we, like them, sing of God's transforming power coming to life in the birth of the Messiah. Perhaps too we are invited to highlight the importance of women's ministry in 'giving birth' to a less clerical church!.

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2024
#4107

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 15 th December 2024			
	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection \$	1762.50		609.60
Planned Giving \$	575.00	122.00	265.00
Parish Collection \$	1063.00		314.15
Friday Fast \$	103.70		

Thank You

Feasts of the Week



26 Dec Thu Saint Stephen

27 Dec Fri Saint John

28 Dec Sat Holy Innocents



Christian Meditation Group

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

THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The pilgrim rosary will be in recess until further notice.



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, Fay Zinetti, Armanasco & Marsden Families, Mick & Gwen Clarke, Ian and Colleen Shanks.

Anniversaries: Margaret Dolan, Sr Dolores Desmond and Bernie Duplex.

Recently Deceased: Dympna Kipps, John Millward, Jim Grego, Fr Thomas Smith, Loris Reed and Antonio Coniglio

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading (Micah 5:1-4)

A reading from the prophet Micah.

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.



The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 79)

**R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R.**
God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name **R.**

Second Reading (Hebrews 10:5-10)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of

his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

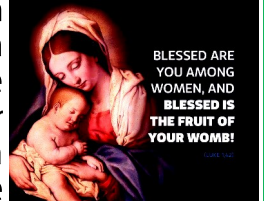
Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done..... Alleluia!**

Gospel (Luke 1:39-44)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.



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

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 | Ps 83 | 1 John 3:1-2,21-24 | Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Mass Times available online

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



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.



Divine Mercy Holy Hour

next Sunday 29th December, 3 - 4pm at St Lawrence's Church,
Bluff Point. Welcome all to be with the Lord for an hour!



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.



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!

