

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GERALDTON



St Francis Xavier Cathedral

Administrator Fr Gerard Totanes VG
Assistant Priests Fr Savio Nguyen
Nagle Chaplain Fr Bernard Balaraj
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 A

21 December 2025

VOCATION VIEW: Vocations from God are not always clear. Not all of us are like Joseph who had an angel appear to him saying: "Take Mary as your wife, and fear not."

Advent Wreath Ceremony

Celebrant Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah when he proclaimed 'The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means God is with us.'

All Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant Lord Jesus, you come among us now in your Word and Sacrament to give us the strength to live according to the Good News you revealed.

All Come, Lord Jesus.

Celebrant Lord Jesus, you will come in glory in the fullness of time because you are the Christ the one who has saved his people from their sins.

All Come, Lord Jesus.



Farewell Morning Tea for our Priests

Before Fr Gerard and Fr Savio are moving to their new Parishes in Karratha and Mullewa respectively in the new year, we will give them a well deserved farewell next Sunday, on 28th December in the Catholic Centre at 10:45am. Fr Gerard will be the main celebrant at the 9:30am Mass in the Cathedral on the day.

Welcome all parishioners to join in this **Bring and Share** morning tea to express your love and prayers as well as to wish them well for their new assignment.

You may please drop your food from 8:30 am onwards in the Catholic Centre.

Fr Gerard will be back in Geraldton in the week commencing on Sunday 15th March 2026 and will celebrate Holy Mass in the Cathedral at 9:30am for the Silver Jubilee of his Priesthood.

In Solidarity with Australian Jewish Community

In this time of happy and joyful celebrations of the incarnation of the Prince of peace, all Australians have been plunged into a deep darkness by the events at Bondi last Sunday. We are in solidarity with all who suffered loss and trauma in this senseless evil act as well as the whole Jewish Australian community. We also give thanks to all who provided assistance in many ways to the injured people.



Christmas Carols at Rangeway Tonight

Welcome everyone to St John's Church Rangeway for a Community Carols tonight at 5:30pm for a 6pm start and sing along!

Please bring your fold up chairs and picnic blankets to sit comfortably on the lawned area at the school-side bank.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

| Churches | Christmas Eve | | | Christmas | No Evening Mass |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|-------------|-----------------|
| | Vigil | Carols | Night | Morning | |
| SFX Cathedral | 6:00 pm | 9:15pm | 10pm | 7:30 & 9:30 | |
| St Peter's Greenough | | | | 8:00 am | |
| St Lawrence's Church Bluff Point | 6:00 pm | | | 9:00 am | |
| St Mary's Northampton | | | | 8:30 am | |
| OLHC Church Kalbarri | 5:00 pm | | | | |
| Chapman Valley Museum Nanson | 5:30 pm | | | | |

Free Community Christmas Lunch at QEII Centre Thursday, 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 donate, please call 9921 1433.



Have you sent Christmas Messages to your loved ones? Cards and Nativity Sets are still available in our Holy Shop

We celebrate Christmas this week! Send out your messages to your loved ones on time. Beautiful Christmas cards are available in our Holy Shop.

Budget cards for \$3.50 are almost sold out! If you are looking to buy a nativity set for this Christmas, head to our holy shop. There are also other greeting cards, gifts, books etc are available. Please visit the Parish Office during office hours. EFTPOS available.



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.geraldtoncatholic.org



Safeguarding Officers 0470 207 707
 08 9964 1608 / 08 9964 2716

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

"Hope does not disappoint", words taken from St Paul's letter to the Roman Christians, were the words Pope Francis used to announce the Jubilee of Hope for the year of 2025 to the whole world. The last part of or this sentence in Romans, is, "because the love of God has been poured out in our heart through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" [Rom5:5].

This makes the 'Hope' referred to a Holy Hope, a living Hope, and not just wishful thinking hope! Hope poured out into the heart of every person of Faith, giving them support, courage and guidance through all the joys and the challenges of life.

This is the same Hope that dissolved Mary's fear following the announcement of the Angel Gabriel, "Do not be afraid"! It was this same Hope that stirred Mary to her 'YES' to the mysterious call to become the Mother of Jesus Christ.

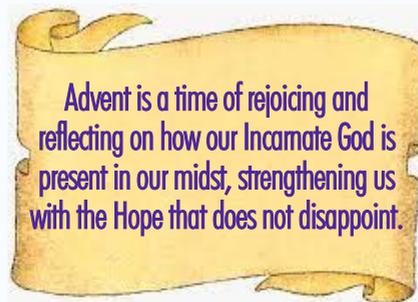
In the stillness of the night as Joseph wrestled with the news Mary had given him, an Angel appears to guide him. It is in this moment of faith that Joseph sees with eyes of Hope and answer's YES to God's call to protect Mary and Jesus, who was yet to be born!

Mary and Joseph pondered what might happen to their child, Jesus, but they never abandoned their hope and trust in God, even after having to flee as refugees from their home to the safety of Egypt.

None of us have the capacity to see what will happen in the future, but it is when we place our Hope and Trust in the Lord, hope is able to enter our

lives and, as an anchor, it holds you firm. A hope that encourages us to not give up; to always give it our best. Not in isolation, but in and through our community, our families and friends, our Faith.

Since the first Christmas, 2,000 years ago, countless people have lived out their life of Faith with great hope, anchoring their resolve, despite many obstacles and challenges or persecutions.



This Christmas we celebrate 250 years since *Venerable Nano Nagle* founded the Presentation Sisters in Cork, Ireland in 1775. She is one of those that never lost that 'hope'. It was a terrible time in Ireland and Nano Nagle risked everything, status, comfort and wealth living in France, to answer the call of God to return to Ireland to bring Catholic Education to the people, families and children of Cork. At night, she carried her lantern among Cork's attics and alleyways, bringing comfort and hope to the city's poor, sick and elderly. Becoming known as "The Lady of the Lamp".

During the Day, Nano Nagle taught children in secret hedge schools because of oppressive laws barring Catholic children from education. Nano realized the burden was too much for herself! There were other women who wished to help and spread the care and hope of God among the people and so together they began the Presentation Sisters in 1775! This Christmas give thanks to God for the great gift the Presentation Sisters have been to our diocese since 1891, living out the vision of Nano Nagle as lights of shining hope.

Advent is a time of rejoicing and reflecting on how our Incarnate God is present in our midst, strengthening us with the Hope that does not disappoint. Each of us, even in a small but significant way are like "the shoot springing from the insignificant stock of Jesse", carrying that hope, and making a difference to another person's life, just like Mary, Joseph and Nano Nagle who were lanterns of hope for others!

Enjoy your moments together with your family and friends as we leave aside the busy pace of life for a short time. See the other person in our life as a blessing, journeying together into 2026, full of hope. I leave you with these words from Charles Dickens.

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year".

+ M. Morrissey

The Most Rev. Michael H. Morrissey
Bishop of Geraldton

Table of Blessings

Table of Blessings at Fitzgerald Hall held its Christmas lunch and wound up for the year last Monday, 15th December with many guests and volunteer helpers. The attendance reflects the success of this much needed ministry. It will resume on Monday, 2nd February.

Do you have any spare iPads to donate?

The Cathedral is looking for a few iPads in good working condition. If you have any used spare iPads and happy to donate, please contact the Parish or Diocesan Office.

Christmas Nativity Display - Thank you!

A big hearted thank you firstly, to Fr Savio Nguyen, who inspired everyone to participate and who put in endless hours to ensure that the Display perfectly presented with each class and students' work arranged precisely!

Thank you to the Principals, staff and students of St Francis Xavier and St Lawrence's Primary schools, for their wonderful support of the Nativity Display and for the innovative ways and materials



used to make the set creations. The people's voting was a strong indication of the favourite scene which was won by the Kindy and Pre-Primary classes! Congratulations to the winners and to all the students for a fantastic effort!

Thank you to our generous sponsors Wondabake, John & Beryl Rigter, Harrison Francis, BV Nails, City Desserts, Orana Cinemas, and many others who generously donated to the Nativity display week. With the support of our sponsors, and the work of

our volunteers who came to help Fr Savio to run the event successful and memorable for everyone who came along to see the students' work. Special thanks to Amy and Mario Zinetti, John Zinetti, Wendy Lynch, Rosemary Taylor and all the ladies who came and helped on the desk or worked in the nativity cafe to feed and refresh our visitors. Your combined support, generosity and valuable time is greatly appreciated!

*The Nativity raffle was won by Ana Mae!
All prizes have been collected.*

Parish Website Maintenance

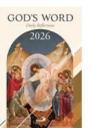
The Parish Website may be down and inaccessible during the Christmas-New year holidays for its maintenance. Inconvenience caused to you is highly regretted.

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

God's Word 2026 still available in the Parish Office

God's Word for daily readings and reflections for 2026 is available now in the Parish Office for \$22.

Hurry to get your copy as only a few more copies left!



Diocesan Office

Address 7 Maitland Street
Geraldton, WA 6530

(Opening Hours: 8:30am - 4pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri | 8:30am - 1pm Wed)

Mail PO Box 46, Geraldton, WA 6531
Phone 08 9921 3221

Web www.geraldtondiocese.org.au
Email dioger@geraldtoncatholic.org.au



When Joseph learns that his young fiancée is pregnant, he must have been quite distressed. He probably thought that she had been unfaithful, had been attacked, or was delusional. He knows that the child is not his, so his long genealogy linking the family to David would be irrelevant. We can only imagine the confusion, hurt, and anger of this 'man of honour'.

According to Jewish law, Joseph had the right to shame Mary publicly and have her stoned if she was found to be unfaithful. He decides to divorce her quietly, but God intervenes, and an angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream and tells him to proceed with his plans to marry Mary. The angel also tells him, that the child that Mary bears has been conceived by the Holy Spirit and is to be named Jesus.

However, there is a surprise in the next sentence when we hear that Jesus is to be named Emmanuel which means "God is with us." This seems to be a contradiction, so how can we explain the two names? The name "Jesus" is derived from the Hebrew name "Yeshua" which means "The Lord saves." This name emphasises the purpose of the incarnation and ministry of Jesus which is about His mission which is the salvation of humanity.

The name "Emmanuel" also comes from the Hebrew and means "God is with us." "Emmanuel" is not used as a proper name for Jesus in the New Testament, but it serves as a

his trust in the law given by God to Moses, and to leave Mary, or to put his trust in something new that God was to do. In making his decision, Joseph is a reminder to us that while observing the law is important, one must always be open to what God is asking of us in the concrete circumstances of our own lives.

This brings us to the question of how we listen to God and allow God to speak to us.

Listening to God will mean that we must continue to wrestle with the complexity of our own lives. We need to listen to the wisdom of tradition, and to the law of the Lord handed down to us, while remaining open to any new initiative that God might be attempting in us and through us.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us pray that we might be able to say yes, like Joseph, to the questions and challenges that we face in life's journey knowing that God is with us and calling us to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Michael A Kelly CSsR

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powerful theological statement about His nature. The dual significance of these names, "Jesus" and "Emmanuel," provide a comprehensive understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish. "Jesus" highlights his role as Saviour, while "Emmanuel" emphasises the divine presence with humanity.

Joseph was faced with a decision, to either put

Columban Calendar 2026

Pretty and Popular Columban calendar for the year 2026 is still available in the Parish Office holy shop for only \$11.



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.



Please help our **local prisoners** by supporting **their 30 children** with a Christmas gift. Please contact Di Neil for any information as to gifts needed or you can donate the money and Di will buy the gift for you. Di can be contacted on 0439 979 864. Thank you.

(Please do not send donation to the Church for this purpose)

<https://prisonfellowship.org.au/>

Parish Finances

Contributions of 14th December 2025

| | Cathedral | Rangeway | Bluff Point |
|---------------------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Priests' Collection | \$ 1042.35 | | 633.50 |
| Envelopes | \$ 80.00 | 85.00 | 210.00 |
| Parish Collection | \$ 874.45 | | 419.70 |
| Friday Fast | \$ 95.95 | | |



Feasts of the Week

26 Dec Fri Saint Stephen
27 Dec Sat Saint John



Christian Meditation Group

The Christian Meditation Group will be in recess from 12th December until 4th January 2026.

Holy Hour at Nazareth House Chapel

Monday, Friday and Sunday from 4 pm – 5 pm in the main Chapel. All welcome to join the Sisters and residents in prayerful adoration.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral

Thursdays 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:

Rose Ralph, Tim Conway, Maria Salamone, Maureen Burke, Andres Rodillas, Peter Scarpuzza, Diana Bennett, Erica Pirrottina, Kim-Maree Kelly, Shirley Travis, Allan Malonzo, Cherrille Quilty, Pat Miragliotta, Derek Levett, Ron Coumbe, Matthew Greenlees, Ramon Tan Jr., Zenaida Tan, Peg Faithfull, Maureen Lynch and Colleen Salter.



For the deceased: Frank & Lina Zinetti, Rosetta & Anselmo Scarpuzza, Jim & Nancy Ward, Don McDonald, Gwen & Mick Clark, Armanasco and Marsden families.

Anniversaries: Sr Dolores Desmond, Bernie Duplex, Michael Iaria, Eric Gugliellmana, Margaret Dolan, Peg McCormack, Jose Alo Rebanano and Bill O'Neill.

Recently Deceased: Bro Warwick Bryant, Vincenzo Lanza Carriccio and Rhonda (McDonnell) Hickey.

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 (Isaiah 7:10-14)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23)

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

Second Reading (Romans 1:1-7)

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

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!.....

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us..... **Alleluia!**

Gospel (Matthew 1:18-24)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will

give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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.



Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man. **(all bow)**
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14 | Psalm 127 | Colossians 3:12-21 | Matthew 2:13-23

Christmas Novena Masses

The Filipino Community celebration of "Simbang Gabi" in anticipation of Christmas at St Lawrence's Church Bluff Point will conclude this Tuesday 23rd December.



Novena Mass at 6:30pm everyday.

Refreshments will be served in the undercover area after Mass.

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 | 12:30pm Wed 24 Dec 2025 | 9:00am Wed 7 Jan 2026 |
| Diocesan and CDF Offices | 4:00pm Fri 19 Dec 2025 | 8:30am Mon 5 Jan 2026 |