

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GERALDTON

St Francis Xavier Cathedral

Administrator Fr Tai Trinh
Assistant Priests Fr Larry Rodillas
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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

15 February 2026

VOCATION VIEW: God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.
 Some people he predestines to be priests or religious – might you be one of them? Listen to the call!

Project Compassion Sunday

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities



this Lent

in need.

You can support Project Compassion this year through the donation boxes and envelopes available in the Church today or online by scanning the QR code, or visiting: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate or by calling: 1800 024 413.

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

Please Donate Today!



Caritas AUSTRALIA

PROJECT COMPASSION

Reconciliation Commitment Masses this weekend

Candidates and their parents are attending one of the following Masses for making their commitment this weekend.

Saturday 14th Feb at 6pm in the Cathedral or Bluff Point

Sunday 15th Feb at 7.30am, 9:30am or 6pm in the Cathedral

Sunday 15th Feb at 9.00am at St Lawrence's Bluff Point

Saturday 21st Feb at 6pm in the Cathedral

St John's students are also to attend one of the above Masses or as directed by the School.

Commitment Forms to be completed

Candidates attending the Commitment Mass today must fill out a Reconciliation Commitment form and present it to the Priest. The form is available in schools as well as on our parish website to download. Scan the QR code, or access the page via <https://geraldtoncathedral.org/reconciliation/>.



Lent begins this week

A period of repentance, reparation and renewal

Ash Wednesday – 18th February

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence for all Catholics between 14 and 65 years of age, except those who may be excused due to infirmity or ill health.

MASSES ON ASH WEDNESDAY

Masses for Ash Wednesday, including the distribution of ashes, will be as follows:

St Francis Xavier Cathedral : 7am, 12:05pm and 6pm

St Lawrence's Bluff Point : 9:05am (School Under Cover Area)

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 6pm in the Cathedral commencing next Friday, 20th February.



Lenten Reflections-Every Thursday

Lenten Reflections will be commenced from this Thursday, 19th February at 5:30pm for an hour in the Parish Seminar Room. *Compassio* Lenten program from the Diocese of Wollongong on Sunday Gospels will be used this year.

Lenten Programs can be found on our parish website at <https://geraldtoncathedral.org/lent/>



Little Black Book for Lent

The little black book for daily meditations during Lent - on the *Passion according to Mark* - is available in the Church today to be used from today, Sunday onwards. This beautifully prepared book costs only \$4. Please put the money in the bowl and get your copy.

Pancake and Ashes on Ash Wednesday

18th February

Join us for a fantastic evangelisation event involving a procession from the Cathedral to Marine Terrace on Ash Wednesday to distribute the ashes to the whole of Geraldton! Procession leaves Cathedral at 3:30pm arriving at Marine Terrace (*at the Old Post Office, opposite The Rocks*) where there will be a Blessing of Ashes ceremony and distribution of ashes, and pancakes.

Come along and join the choristers and Centacare as we bring Christ to the public forum!



Please Turn Off your phones in the Church.

Everyone is kindly requested to **turn off** your mobile phones whilst in the Church especially during Mass and Adoration as it disturbs other people. Thank you.

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)

THE FIRST RECONCILIATION | PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

CELEBRANT: Families, preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please come forward with a copy of the bulletin.

CELEBRANT: Candidates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, are you fully aware that you have begun a program which will lead you to deeper commitment to Christ and his Church?

CANDIDATES: *Yes we are.*

CELEBRANT: Are you willing to participate and cooperate in this preparation program for the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

CANDIDATES: *Yes we are.*

CELEBRANT: Parents, are you prepared to support your children in their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation by word and

example as well as participating in parent meetings and endeavouring to participate in Sunday Masses?

PARENTS: *Yes we are.*

CELEBRANT: Children, on the day of your Baptism you were signed by the sign of the Cross. Receive again this sign on your forehead. By this sign of his love, Christ will be your strength. (Priest and /or parents sign a cross on the forehead of each child).

CELEBRANT: On behalf of our parish community, I accept your commitment as candidates for Reconciliation. I know the members of our parish join with me in praying for you during this time of preparation.

Candidates, please present the completed Commitment Form to the Priest.

Project Compassion Lenten Prayer

God of all love

We remember that on the night before he died

Your son, Jesus, prayed

that is friends "may all be one."

Yet we see so much division in the world.

War, conflict, violence and hatred must all distress you.

Millions of people suffer

when they don't have peace and respect.

They lack the necessities of life:

food, water, health, education and security.

We pray that we may all

Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

May our support for Project Compassion

be a sign to ourselves and others,

of our hope for a better world.

This Lent, we pray that our dedication

to prayer, fasting and almsgiving will help

restore your vision of justice and peace.

Guided by the Holy Spirit,

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**
this Lent



Knights of the Southern Cross

Next Midwest Branch Meeting will be held next Saturday on 21st February with 9:00am Cathedral Mass followed by Prayers and Lectio Divina lead by Fr Cross in the Crypt with Brunch at Tart & Co afterwards. All men over 18 encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Daniel by email: danielhatleyperpetualadoration@gmail.com.



Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10th March 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



Divine Mercy Holy Hour at Nazareth House

Last Sunday of every month 3- 4pm in the Nazareth House main Chapel. All welcome to pray the chaplet and adore Jesus, our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament followed by benediction.



Welcome New Parishioners

We welcome all new parishioners to our community. If you have recently moved to Geraldton or you had moved earlier and not registered yet with the Parish, please register your details online by visiting our parish website, either by scanning this QR code or using the link

<https://geraldtoncathedral.org/registration/>



Make your contributions online

You are welcome to make EFT transfers using Parish bank details as follows: **BSB 086 006** and **Account Number 826504934**, AC Name: SFX Cathedral Parish. Please put an appropriate reference/description such as "**donation, second collection, Planned Giving**" etc. For more details, visit our webpage using this QR code or via link <https://geraldtoncathedral.org/support-us/>



Volunteer with IMPACT

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering online at <https://palms.org.au/event/feb-info/> in this special session where you'll learn about our diverse assignments at <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/> suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange makes a lasting impact in communities and changes lives.

Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026 **Time:** 4 pm – 5:30 pm AWST

Contacts: 02 9560 5333 | palms@palms.org.au

Want to visit a community first?

Join our 13-day **Encounter Tour to Timor Leste!**

Book by 28 February for the May tour!

See palms.org.au/encounters



Looking for Piety Gifts and Cards?

There are many items available in our Parish holy shop for all occasions.

Beautiful statues, Bibles, Missals, Crucifix, religious books, medals, rosary beads, necklaces as well as a great selection of greeting cards for various

occasions such as Birthdays, Christening, Feast days, Wedding, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Jubilees, Anniversaries and many more.. EFTPOS available. . . Visti the Parish Office during office hours.



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



Australians have long grumbled about the “nanny state.” We roll our eyes at tobacco excises, plain packaging laws, bicycle helmet requirements, and bans on advertising to kids. Yet, if we’re honest, no one lying in a hospital bed with lung cancer, managing type 2 diabetes, or recovering from a head fracture, ever mutters, “This wouldn’t have happened if the government had just stayed out of my business.”

Deep down, we know that some laws exist not to stifle us but to save us. They’re less about control and more about keeping us alive and well. This weekend’s readings invite us to see God’s law in that same light; not as divine overreach but as wisdom designed for human flourishing.

Sirach reminds us just how much God respects human freedom: “If you choose, you can keep the commandments” (Sir 15:15). God does not impose the divine will upon us. Like public health policies, the commandments are set before us as a path of life, not as a compliance regime. Sirach’s image of choosing between “life and death” (Sir 15:17) is less about punishment and more about recognising that our decisions shape who we become.

The psalmist sees the “wonders” of God’s law (Ps 119:18). This isn’t the awe of a bureaucrat admiring a perfectly filled-out form; it is the delight of someone who recognises that God’s ways lead to peace, integrity, and deep



contentment. The psalmist isn’t one who revels in rules; but one who wonders at the simple and self-evident wisdom inherent in God’s law. Paul speaks of a hidden wisdom that the world doesn’t easily recognise—wisdom rooted in love rather than self-interest, in the Cross rather than cleverness. God’s wisdom does not operate like the shifting advice of “this age,” which prioritises individual success over communal wellbeing. Divine wisdom seeks communion, justice, and healing: all the things that help humanity to flourish. It is revealed,

Paul says, by the Spirit who searches “the depths of God” (1 Cor 2:10) and leads us into those depths ourselves.

Matthew’s Jesus insists he has not come to abolish the law but to fulfil it (Matt 5:17). But fulfilment doesn’t mean tightening the rules; it means deepening them. Jesus directs our attention away from external actions to the dispositions of the heart. He’s not adding more red tape. He’s revealing that true obedience is not about external regulation but internal transformation — a radical change of heart and mind. The law’s purpose is to form a people capable of love.

Which brings us back to our Australian examples. Just as no one on a hospital ward complains about the nanny state, so no one who has contemplated the “depths of God” complains that divine law is restrictive. God’s law, like the best human laws, is given so we might flourish; not in fear, but in freedom shaped by sure wisdom and self-sacrificing love.

And that, ultimately, is the kind of “plain-packaged” law worth a moment or two of wonder.

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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.**

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.

Parish Finances			
Contributions of 8 th February 2026			
	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests’ Collection	\$ 1845.00		742.30
Envelopes	\$ 155.00	112.00	130.00
Parish Collection	\$ 1667.50		420.95
Friday Fast	\$ 77.05		



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

THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be with Rosaria Lanza at 1 Batavia Place, Mahomet Flats until 20th February. Rosary will be prayed at **5pm** Mon-Fri *All are welcome to pray with the mother of God!*



Holy Hour at Nazareth House Chapel

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 4:00–5:00 pm
Sundays 3-4pm in the Nazareth House main Chapel.



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, Colleen Salter & Allan Smith.



For the deceased: Frank & Lina Zinetti, Rosetta & Anselmo Scarpuzza, Jim & Nancy Ward and Don McDonald, Isabel Perestrelo, Teresa Teixeira, Georgina Teixeira, Corozon Con-Ui and Maria Fiocco.

Anniversaries: Bernie Clune, Antonio Fiocco and Silvino Perestrelo

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading (Sirach 15:15-20)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118)

R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!
They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts.

R.

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes.

R.

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law.

R.

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

R.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 2:6-10)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!..

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. . . .

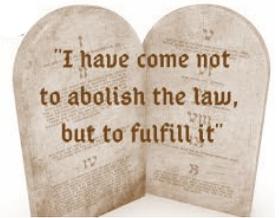
Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 5:17-37)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: ' Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be

considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors:



You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7 | Psalm 50 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11