

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

1st Sunday of Lent

Year A

22 February 2026

VOCATION VIEW: Lent is a season of renewal, of spiritual growth.

These forty penitential days invite us to strive for our true calling.

Project Compassion

Project Compassion this year shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the



determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

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.



Rite of Election (or Enrolment of Names) today

Congratulations to the OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) candidates attending Rite of Election today at 9:30am Mass; Marnie Bell, Hadyn Drake, Geoffrey Faulkner and Scott Russell who are preparing to *be Baptised* at Easter Vigil this year.

Congratulations to Amanda Beaver, Shane Brand and Camila Nairn who are also in attendance today and preparing for full communion with the Catholic Church.

"The celebration of the Rite of Election, which usually coincides with the opening of Lent, marks the beginning of the period of final, more intense preparation for the sacraments of initiation, during which the elect will be encouraged to follow Christ with greater generosity." (RCIA #105).

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/>



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

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

Lent

A period of repentance, reparation and renewal

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent at 6:00pm in the Cathedral.



Lenten Reflections-Every Thursday

Lenten Reflections being held on every Thursday during Lent at 5:30-6:30pm in the Parish Seminar Room. *Compassio* Lenten program from the Diocese of Wollongong on Sunday Gospels is 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. This beautifully prepared book costs only \$4.

Please put the money in the bowl and get your copy.

"No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great." – St Chrysostom

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/>



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](mailto: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.

The Annual Mass of the Holy Oils (Chrism Mass) and renewal of Commitment to Christian Service Tuesday, 17th March at 5pm in the Cathedral *This is a Diocesan celebration.*



Priests ministering in the Geraldton Diocese gather to celebrate Mass with Bishop Michael and renew their Priestly commitment. Parishioners are invited to attend and offer prayerful support for their Priests. Representatives of Confirmation Candidates and OCIA candidates for this year also will be attending this Mass.

Christian Meditation Group

The Christian Meditation Group in the cathedral gathers every Wednesday at 7:30am in the crypt. Inviting anyone interested.

99th World Day of Prayer - Nigeria

On Friday 6th March at 10am at Salvation Army, Geraldton. Please bring a plate of morning tea.



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.

When you Call After Hours

Afterhours phone calls are expected for emergency pastoral care only. Any other enquiries and bookings must be made during the office hours. If the duty Priest is involved in a ministry when you call, *for example during a Mass*, he won't be able to pick it up. So please try after some time or leave a clear voice message with your full name and phone number for him to call you back. Thank you.

Looking for Easter Cards?

Beautiful Easter Cards are available in the Parish Office holy shop. There are also other greeting cards and items available 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



LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday 29th March Regular Sunday Mass times in all churches

We recall Christ's triumphant entry to Jerusalem in the days leading up to his Passion and Death. Palms will be blessed at all Parish Masses and these can be taken home afterwards for safe keeping during the year ahead. St. Matthew's Passion will be read at all Masses. The congregation are invited to take part in this.

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

Tuesday 17th March 5:00pm Mass of the Holy Oils

Monday 30th March 7:00pm Second Rite of Reconciliation

Holy Thursday 2nd April (No Morning Mass)

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by adoration before the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00pm.

Good Friday 3rd April

10:00am Stations of the Cross followed by confessions
3:00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion followed by confessions

Holy Saturday 4th April (No Morning Mass)

11-12nn Confessions

7:00pm Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil includes the lighting and blessing of the Easter Fire and Candle, Old Testament readings, Reception into our community as new Catholics, Baptism and Confirmation.

Easter Sunday 5th April

7:30am, 9:30am and 6:00pm Resurrection of the Lord

St. Lawrence's Church, Bluff Point

Good Friday 3rd April

3:00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Easter Sunday 5th April

9:00am Resurrection of the Lord

St. Peter's Church, Greenough

Good Friday 3rd April

10:00am Stations of the Cross followed by confessions

Easter Sunday 5th April

8:00am Resurrection of the Lord



PLEASE TURN
OFF YOUR
MOBILE PHONE

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.

Vast, bare and silent, the desert is a place of spare and rugged beauty. It is also very confronting: an arid, barren environment with extreme temperatures, searing heat by day and freezing cold by night.

The desert may serve as a metaphor for our experiences of desolation, when we are stripped bare of our confidence and must face our most vulnerable selves. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, there were no doubt moments when he was led into the desert when he experienced desolation, when he thought that God was absent or silent.

When faced with grief, loss, or hardship, we may find it difficult to persist in faith. Even waiting for God may seem like an added – even an unbearable – burden. But, as Simone Weil, in *Waiting for God*, reminds us: “we cannot take a step toward the heavens;” instead, we find that, in God’s immense love for our frail humanity, “God crosses the universe and comes to us.” God comes to us!

The three temptations faced by Jesus present examples of situations where we in our own lives may be tempted to rely on ourselves to overcome some very basic human challenges: the need to

fill our hunger, the desire to be powerful or influential, and the need to feel safe and secure. In his responses, Jesus teaches us not to succumb to the temptation to compensate for our

reminds us to remain steadfast; for we can rest secure in the trust that God embraces our every vulnerability.

Through God’s transforming presence, we can begin to experience the desert not as a place of despair or desolation, but as a place of deep encounter with God and transformation. Stripped bare of everything superfluous to our needs, and utterly dependent on God, we become open to a profound conversion of heart and real growth. When Anthony, one of the early Desert Fathers, emerged twenty years after his time in the desert, his brothers were surprised to see that he was not haggard, but instead looked well and was radiant with inner peace.

Amidst the suffering of any desert into which we are led, let us pray for the grace to respond as Jesus did – to open ourselves utterly to God. Let us awaken to the divine within and around us and respond to him, to the beauty of his creation, and to each other in an entirely new, grace-filled and life-giving way.

Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2025 #4170

A nourishing desert



human weaknesses by focusing on satisfying our desires. Instead, he invites us to lean ever more closely on God and to let God begin to work within us with great love and tenderness and fashion us every more closely in God’s image.

Jesus shows us that, even at our lowest ebb, God fills every hunger and quenches every thirst. He reminds us that any influence we may wield comes not from being powerful but by walking with others in humility, solidarity and love. He

Malayalam Mass

Next Syro-Malabar Malayalam Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral, on Monday, 9th March at 6:00pm. Confessions begin at 5:30pm. All Keralites are kindly requested to participate.

Columban Calendar

Pretty and Popular Columban calendar for this year is still available in the Parish Office holy shop for \$10.



An Appeal To All: Responding with One Voice

Holy Mass is a communal experience where the faithful are united in prayer and worship, expressing their faith and devotion through shared actions, responses, and postures. **Prayer easily becomes a distraction when responses are out of sync, with some responding too fast or too slow.** Please be mindful that when we pray, we listen to one another praying and responding in one voice together.

one voice

MHHC Museum & Tours

The Museum is open daily from 10am-4pm. If you would like to learn more about John Hawes and the SFX Cathedral, tours are available on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday at 2:30 and Friday at 4:00. Tickets (\$5) are available at the museum.



Parish Finances

Contributions of 15th February 2026

	Cathedral	Rangeway	Bluff Point
Priests' Collection	\$ 1733.40		901.30
Envelopes	\$ 130.00	122.00	220.00
Parish Collection	\$ 1502.20		734.20
Friday Fast	\$ 87.05		



Divine Mercy Holy Hour at Nazareth House

Today, Sunday 22nd February 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. *“Jesus I trust in You.”*



THE PILGRIM ROSARY STATUE OF THE CATHEDRAL

The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be with Moira McLean at 124 Fitzgerald Street, Beachlands until 6th March. Rosary will be prayed at 5pm Mon-Fri **except Thursday** for Lenten Reflections.

All are welcome to pray with the Queen of Heaven!



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.

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, Estrella Ug and Antonio Fiocco.

Anniversaries: Fr Keith Spain, Fr Robert Dowglass, Maria Fiocco and Ofelia Panero.

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading (Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7)

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 50)

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R.**

Second Reading (Romans 5:12-19)

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

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace

with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel (Matthew 4:1-11)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Luke 4:12

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

Genesis 12:1-4 | Psalm 32 | 2 Timothy 1:8-10 | Matthew 17:1-9