WELCOME

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PARISH — 7 DECEMBER 2025

"The Love of Christ must come before all else." (Rule of St Benedict)

WEEKLY SERVICES

Mass Times:
Mon: Communion - Service @7am **(after the service, the church will be closed)**
Wed/Fri: 7am
Tues/Thurs: 9am
Sat: 7.30am & Vigil 6pm
Sun: 7.30am, 9.30am & 6pm

HOLY HOUR (STARTS WITH MASS)
FRIDAYS @7AM

Reconciliation:
Sat: **4.30PM - 5.30PM**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Thursday: 9.30am—5pm
Friday: 8am—5pm

Rosary Groups:
Tue: 9.30am, Wed/Fri: 7.30am
Cenacle: Thurs: 9.30am

Prayer Group:
Mary Mother of Sorrows: Meetings on Thursdays @1pm **(except school holidays)**

Catholic Women's League (CWL)
Meet the 2nd Tuesday of the Month in the Fr Albert Lynch Room **@10am, gathering @9.45am**

Baptisms: By appointment

Marriages: By appointment

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY Fr Michael Tate

Inaugurating a New Humanity

John proclaimed that the reign of God was 'at hand' as he immersed and plunged followers into the waters of the Jordan River. (His nickname was John the Immerser, or 'baptiser' in the Greek.) He used flowing water to symbolise the washing away of the past for those who repented so that they could be totally focused on the 'at hand' person who would inaugurate God's kingdom.

In this passage, John does not identify the 'Someone'! But he realised that this 'Someone' would have divine power to affect the future by immersing, baptising, his followers with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

At this stage of Advent, we should be like John's disciples, filled with a sense of anticipation, looking forward to the *coming towards us* ('Advent' in Latin) of the One who can flood our minds and bodies with the Holy Spirit and can immerse our hearts in Divine Fire.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that, even though we are unworthy to carry His sandals, there is One who is coming towards us wanting to transform us with Divine Power.

© Fr Michael Tate

Parish Office:
115 Ardross Street, Ardross WA 6153
PO Box 1831, Applecross WA 6953
Tel: 08 9364 1120
Website: www.stbenedicts.net.au
Office Hours: 10am—4pm (Tue-Fri)
Admin Officer: Stefani Chen
E (main): applecross@perthcatholic.org.au
Admin Assistant: Maribel Villegas (Thur: 9am-3pm)
E (office): office.applecross@perthcatholic.org.au
Parish Priest: Fr Nelson Po
E (Fr Nelson): nelson.po@perthcatholic.org.au

BENEDICTCARE COORDINATORS:
Head Coordinator: Carmel Tick - 0488 100 928
New Parishioners: Ruth Thorn
Home Help: Carmel Tick
Handyman/Gardening: Louis Bove
Visiting: Meagan Xanthis
Transport: Carmel Tick
Emergency Meals: Meagan Xanthis

PARISH INCLUSIVITY COORDINATOR:
Bev Piche — 0467 054 168

PREP COORDINATOR: Maureen Bright
Email: office.applecross@perthcatholic.org.au

SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR: Rosa Ranieri
Email: stbenedicts.sacraments@gmail.com

Pastoral Care: Yunita Lay
Email: stbenedicts.pastoral@gmail.com

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS:
Marina Ciccarelli &
Phil Trueman.

Email contact:
applecross.safeguarding@gmail.com

PARISH NOTICES

EVENTS

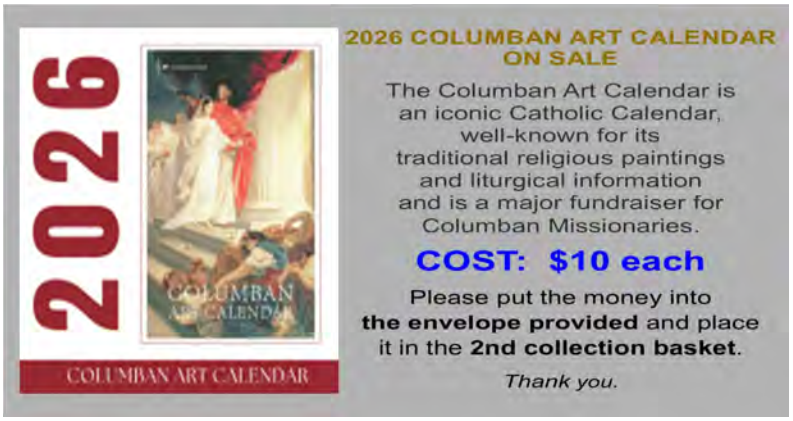
- 6 DEC — MILESTONE WEDDING ANNIVERSARY @6PM MASS FOLLOWED BY "INTERNATIONAL FARE" MEAL (PLEASE BRING A PLATE)
- 8 DEC— MASS OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION @7AM
- 9 DEC — PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION @7PM (1ST RITE)
- 13 DEC — BUSY BEE @8-11AM
- 13 DEC — YOUTH MASS @6PM
- 21 DEC — CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS
- 24-25 DEC — CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE (SEE BELOW)

The St Benedict's Craft Group wish to thank all who so generously supported our recent Christmas stall in aid of Caritas Australia. With the addition of a $600 donation from the Craft group, the total raised came to $2436.

Raffle winners:
1st prize: K8 - Peter Hevron
2nd prize: N52 - Nick
3rd prize: W74 - Glenda Beukes
4th prize: D062 - Deborah S
5th prize: N43 - Arminda
6th prize: V89 - Bev

The craft group is now in recess until Wednesday, 10 February 2026.

It just remains to wish each and every one of you a safe and blessed Christmas.



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Myrtle Nimmo, Helen Overman, Shalini Saldanha, Ng Choon Bee, Liesel Beukes, Helen Teo, Thomas McGuire Marris, Lorraine Healey, Kamani Jayaratne, Sue Miguel, Harsono Setiawan, Steven Robertson, Lisa Bailey, Lenna Hosseini, Frank Ranieri, Judith Chan, Grisel Noronha and all others who are not included in this list. *Thank you.*

YOUTH CORNER

Youth Mass — 13 December @6pm

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY MASS 2025
NATIVITY PLAY

We are inviting children from our parish to participate in the Gospel re-enactment during the **Christmas Eve Family Mass (outdoor)**. There are no speaking parts, so no requirement to learn any lines.

Rehearsal dates: Sunday, 21 December after the 9.30am Mass and Wednesday 24 December @9am.

The Vinnies conference is actively preparing for Christmas to spread a little hope and joy to those we serve and who are in difficult situations. We deliver Christmas hampers to various families and we would appreciate donations to help fill the baskets. A list of preferred items is located on the noticeboard at the rear of the church. Monetary donations via the poor box or the Eftpos machine are very much appreciated and enable us to continue our mission of advocacy and practical help to those who need it. This year's final newsletter is at the rear of the church next to the parish newsletter.

All Parishioners are warmly invited to our Annual Parish Christmas Morning Tea, following the 9.30am Sunday Mass on 21 December 2025. Come and share in the joy of Christmas with good company and festive cheer. Please bring a plate to share, and enjoy a glass or two of bubbles as we celebrate together. We look forward to seeing you there!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

-

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ama Alba, Lucy Macleod, Brian Officer, Robert D Malone, Thomas Spalding, Anna Bortolotti, Melvyn Byrne and all deceased benefactors of the parish and all departed family and friends. *Thank you.*

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

SAFEGUARDING INDUCTION TRAINING for ALL Parishes and Church Workers paid or unpaid — LEVEL 1 (New requirements & Personal Declaration Form is to be completed)

The Safeguarding Level 1 Induction is now available as **a Self-Paced Online Learning Module**. This format offers greater flexibility and an easier, user-friendly experience. To complete the Safeguarding Level 1 Induction, please follow these steps:

- Visit our **safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/training/** to check out the Induction.
- Click on "Safeguarding Level 1 – Induction ONLINE Training".
- Watch the Presentation Video.
- Proceed to Step 2 to register personal details and complete the quiz.

The Safeguarding Office will notify the Parish/Agency/Organisation of the attendance record.

SAFEGUARDING LEVEL 1 INDUCTION TRAINING (in person)

-

To register **https://safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/training/#induction**.

Further info: **safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au** or 08 9221 7762.

Thank you to all who have already completed the course and submitted their personal declaration forms to comply with the new Archdiocese Directives regarding Safeguarding.

DIVINE MERCY SHRINE - RAFFLE 2025

Funds raised will go towards the completion of the Divine Mercy Shrine for interior and exterior ornamentation, the purchase of a pipe organ and other parish works. Ticket sale close on **19 December 2025 at 11.59pm. Please note the raffle is for WA and NSW residents only.** Winners will be drawn on **Sunday 21 December 11am at 34 Santa Gertrudis Drive, Lower Chittering.** For more details visit, **https://divinemercyshrine.com.au/product/divine-mercy-raffle-2025/**.

Further info: **gingin.chittering@outlook.com** or 08 9571 8068.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Presence

Dear Jesus, I come to You today, longing for Your presence. I desire to love You as You love me. May nothing ever separate me from You.

Freedom

Lord, grant me the grace to be free from the excesses of this life. Let me not get caught up with the desire for wealth. Keep my heart and mind free to love and serve You.

Consciousness

When I return to my everyday tasks, remind me, Lord, that You are always there beside me. I need never despair.

Inspiration

Today, we find John the Baptist playing a central role in the scene we're contemplating. He has appeared in the wilderness, and clearly, people are beginning to hear about him and be very struck by what he has to say. His message today might be summed up in just one of his sentences – 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.

To proclaim and make clear this point, John constantly turned the light away from himself. You might be struck by his selfless behaviour and the fact that he wasn't prepared to sugar-coat what he felt he had been sent to say. He comes straight to the point and insists on the fact that his followers should look beyond whatever he has to offer and give their allegiance to the Saviour rather than to him.

Conversation

God's Word is always fruitful. How is it touching me now as I reflect on what I have just prayed? Do I feel comforted? Do I feel challenged?

Conclusion

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Church/School Parking – Reminder

Please park on the allotted bays in the church carpark and in the school carpark at Alness Street. **Do not park on the neighbouring residents' lawns across the road from the church & the church's lawns.** *Thank you.*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A

1st: Is 35: 1-6, 10 **Ps:** 145: 6-10
2nd: James 5: 7-10 **Gospel:** Mt 11: 2-11

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Isaiah 30:19,30*

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

He judges the poor with justice.

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7*

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)
3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)
4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading *Romans 15:4-9*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Christ, the hope of all people.

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation *Luke 3:4. 6*

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel *Matthew 3:1-12*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: *A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.*

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Communion Antiphon *Baruch 5:5; 4:36*

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - 13 & 14 DECEMBER 2025

	SAT 6PM	SUN 7.30AM	SUN 9.30AM	SUN 6PM
ACOLYTE	ADRI SUDJANA	BARRY FARRELL	LUKE HANDCOCK	KEN BOWNES
ALTAR SERVERS	JORDAN TRUEMAN JOSHUA & ETHAN TSIA	JERARD, JONAH & JORDAN VINCENT	GRACE STEWART JACKSON HANDCOCK MATTHEW PRANATA	NOEL,ELOUISE & FELIX LIU
COMMENTATORS	YOUTH MASS	ADELE PARSONS	VERONICA AVERY	KATRINA MCINNES
COLLECTORS	YOUTH MASS	GERRY DOYLE	MARGARET SANDFORD	OSBOURNE D'SOUZA ROSS FRANCHINA GRAHAM KNIGHT
READERS	YOUTH MASS	MEGAN OH ANGELA SCOTT	MOIRA BUNN ANUSHIA SUPPIAH	KELVIN GRACE MAUREEN BRIGHT
EMOHC	YOUTH MASS	JACQUI HERON ALICE BATY TINA CAMMARANO	MARGARET SANDFORD JUDY PHILLIPS TERESA LEECH MELISSA TROLIO	MARIA HILL LINDA ROBERTSON KEVIN AUTON JILL NORTON

ALTAR SOCIETY: JOSEPHINE YUSTIRA	**PILGRIM STATUE:** ANNE ADRIANI
COUNTERS: PIERRE SEQUEIRA, LILI ORIFICI, JENNY COWIE, LUCY & BRIAN LIU	**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** —