# WELCOME

**ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PARISH —** 14 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


**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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

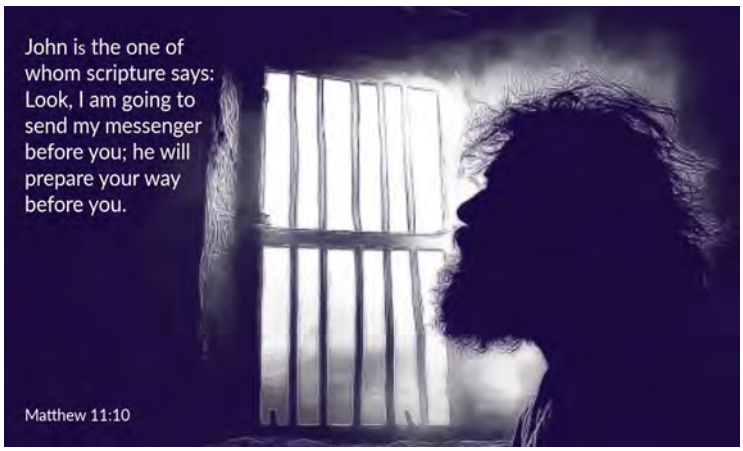
## GOSPEL REFLECTION BY Dianne Bergant CSA

Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.

John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost.

Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.


***© Dianne Bergant CSA***


**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**

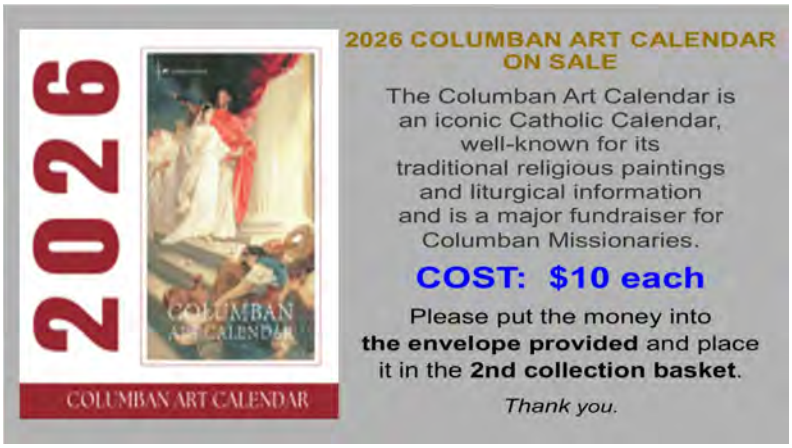
- 13 DEC — YOUTH MASS @6PM
- 21 DEC — CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS
- 24-25 DEC — CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE (SEE BELOW)

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**
**Outdoor Family Mass @ 6pm**

**Carols @ 11.20pm**
**Midnight Mass @12am**

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**
**@7.30am & @9.30am**
***(No Evening Mass)***

**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!**




**2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR ON SALE**

The Columban Art Calendar is an iconic Catholic Calendar, well-known for its traditional religious paintings and liturgical information and is a major fundraiser for Columban Missionaries.

**COST: $10 each**

Please put the money into **the envelope provided** and place it in the **2nd collection basket**.

*Thank you.*

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

***Please keep the following people in your prayers:***

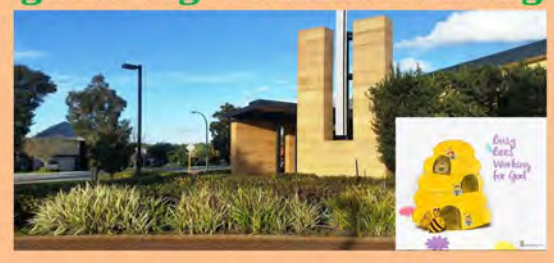
Myrtle Nimmo, Helen Overman, Shalini Saldanha, Ng Choon Bee, Liesel Beukes, Helen Teo, Thomas McGuire Marris, Lorraine Healey, Kamani Jayaratne, Sue Miguel, Harsono Setiawan, Steven Robertson, Lisa Bailey, Lenna Hosseini, Frank Ranieri, Judith Chan, Grisel Noronha and all others who are not included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

## YOUTH CORNER

**Youth Mass — 13 December @6pm**

## PARISH BUSY BEE

**gardening & window cleaning**



**A BIG THANK YOU**

## 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.

**PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED FROM 24 DECEMBER 2025 TO 5 JANUARY 2026**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

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## ANNIVERSARIES:

Edna McCaig, Kevin Webster, Alice Bowyer, Felisardo Lopez, Frances Rear 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)

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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.***

**19 Dec CHORAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT: SCARBOROUGH PARISH**

Scarborough Parish, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church presents an evening of Advent and Christmas music brought to you by select Perth choral singers, with Daniel van der Moezel on organ, and directed by Emma Spadaccini. Join us as we enter more deeply into the season through sacred choral music, and join us in singing a selection of favourite carols. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Centre. Entry by donation.

## PRAYER FOR THE DAY

***Presence***

I slow myself down for a moment, and try to realise that God is present. To me, here and now. He is present in what I do, in the people that I meet and the situations I find myself in daily. I become present to the One who is always present to me.

***Freedom***

"There are very few people who realise what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace." (Saint Ignatius) I ask for the grace to trust myself totally to God's love.

***Consciousness***

God, may I rest in Your radiant presence, just as a flower basks in the light and warmth of the sun. Thank You for bringing light and warmth to my life through other people, through nature, and through Your Word.

***Inspiration***

John the Baptist constantly showed himself to be a really reliable companion and precursor to Jesus, but as we see in today's gospel, even he needed to be reassured at times. Is he having second thoughts?

What we were once certain about, perhaps, now leaves us seeing things in a less black-and-white way.

When we find our faith wavering, what methods do we have for regaining our confidence in you, Lord?

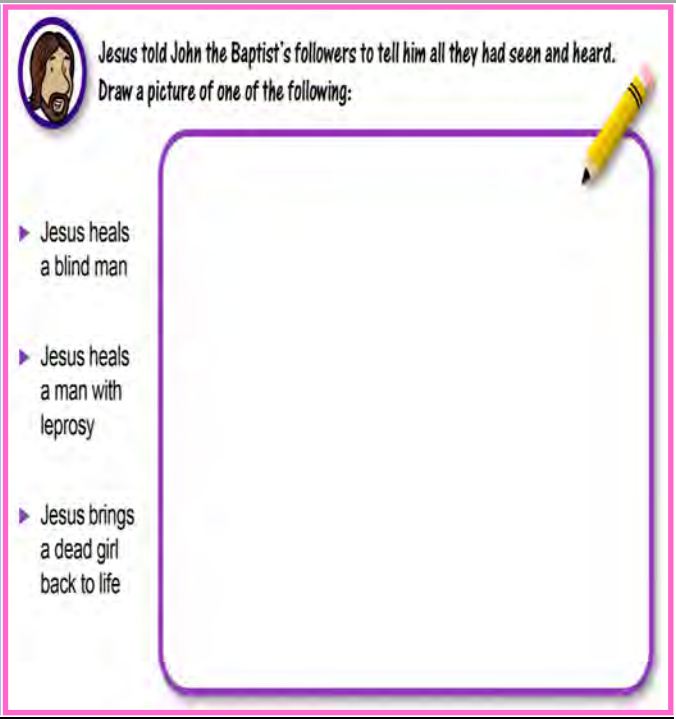
***Conversation***

Lord, I know that when I turn to You there is no need for words. You can see into my heart. You know my desires and You know my needs. I place myself into Your hands.

***Conclusion***

Filled with the loving presence of God,
I ask Him to bless me and guide my steps
as I go to do His work in my daily life.
***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:**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A**

**1st:** Is 7: 10-14 **Ps:** 23: 1-6
**2nd:** Rom 1: 1-7 **Gospel:** Mt 1: 18-24

## READINGS FOR THE DAY

### Entrance Antiphon *Philippians 4:4-5*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

### First Reading *Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*God himself will come and save us.*

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

### Responsorial Psalm *Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4*

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
   who is just to those who are oppressed.
   It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
   the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
   who raises up those who are bowed down,
   the Lord, who protects the stranger
   and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
   but thwarts the path of the wicked.
   The Lord will reign for ever,
   Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

### Second Reading *James 5:7-10*

A reading from the letter of St James

*You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.*

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation *Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)*

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

### Gospel *Matthew 11:2-11*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?*

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

### Communion Antiphon *Cf Isaiah 35:4*

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

## MINISTRY SCHEDULE - 20 & 21 DECEMBER 2025

| | SAT 6PM | SUN 7.30AM | SUN 9.30AM | SUN 6PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACOLYTE | CHARLES CARDOSO | MIKE KILROE | DENIS RIGG | MARK WELSH |
| ALTAR SERVERS | LEWIS HERON<br>HAILEY CORREIA<br>JOEL DOWLING | IHINOSEN & ESEOSE ITOTOH | LETICIA AVERY<br>CHARMAINE VOGLER<br>GRACE STEWART | TAYAHNA PRETORIUS<br>OLIVER & JACOB WONG |
| COMMENTATORS | STEFANI CHEN | JACQUI HERON | PATRICK LEECH | MAISIE CINANNI |
| COLLECTORS | ANTONIO VARNAKULASINGHAM<br>ELIZABETH YUSTIRA | ADRIAN DARGIE | TERRY BOLAND<br>ROGER BUNN | JOE CINANNI<br>MARIA NARDONE<br>GRAHAM KNIGHT |
| READERS | EILEEN SELVARATNAM<br>LEO REGO | RITA ILICH<br>MONICA ANDERSON | GERARD DE SOUZA<br>GIULIA HARRIS | JACKIE WONG<br>ANDREA D'SOUZA |
| EMOHC | PHIL TRUEMAN<br>CARLA CARDOSO<br>KELLY DWYER<br>YVONNE GARBIN | ANGELA SCOTT<br>JUDY LEE<br>BRYAN LILLIS | MOIRA BUNN<br>MARINA CICCARELLI<br>LILI ORIFICI<br>MARGARET HANDYSIDE | OSBOORNE D'SOUZA<br>YULIANA VAN DER BURG<br>DONNA ARTINGSTALL<br>LINDA ROBERTSON |

| | |
|---|---|
| **ALTAR SOCIETY:** HEATHER MCNAUGHT & AYLMYR SEQUEIRA | **PILGRIM STATUE:** SUSI SUSANTO |
| **COUNTERS:** JOE & MAISIE CINANNI, JOYCE D'CRUZ & GILLIAN COELHO | **CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** — |