WELCOME

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PARISH — 21 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY Greg Sunter

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.

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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

- 21 DEC — CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS
- 24-25 DEC — CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE (SEE BELOW)

Dear Parishioners

With much gratitude I greet you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year. May the promise of joy and hope that this Christmas brings be upon your homes and in your hearts. May the birth of Jesus Our Lord remind us always that the Emmanuel is indeed with us as a family and as a parish community. May the Word made flesh reign in our midst as we journey towards that place and future that God wants us to be.

To everyone, may you have the most safe, peaceful and meaningful Christmas ever!

Fr Nelson Po Parish Priest

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

Albert Lynch Room Extension – Coming Soon!

In 2008, we honoured Fr Albert Lynch by naming our activity hall after him. This space has served as Mass overflow and hosted many parish activities, including Alpha, RCIA, Youth Groups, and Bible Study.

With our growing community, we're excited to announce an 80% expansion of the Albert Lynch Room, with construction starting January 2026. Plans are on display in the foyer.

The project cost is $260,000, fully funded by the parish. We invite your support — every donation helps make this vision a reality. The church's bank account details are on the board.

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish Council & Finance Committee

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 — 10 January @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.

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!

There will be NO First Friday Friends gathering on 2 January 2026.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED:

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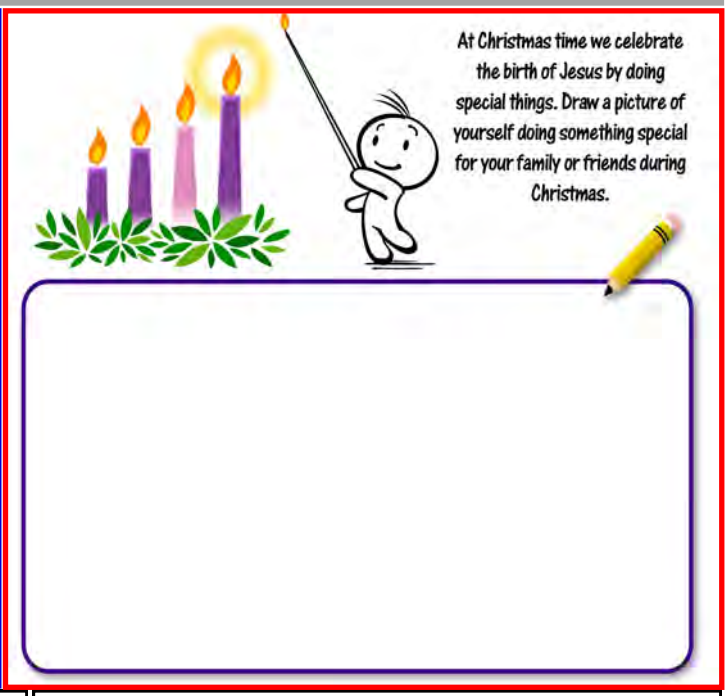
ANNIVERSARIES:

Allan Oakley, Bert Officer, Ernestine Reilly, Hazel George, Lucinda Lobo, William Darbyshire, Ernest Macleod, Placido Nardone, Victor Henderson and all deceased benefactors of the parish and all departed family and friends. *Thank you.*

2025 CHRISTMAS MASS ROSTERS

	6pm (OUTDOOR)	Midnight	7.30am	9.30am
Acolyte	Pierre Sequeira Peter Moore	Dominic Longo	Steven Roberston	Ken Bownes
Altar Server	RJ Cammarano Sofie Gabriel Domenico & Le De Felice	Jerard, Jonah & Jordan Vincent	? ? ?	Katherine Wibawa Ethan Tsia Joshua Tsia
Commentator	**YOUTH**	Veronica Avery	Adele Parsons	?
Reader	**YOUTH** **YOUTH**	? ?	Monica Anderson ?	Marina Ciccarelli Paul Ciccarelli
EMOCH	Angela Scott Linda Robertson Colleen Morris Carmel Rechichi Elaine Dias Stefani Chen ? ? ? ?	? ? ? ?	Kelly Dwyer Judy Lee ? ?	? ? ? ?
Collector/ Usher	Tim Scott Tony Alvaro Jill Norton Dan Norton ? ? ? ? ? ?	? ? ?	? ? ?	? ? ?

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: THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH

1st: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14
2nd: Col 3: 12-21
Ps: 127: 1-5
Gospel: Mt 2: 13-15, 19-

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Isaiah 45:8*

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 virgin will conceive.

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 Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7.10*

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

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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 the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading *Romans 1:1-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

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.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 1:23*

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

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

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.

Communion Antiphon *Isaiah 7:14*

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE - 27 & 28 DECEMBER 2025

	SAT 6PM	SUN 7.30AM	SUN 9.30AM	SUN 6PM
ACOLYTE	BRYAN MEYERKORT	MATTHEW TLOCZEK	PRAVIN PAUL SUPPIAH	PETER MOORE
ALTAR SERVERS	ETHAN GATCHALIAN LEO & DOMINICO DE FELICE	JERARD, JONAH & JORDAN VINCENT	MATTHEW PRANATA MASON & XAVIER SIA	TYLER MORRIS VALERIE & RAPHAEL WIBAWANTA
COMMENTATORS	MILDRED REGO	LORNA D'SOUZA	MARGARET HANDYSIDE	KATRINA MCINNES
COLLECTORS	STEFANI CHEN STEPHEN DONOVAN	JAMES GALVIN	PATRICK LEECH	JOE CINANNI PAUL BELVISO GRAHAM KNIGHT
READERS	STEFANI CHEN ANTONIO VARNAKULASINGHAM	GAY PULKER JACQUIE HERON	MARINA CICCARELLI PAUL CICCARELLI	GLENDA BEUKES MAUREEN BRIGHT
EMOHC	FRANCES MEYERKORT MEGAN DOWLING EILEEN SEVARATNAM MICHELLE CARRICK	MONICA ANDERSON TINA CAMMARANO ANGELA SCOTT	CARMEL RECHICHI MOIRA BUNN JUDY PHILLIPS TERESA LEECH	COLLEEN MORRIS DONNA ARTINGSTALL JOE CINANNI MAISIE CINANNI

ALTAR SOCIETY: MILDRED REGO & MARIA FERNANDES	**PILGRIM STATUE:** MARIBEL & HENRY VILLEGAS
COUNTERS: BARRY FARRELL, KEVIN WRINGE & HELEN VESTER	**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** –