WELCOME

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC PARISH — 22 FEBRUARY 2026

"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

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

GOSPEL REFLECTION BY Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin.

The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression.

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.

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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

EVENTS

- 22 FEB — PARISH MORNING TEA AFTER 9.30AM MASS (PLEASE BRING A PLATE TO SHARE)
- 23 FEB, 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 MAR — ALPHA AT ALBERT LYNCH ROOM, EVERY MONDAY @9AM-10.30AM
- 27 FEB, 6, 13, 20 & 27 MAR — STATIONS OF THE CROSS @7PM
- 6 MAR — WORLD DAY OF PRAYER @10AM, FOLLOWED BY MORNING TEA (SEE NOTICE BELOW)
- **6 MAR — NO FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS**
- 7 MAR — YOUTH MASS @6PM

World Day of Prayer 6 March 2026 @10am

You are invited to join our local prayer service focused on **Nigeria.**

Guest speakers, our own parishioners – the Itotoh family.

World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action, began 99 years ago. Today WDP involves people in a day of prayer in over 170 countries on the first Friday of March – this year **Friday, 6th March 2026**. The service has a theme prepared by an ecumenical committee in a different country each year. Offerings at services support interdenominational programs, such as the Bible Society, in Australia and in the host country - this year for **Nigeria**.

St Benedict's Catholic Church is the host Church for our surrounding Churches for 2026. You are invited to join the ecumenical service for **Nigeria** at **10am on Friday 6 March –** theme **– *'I will give you rest: Come' - Matthew 11:28-30***

Participating churches are Mt Pleasant Uniting Church, St David's Anglican Church, St Michael's Anglican Church, and St Benedict's Catholic Church.

A shared cuppa follows the service.

Adoration is back on Thursdays and Fridays. Please draw the curtain before you leave if you are the last person in the chapel. *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 — 7 March 2026 @6pm

SACRAMENT PROGRAMME 2026

If you wish your child to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation this year, the enrolment forms are now available on the parish website. Please read the important information for parents, download the relevant form and return to the parish office. Payment is via direct debit, details are all on the enrolment form. Applications for all Sacraments **close on Friday, 13 March 2026**.

The Sacrament Programme is parish-based, family-focused and school-supported and the Sacrament team looks forward to working with and welcoming new families to the program.

For further information contact Rosa Ranieri, Sacrament Coordinator at stbenedicts.sacraments@gmail.com

Caritas AUSTRALIA | PROJECT COMPASSION

First Sunday of Lent: 21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 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.

UNITE AGAINST POVERTY this Lent

Please donate today.
You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.
Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

ONLY ONE ENVELOPE FOR THE SIX WEEK LENT PERIOD

PLEASE PRAY FOR RECENTLY DECEASED: -

ANNIVERSARIES:

Gabriele Loss, Myrtle Pereira, Pablo Vargas, Tommy McCool, Eufemia Ligovich, John Lane, Maureen Clement, Pamela Miller, Robert Robertson, Nerida Mutter and all deceased benefactors of the parish and all departed family and friends. *Thank you.*

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)

Saturday 7 Mar 2026 @10am at St John & St Paul, Willeton Parish

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.

PATRIARCHY: HOW IT HAS SHAPED THE CHURCH AND EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES

The Council for Catholic Women Perth warmly invites you to hear renowned international lay theologian and feminist writer based in Mumbai, **Virginia Saldanha**, speak on patriarchy in the Church and its impact. Hear her talk at **Mary MacKillop Ctr, 16 York St, South Perth** on **Friday, 27 February** at **5:30-8 pm.** Gather at 5:30 pm for light refreshments, for a 6 pm start.

RSVP: Thursday, 26 February to mobile 0400 886 835 or email kerrymacfarlane2@gmail.com. **Cost:** Donation. *All are welcome.*

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Presence

"I stand at the door and knock," says the Lord. (Revelation 3:20). What a wonderful privilege that the Lord of all creation desires to come to me. I welcome His presence.

Freedom

By God's grace I was born to live in freedom, free to enjoy the pleasures He created for me. Dear Lord, grant that I may live as You intended, with complete confidence in Your loving care.

Consciousness

Dear Jesus, may I always be aware of Your presence,
Your power and Your Love, all the days of my life.

Inspiration

A brief lesson on the wiles of the enemy is given to us today, and it may assist us in combating some of Satan's snares if and when the evil one tries to undermine us. Note how the devil chooses a tricky time when Jesus is alone, without companions or support and probably in a weakened state through lack of food and nourishment. It's not unlikely that Satan will try to gain the upper hand with us, too. Can we remember places or occasions when we were tempted to allow the worst parts of ourselves to come to the surface?

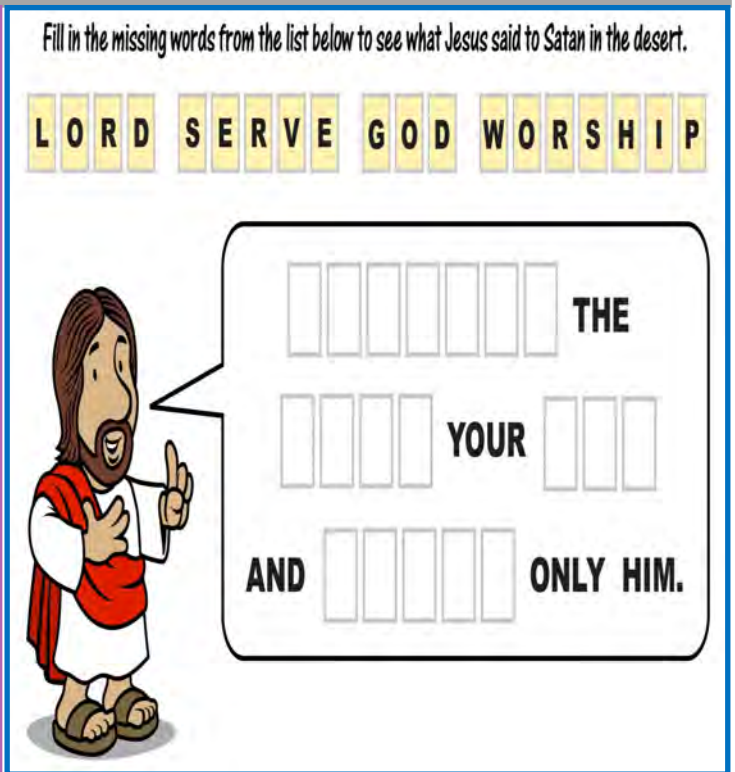
Conversation

Conversation requires talking and listening. As I talk to Jesus may I also learn to be still and listen. I picture the gentleness in His eyes and the smile full of love as He gazes on me. I can be totally honest with Jesus as I tell Him of my worries and my cares. I will open up my heart to Him as I tell Him of my fears and my doubts. I will ask Him to help me to place myself fully in His care, to abandon myself to Him, knowing that He always wants what is best for me.

Conclusion

I thank God for these few moments we have spent alone together and for any insights I may have been given concerning the text. ***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: 2nd Sunday of Lent, Yr A

1st: Gen 12: 1-4 **Ps:** 32: 4-5, 18-20, 22

2nd: 2 Tim 1: 8-10 **Gospel:** Mt 17: 1-9

READINGS FOR THE DAY

Entrance Antiphon *Cf Psalm 90:15-16*

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

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

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.

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3*

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

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)
4. 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

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

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.

Gospel Acclamation *Matthew 4:4*

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 fasted for forty days and nights.

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.

Communion Antiphon *Matthew 4:4*

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE — 28 FEBRUARY & 1 MARCH 2026

	SAT 6PM	SUN 7.30AM	SUN 9.30AM	SUN 6PM
ACOLYTE	SIMON CARRICK	STEVEN ROBERTSON	DOMINIC LONGO	MARK WELSH
ALTAR SERVERS	HAILEY CORREIA LEWIS HERON' DHIVYEN & JACOB MANNAR	GRACE STEWART IHINOSEN & ESEOSE ITOTOH	MASON SIA AMANDA CHIA LETICIA AVERY	VALERIE, RAPHAEL & GAVRIEL WIBAWANTA
COMMENTATORS	ELIAS SANTIMANO	MEGAN OH	PATRICK LEECH	MAUREEN BRIGHT
COLLECTORS	STEFANI CHEN STEPHEN DONOVAN	JAMES GALVIN	PATRICK LEECH	JOE CINANNI MARIA NARDONE PAUL BELVISO
READERS	YVONNE GARBIN EILEEN SELVARATNAM	GAY PULKER RITA ILICH	MARINA CICCARELLI PAUL CICCARELLI	CARMEL COSTIN KATRINA MCINNES
EMOHC	MICHELLE CARRICK AYLMYR SEQUEIRA ANNE ANDRIANI MILDRED REGO	JUDY LEE BRYAN LILLIS VOLUNTEER NEEDED	MOIRA BUNN MELISSA TROLIO RUTH THORN LILI ORIFICI	JOE CINANNI MAISIE CINANNI LINDA ROBERTSON YULIANA VAN DER BURG
ALTAR SOCIETY: NO FLOWERS			PILGRIM STATUE: MARGOT LYONS	
COUNTERS: HELEN OAKLEY, JESSIE TAN, ANNE BANKS, JENNIFER DI GIOVANNI, CONNIE & LOUIE BOVE			CHILDREN'S LITURGY: —	