THE SAVING WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 8:23–9:3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness
has seen a great light;
on those who live in a land of deep shadow
a light has shone.
You have made their gladness greater,
you have made their joy increase;
they rejoice in your presence
as men rejoice at harvest time,
as men are happy when they are dividing
the spoils.
For the yoke that was weighing on him,
the bar across his shoulders,
the rod of his oppressor,
these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 26:1, 4,13–14. R.v.1

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; / whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I shrink? R.

2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, / for this I long, / to live in the house of the Lord, / all the days of my life, / to savour the sweetness of the Lord, / to behold his temple. R.

3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness / in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! R.

SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:10–13,17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

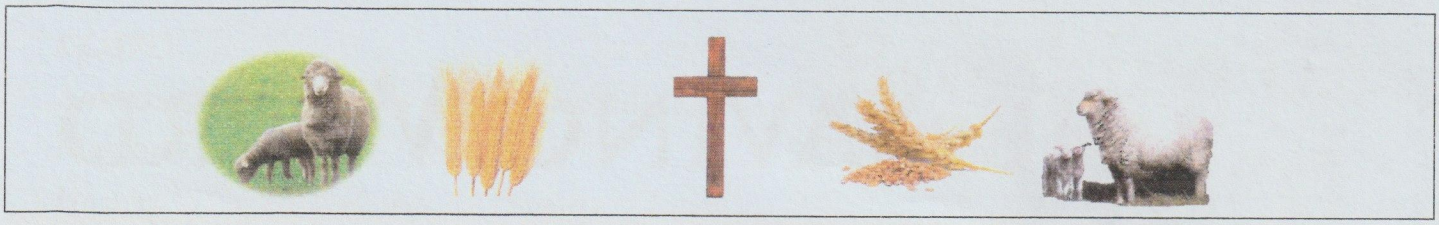
For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom, / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!



The Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

41B South Avenue, PO Box 55, MERREDIN WA 6415; **Ph**: (08) 9041 1118;
e-mail: merredin@perthcatholic.org.au; Parish Priest: Philip Perreau e-mail: philip.perreau@perthcatholic.org.au
Website: merredincatholicparish.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN OT **A/2** **25 JANUARY 2026**

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Tuesday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Wednesday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Thursday:	**No Mass**
Friday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Saturday:	**6.30pm**
Sunday:	**10.30am**

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary
6:00 to 6:30 pm

Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday

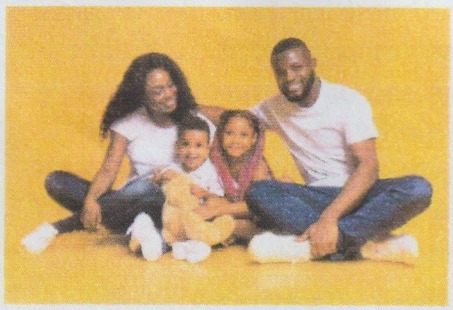
****Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request****

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

CHURCH ROSTER:

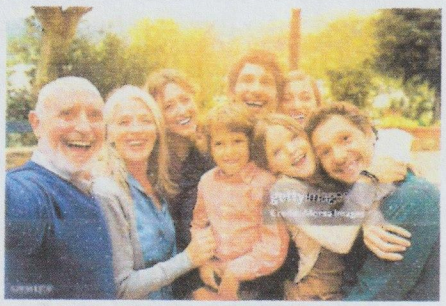
	24/25 JANUARY 2026		**31 JANUARY/1 FEBRUARY 2026**	
	Saturday 6.30 pm	**Sunday 10.30 am**	**Saturday 6:30 pm**	**Sunday 10:30 am**
Readers:	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Collection: Offertory:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Church Cleaners: Sacristy Altar Servers:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers

The Family



Marriages and families are a treasure of society and the whole Church. Marriage witnesses to the joy of living a life in communion and in service to others. Because spouses are called to love like Jesus, radically giving of themselves—Christian marriage also expresses and communicates God's love. In the Sacrament of Marriage, spouses receive a special grace from God to live the vows they made to each other on their wedding day. Marriage is not easy but we know that Jesus is always with us, and he is present in our marriages—always ready to redeem and heal. While no family is perfect, our families are where we first learn how to receive and give love. It is from within the family that love is communicated and experienced—between husband and wife, parents and children, siblings, extended family, friends and the wider community.

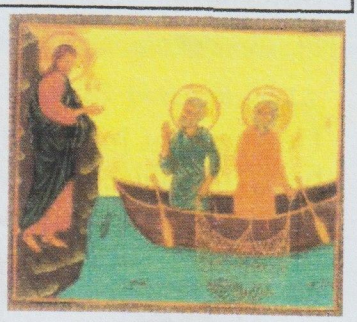
The family home is also the place where faith is nurtured and passed on. The home is where we see and learn how to love, pray and serve. It is the place where we learn to grow in virtue and to learn the way of Jesus. By their love for one another, as well as their words and actions towards others, Christian families speak to others of Jesus. What happens within the homes of families is indispensable to the mission and life of the Church and the wider community.



In today's world, more than ever the family is called to be a centre of outreach, love and faith. The home is a wonderful place for all to be welcomed into the life and love of Jesus. A family can live their call to be a domestic church by sharing a meal with neighbours, or by simply lending a listening and loving ear to someone in need. When a family reaches out, especially to those in need, it participates in the mission of the Church. (See Next Page)

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES



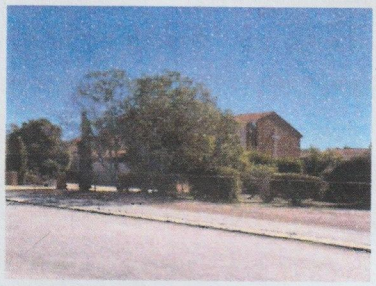
Feast days for the week

Mon	26	Australia Day
Tue	27	Saints Timothy & Titus, St Angela Merici, St Henry de Osso
Wed	28	St Thomas Aquinas
Fri	30	St Aedan of Ferns
Sat	31	St John Bosco, St Alban Roe, St Thomas Green

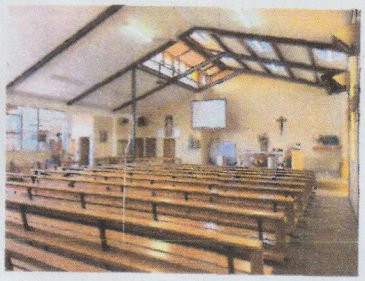
Happy Australia Day

Dryandra Age Care Prayer Service
Tuesday 27th January at 10.30am

SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD



St Mary's Catholic Church and
St Mary's School
will be combining to celebrate our
Centenary
Sunday 2 August 2026
10.00 a.m. Mass
12.00 Lunch
More details to come



The Family (cont)

Open and caring families find a place for others and build friendships and relationships with those around them. While there can be a temptation to wait until the family is 'perfect' before inviting others in, seeing the messy reality of family life can be a source of encouragement to others. It is also a place where those who may not have had an ideal family life—or who have no family—can come to find love, safety and care. In this way, families are called to open their doors and to let their love shine.
From Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

A Conversation between a Politian and God

A Politian was speaking with God about values and he asked God, "What is a minute worth in heaven?"

God replied, "A billion years."
Then he asked God, "What is a dollar worth in heaven?"
God replied, "A billion dollars."
The Politian then asked, "God, could you give me a dollar?"
And God said, "Wait a minute"

Please Note: Planned Giving Direct Debit - CDF/NAB Parish Account details for anyone wanting to support the parish through Direct Debit are as follows;

1st Collection (Fr Philip) – BSB 086 006 Acc. 73115 8848 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth
2nd Collection Merredin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 84040 9343 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Mary's Parish
2nd Collection Kellerberrin Parish Contribution – BSB 086 006 Acc. 75189 3225 The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth CDF St Joseph's Parish

(Please include your name on direct debit deposits—eg 2nd Coll-Smith) Thank you for your generosity and support.

GOSPEL

Mt 4:12–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

> Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! / Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, / Galilee of the nations! / The people that lived in darkness / has seen a great light; / on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death / a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form: 4: 12-17

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

REPENT

Last Sunday's Gospel from John, though critically important for our spiritual reflection, seemed unusual in this year of Matthew. So, today, we return to Matthew. In the past two Sundays, John the Baptist has been central in the Gospel selections. Today he is no longer with us, having been arrested. Our focus is squarely now on Jesus. He moves from his hometown of Nazareth to Capernaum. Both towns are on the fringe. The first, Nazareth, is the symbolic place of exile in Matthew. When Mary, Joseph and Jesus returned from Egypt they could not go back to their hometown of Bethlehem because of the vengeful ruling presence of Herod's son Archelaus. They go to live in Galilee, to Nazareth. They, like the Israelites several centuries earlier, are in exile. It is from here that the rest of Matthew unfolds.

Jesus next moves to Capernaum located geographically close to pagan and Gentile territories. It is a fishing village and a taxation collection centre at the crossroads of two major E-W and N-S highways. It is here that Jesus proclaims the great clarion cry in the Gospel: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand' (4:17). This cry 'to repent' (Greek *metanoia*) is an urge to have an openness of heart. It comes with a conviction that God is already present and active in the world ('the kingdom of heaven is close at hand').

Finally, after Jesus calls four fishermen to be his first disciples, our Gospel proclamation ends with a note about Jesus' teaching and healing ministry. The first-called disciples will model for Matthew's audience how to be repentant and live out the conviction of God's presence in their lives and world.

Fr Michael Trainor