THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A — 8 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor;

clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then your light will shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 111:4-9. R. v. 4

R. **A light rises in the darkness for the upright.** (*or* Alleluia!)

1. He is light in the darkness for the upright: / he is generous, merciful and just. / The good man takes pity and lends, / he conducts his affairs with honour. R.

2. The just man will never waver: / he will be remembered for ever. / He has no fear of evil news; / with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. R.

3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; / open-handed, he gives to the poor; / his justice stands firm for ever. / His head will be raised in glory. R.

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:1-5

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

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

The word of the Lord.

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

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Website: merredincatholicparish.org

FIFTH SUNDAY IN OT | **A/2** | **8 FEBRUARY 2026**

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Tuesday:	**10.00am Mass**
Wednesday:	**No 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

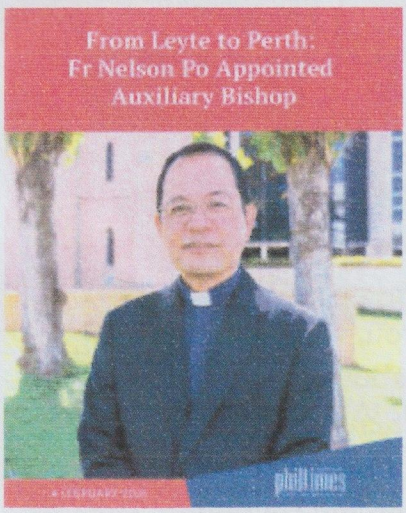
****Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request****

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

CHURCH ROSTER:

	7/8 FEBRUARY 2026		**14/15 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

Bishop-elect Nelson Po



Fr Nelson was born on 5 June 1968 in the village of Cantuhaon, Palompon, Leyte, Philippines, as the third of Norma Abordo and Lope Po's six children.

Following his secondary education, he completed a Bachelor's degree in industrial and management engineering. Following several years working in his chosen profession, he entered the Blessed Sacrament Congregation where he completed a Masters degree in Theology, with a major in Pastoral Ministry, at the Maryhill School of Theology, Manila.

In 2003, at the invitation of Archbishop Hickey, Fr Nelson arrived in Perth to continue his studies for the priesthood at St Charles Seminary, Guildford, as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Perth. Following his ordination to the priesthood in 2005, Fr Nelson served as an assistant priest in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder parish before his subsequent appointments as Chaplain to Royal Perth Hospital and as Parish Priest of the Cloverdale and Applecross parishes.

Since 2016, he has been one of the Spiritual Directors at St Charles Seminary, Guildford. Fr Nelson has also served as a member of the Priests Remuneration Committee in conjunction with the committee of management for Catholic Outreach and the Centre for Faith Enrichment.

Fr Nelson served as a member of the Archdiocese of Perth's Plenary Council Reference Group (2019 -2021); the Perth Diocesan Assembly Reference Group (2023 – 2024); and attended the Jubilee for Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies in Rome (October 2025).

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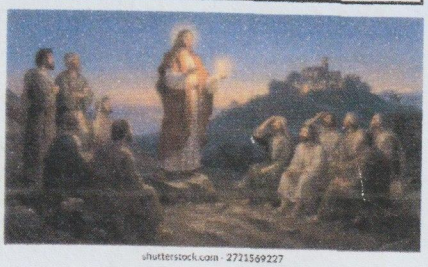
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

Feast days for the week

Mon	9	St Teilo
Tue	10	St Scholastica, The Shipwreck of St Paul St Theodore of Canterbury, St Werburg, St Anne Line
Wed	11	Our Lady of Lourdes
Sat	12	St Methodius, St Cyril



Parish Meetings

Majellans	Wednesday 11th Feb 7.00pm	At Heather's (19 Whitfield Way)
Parish Pastoral Council	Tuesday 17th Feb 7.00pm	Presbytery
Centenary Committee	Wednesday 18th Feb 7.00pm	Presbytery

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in humans (ACRATH) invites us to observe the **International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against human Trafficking** on **8 February 2026**. This day was designated by Pope Francis following a request from Talitha Kum, the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Human Trafficking. The day also commemorates the feast of **St Josephine Bakhita**, patron saint of victims of modern slavery, and calls all people of faith and goodwill to **pray, reflect and act** to end human trafficking and modern slavery. **Further Info:** wacmro@perthcatholic.org.au **or visit** ACRATH

Second Auxiliary Bishop appointed for Perth

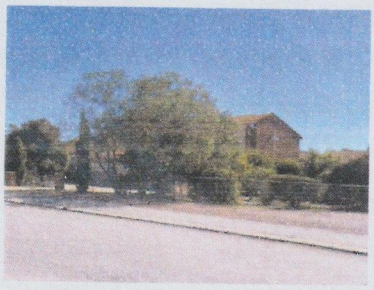
It is with great joy that I write to share with you that the Vatican announced the news that the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, had appointed Fr Nelson Po, presently the Parish Priest of Applecross Parish, as an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Perth. The Holy Father's appointment of Bishop-elect Nelson is a moment for joy and excitement for the Catholic community of our archdiocese. The laity, religious and clergy of our archdiocese have been gifted with a new and dynamic shepherd who will bring many gifts to the pastoral leadership of the Archdiocese of Perth.

Bishop-elect Nelson is well known for his pastoral sensitivity, his commitment to his people, his love for the Church and its liturgy, and for his generosity in undertaking many additional roles in the archdiocese beyond his responsibilities as parish priest.

The episcopal ordination of Bishop-elect Nelson will take place, on a date to be determined, following the Easter Triduum. In the weeks ahead let us all support our new bishop-elect with our encouragement, our affection and especially our prayers.

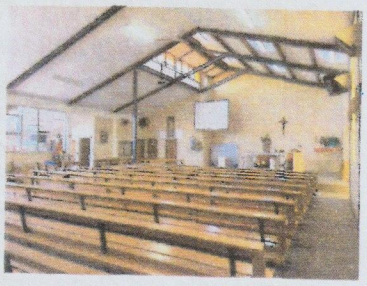
Yours sincerely in Christ, Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB DD **Archbishop of Perth**

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



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

SALT AND LIGHT

Today's Gospel continues with Matthew's teaching in the 'Sermon on the Mount'. After identifying the disciples' blessedness in all kinds of situations with which the Gospel audience would be familiar, Matthew now highlights two images with which they can identify: salt and light. 'You are the salt of the earth' (5:13) and 'You are the light of the world' (5:14).

In Matthew's world salt was an important commodity and valuable trading product. It was used in cooking and for preserving foods (meat and fish) before refrigeration. Salt was shipped across the Mediterranean Sea and then carted into all of Rome's provinces along specially built salt roads. Salt's need was universal and, in times of scarcity, so precious that it became a means of bartering and currency substitute, hence the modern term 'salary'. But there is one quality of salt scarcely known. In a world of outdoor ovens with little or no wood to fire them, salt was mixed with dung to produce the chemical reaction that created the necessary heat required for baking bread.

In Jesus' reminder to the disciples that they are the 'salt of the earth', he is speaking more than about them being agents of preservation. Their presence in the Greco-Roman world meant at times that they will find themselves in disagreeable situations. These times requires fidelity or 'saltiness'. Their capacity to engage their world will also make them the 'light of the world'. The richness of these two metaphors, salt and light, finds their realisation with us, Jesus' contemporary disciples.

Fr Michael Trainor