

## THE PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE OF INCENSE

We may not use incense in our liturgies as often as we did in the past, but there is something very precious about the reverencing with incense of the body God has given us at the end of a funeral Mass. The great feast of the Epiphany, which we are celebrating, reminds us that frankincense was among the symbolic gifts brought to the child in Bethlehem by those mysterious wise men from the east.

In his gospel, Matthew is at pains to ensure that his audience – his own Jewish community – realise that Christ had come not only to redeem them, but all peoples. This feast completes the Christmas story: it reminds us that Christ is to be made *manifest* to all the nations. The prophet, Isaiah, sets the scene: the light begins in Jerusalem, but will attract the nations, who will flock with their camels and their gifts of gold and incense. St Paul in his letter reinforces the message by assuring the Ephesians that pagans can now share the same inheritance as his people. And Matthew uses the “wise men” to reveal the mystery of Christ.

Matthew’s story is rich in symbolism as he goes out of his way to ensure that we make all the necessary connections: he reminds us of the prophet Micah’s reference to Bethlehem as well as Isaiah’s mention of the gifts. He wants us to reflect on the fact that the Spirit of God must have prompted these men into action. to make their pilgrimage and be led to “fall on their knees” in homage to the child, whom they were able to recognise as the promised Messiah.

They clearly possessed those mighty gifts of the Holy Spirit: gifts of *wisdom, knowledge and understanding*, which enabled them to *judge* that God would give them the *courage* to undertake their undoubtedly hazardous pilgrimage and the discernment to realise that Herod was up to no good – a clear pointer to the persecutions that awaited Jesus and his followers.

Then, when they see the child, they are filled with *awe* and *reverence*, going down on their knees to pay homage. Make no mistake, their gifts are also full of meaning. The gold speaks to us of this new kingdom to be established in our hearts: a kingdom of love, hope, forgiveness and reconciliation. The myrrh speaks to us of the suffering foretold by the prophets, and the need for Christ’s body to be anointed after his death.

And finally, we come to the frankincense: this invites us to be like the wise men and recognise that Jesus is truly the Son of God. At the end of his gospel, Matthew will remind us that this act of faith was made by a foreigner, the centurion, as he stood by the cross. May we go home reminding ourselves that Jesus, in turn, told us that we are his adopted brothers and sisters, also children of his Father: hence the profound significance of the incense at a funeral Mass.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR © Majellan Media 2025

## Gosnells Catholic Parish

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church  
Archdiocese of Perth  
Western Australia



**Parish Priest: Fr Brennan Sia**  
brennan.sia@perthcatholic.org.au

Address: 175 Corfield St, Gosnells WA 6110  
Alternate Entry by: 1 Isdell Place, Gosnells  
Postal Address: PO Box 297,  
Gosnells WA 6990  
Telephone: 9398 2331  
Email: [gosnells@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:gosnells@perthcatholic.org.au)  
Website: [www.gosnellsparish.org.au](http://www.gosnellsparish.org.au)

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday to Friday 9.00am - 1.30pm**

Entry by: 1 Isdell Place, Gosnells

### Parish Secretary:

Naomi Newman: 9398 2331  
Email: [secretary@gosnellsparish.org.au](mailto:secretary@gosnellsparish.org.au)

### Catechist Coordinator

Gen De Souza: 0408 717 809

### Safeguarding Officers

Email: [safeguarding@gosnellsparish.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@gosnellsparish.org.au)  
0432 398 973

### SVDP Local Contact

Loretta Watson: 0451 794 790

### Gosnells Youth

Veronica Ayeni: 0424 812 632  
Email: [gosnellsyouth@gmail.com](mailto:gosnellsyouth@gmail.com)

## 5th January, 2025

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Year C**

**White**

**Today's Readings**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12

## 12th January, 2025

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**Year C**

**White**

**Today's Readings**

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

### St Munchin's Catholic Primary School




Principal: Mr Kevin Duffy  
1 Isdell Place, Gosnells  
PO Box 172, Gosnells WA 6990  
9234 7555  
[admin@stmunchins.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@stmunchins.wa.edu.au)

Follow Truth

# Sunday Bulletin


Parish Liturgies	
<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Saturday 6.00pm Vigil Mass, Sunday 7.30am, Sunday 9.30am
<b>Weekday Mass</b>	Monday 8.00am Communion Service (Mass on Solemnity only) Tuesday 6.00pm Mass - (1st Tuesday Mass of Anointing ) Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 8.00am Mass Friday 9.00am Mass
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Saturday 5.00pm - 5.45pm or by appointment
<b>Buckley Caring Centre</b>	10.00am Mass - Second Thursday of the Month
<b>Juniper Aged Care</b>	11.00am Mass - Third Wednesday of the Month
<b>Rosary</b>	After weekday Masses
<b>Exposition</b>	Tuesday 5.00pm - 6.00pm with Benediction, Sunday 6.00pm - 7.00pm
<b>Charismatic Prayer</b>	Thursday 7.15pm - 9.00pm.
<b>Baptism</b>	Sunday at 11.00am, or by arrangement
<b>Marriage</b>	By appointment - Minimum <b>SIX MONTHS</b> notice for preparation etc

## Praying For You



**Our Sick**

Alfredo Barbuza,  
Ann Ralston, Kathleen Mansfield,  
Maria Siciliano, Susanne Carroll,  
Fran Vallis, Pat Simm,  
Ammini Jose, John Breag,  
Conrad Briggs, Joel Celine,  
Dennis Ford, Letecia Niembra,  
Dolly, Elvira Panici-Allen,  
Annabelle McNess, Erika Magness,  
Abby Magness, Richard Bisnath,  
Wendy Price, Fran Wiffen



### Want to support your Parish?

You can now deposit your contribution directly into parish accounts.

**First Collection**  
Supports our Parish Priest, Priests in smaller Parishes  
or remote Parishes that require assistance.

**A/c name:** Gosnells Parish - 1st Collection Account, **BSB:** 086-006, **A/c:** 705883907,  
**Reference:** 1st Collection (your name optional)

**Second Collection**  
Ongoing administration costs, funds for future growth  
and improvements of the Parish.

**A/c name:** Gosnells Parish, **BSB:** 086-006, **A/c:** 773984777,  
**Reference:** 2nd Collection (your name optional)

Feast Days this Week		
Dec 7	Tue	St Raymond of Penyafort

Parish Meetings
<b>Parish Pastoral Council</b> In recess till February 4th 2025.
<b>Vinnies</b> In recess till January 22nd 2025.

Rosters for 28/29 December, 2024						
Mass	Greeters	Reader	Commentator	Acolyte	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday 6.00pm	Theresa Spicer Sandra Wren	Mary Ann Bombita	Carina Limgenco	Colin Loh	Sandra Wren Remi Biju	Aydriel Ratnasekera, Joshua Manda Jacob Raymond, Clinton Matthews
Sunday 7.30am	Basel Black Jackie Hall	Franklin D'Cruz	Greg Drew	Aruna Ratnasekera	Chloe Pereira-Smith Inoka Ratnasekera	Richardson Saw, Rosemary Saw Scott Tido, Caleb Watkins
Sunday 9.30am	Francis Xavier Hanna Allen	Tiffany Mitchell	Jerlyn Patrick	Nigel Hayward	Peta Phillips Silvana Sciorilli	Julia Marano, Brooklyn Minn Marina Morales, Alexander Paesu Patrina Paesu, Justus Shilo
Tellers this week: Chloe Pereira-Smith, Prisca Pereira, Robert Slezak				Tellers next week: Daniel & Jo Tomlinson, Darryl Le Guay		

Rosters for 11/12 January, 2025						
Mass	Greeters	Reader	Commentator	Acolyte	Extraordinary Ministers	Altar Servers
Saturday 6.00pm	Mercy Burton Rosa Ford	Joshua Mahamu	Lynette Lievaux	Richard Serrano	Carina Limgenco Vivian Loh	Carl Agus, Lacey Beacher, Melanie Beacher, Jacob Raymond
Sunday 7.30am	Bette Lyra Vilma Lyra	Jenny Mills	Geoff Mills	Clint Barnes	Pay Tru Diana Chong	Callie Abogado, Jake Antu, Tom Antu, Bionney Bangayan,
Sunday 9.30am	Veronica Ayeni Anne Brink	Silvana Sciorilli	Lenny Rodaje	Dan Hewitt	Robert Slezak Evelyn Yozzi	Sebastian Arylpalan, Carl Borlongan, Leslie Dcruz, Angel Garavillas, Justus Shilo, Martin Yatar

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## Jesus, the Reason for the Season!

Wishing everyone a happy and Holy Christmas.  
May the joy we celebrate this season be the joy we share with others. May the peace that Jesus brings be ours to keep.

### CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who were involved in making this Christmas a joyous celebration. So many people gave so much of their time and love. Thank you to those who so generously donated towards the costs of our Christmas flowers and those who arranged the flowers so beautifully. Those who set up the Christmas crib and the members of the music ministry who spent so much time in practice and then leading us into singing with joy and all the children and their parents who were involved in bringing to life the Christmas Story for the Vigil Family Mass, the readers and commentators, the acolytes and altar servers, the collectors and Sacristan and those who donated the chocolate for the children, and those who organised the cake and wine after the Midnight Mass. Thank you too for bringing your relatives, friends and neighbours to our Christmas Masses.

I would also like to thank all of you for your many cards, gifts, well wishes and support.

May the peace of God's Love be with you always.

Sincerely,  
Fr Brennan



### Isdell Place Car Park Closure 2025

Due to the first stage of the St Munchin's School renovations, there will be no access to the Church via Isdell Place from Tuesday 7th to Monday 27th January 2025. The only access to the Church and the Parish Office during this time will be via the Corfield Street entrance. The school basketball courts will be open for weekend Masses for extra parking. Thank you for your understanding through this brief time of inconvenience.

### Parish Office Closure

The Parish office will be closed from 24th December to 13th January 2025. A heart felt thank-you to all our parishioners who donate their time by volunteering for our Parish ministries, out-reach programs through Marycare and St Vincent de Paul, our Parish Committees and to all that have contributed to our Parish in any way. May your Christmas be filled with the love and light of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May the new year be filled with many blessings.

Sincerely, Naomi, Parish Secretary



### St Vincent de Paul

Last chance! Your SVDP Columban 2025 Calendars are still on sale at only \$10 each. Please place your money in the yellow envelopes provided and leave them in the Poor Box. Thank you for your generosity and God Bless!



### Greeters are needed

New rosters are being drawn up soon. New volunteers are especially invited to join this ministry and add their names to the list in the foyer. All those on the current roster are asked to recommit by also adding their name to the list.



### Parish Safeguarding Officers

The Perth Catholic Archdiocese is committed to the safety and security of all children and young people. If you have any safety concerns about a person in the parish or about a child protection or child safety issue, you can discuss it with the Parish Safeguarding Officers. Phone 0432 398 973 or email [safeguarding@gosnellparish.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@gosnellparish.org.au)

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## Morning Tea Helpers are Needed

The new roster for Morning Tea will be drawn up soon for 2025. New volunteers are especially invited to join this ministry and add their names to the list in the foyer. Those on the current roster, are asked to recommit by adding your name to the list.

## St Vincent de Paul - Our Vinnies

The Vinnies would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all those who provided presents under the Christmas Tree and contributed to our poor box. We also gratefully acknowledge the gold coin drive, generous food and sundries donated by staff and students of St Munchin's. These have now been distributed within our community. We wish all parishioners a very Joyous Christmas and thank you for your wonderful support throughout 2024.



## Jubilee Year 2025 Place Of Grace And Pilgrimage Schoenstatt Shrine

All Catholics are encouraged during the Jubilee Year 2025 to undertake a Pilgrimage. In the Archdiocese of Perth, the Schoenstatt Shrine at Mt Richon has been designated as a place of Grace and Pilgrimage. Schoenstatt means a beautiful place. The Schoenstatt shrine is nestled among an expanse of grounds and natural bushland, providing an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. The mission of the Schoenstatt Marian Movement is to bring the presence of Christ to all we meet, discovering God's love in every person, in all creation and in every event of our lives. To arrange a parish or individual pilgrimage during 2025 please contact Sr Lisette on 0400 234 910. To start the Jubilee Year why not come to our New Year's Eve Midnight Mass on the 31st December at the Schoenstatt Shrine, 9 Talus Drive, Mt Richon. Adoration & Reflection will commence at 10.30pm, followed by Holy Mass and fellowship.

## Mary Mackillop Story

The parish will be hosting a free screening of Shalom World's "Mary Mackillop Story" on Friday, 31st January at 6pm in the Parish Hall. You can register your attendance at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CXZJJ>

*"St. Mary Mackillop - a pioneer, an educator, and  
Australia's first saint.*

*A Saint who believed that love and education could  
change the world."*



## 35th Annual Flame Congress January 2025 "LIBERTY!"



Flame Ministries International 35th Annual Congress "LIBERTY" at John XXIII College, Mt Claremont, Fri-Sun 17-19 Jan 2025. With **Guest Speakers Adam Phillips CYM Director, Fr Joseph Laundy, Cyrus D'Souza FMI SD. and Kaye Rollings FMI.** Mass: Sun 10.00am. Evening Rallies Fri, Sat, & Sun at 7.00pm. Day sessions: Sat & Sun, 9.00am-5.00pm. Food & Drinks available. Air-conditioned. For more information and booking see poster on the bulletin board, scan the QR code or email [fmi@flameministries.org](mailto:fmi@flameministries.org).



## Weekend For Men

What are you doing on the 15th-16th March 2025? Could you benefit from a weekend featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion and space to reflect? Since menALIVE commenced in 2003, thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged and inspired at weekends across Australia. The weekends programme will be conducted by an experienced menALIVE Team, right here in our own Parish. For further information and enquiries, please contact: Vin-

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