

St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

13-14 December 3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

Msgr John Woods- PP, Fr Andrew Yang-Korean Chaplain, Deacon Joe Blackwell, Jacinta Dinn - Parish Secretary.

"Inspired by our faith in Jesus, we pray, listen, and welcome all as we reach out in service to transform the world."

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH

12 Chewings Street, Page

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

7 Bindel Street, Aranda

Sunday Masses

Saturday	6:00pm Aranda
Sunday	8:30am Page
	10:00am Aranda
Samoa (4thSun)	12:00pm Page
Korean	3:00pm Aranda

Weekday Masses

Tue	5:30pm Aranda (Adoration 4:45pm)
Wed	7:00 am Page
Thu	9:30 am Aranda
Fri	9:30am Page (Anointing 1st Friday)
Sat	12:00 pm Page

Confessions

Saturday 11:00am-11:30am Page and 5:00pm-5:30pm Aranda

Baptisms

11:30am 2nd and 4th Sundays

Weddings

By appointment

PARISH OFFICE (MON, TUE & THU)

Orana Centre, 7 Bindel Place, Aranda
PO Box 4266 Hawker ACT 2614
02 6254 1827

belconnensouth@cg.org.au

Website – cg.org.au/belconnensouth

Facebook – www.facebook.com/southbelconnen?

[southbelconnen?](https://twitter.com/Bleconnen_P)

Twitter – [https://twitter.com/Bleconnen P](https://twitter.com/Bleconnen_P)

PRESBYTERY

12 Chewings Street, Page
Fr John 0418 208 129

BLESSINGS TO SHARE

John the Baptist was a straight shooter. He preached the need to change or to repent in preparation of the imminent coming of the Messiah. **He understood the Messiah would usher in the judgement of God. You better be prepared! However, Jesus was anything but such a 'fire and brimstone' figure.** His was a ministry of healing and celebration of God's love calling for a conversion of heart. So, John was unsure as to whether Jesus was the promised Messiah. **When questioned by John's envoys, Jesus does not give a Yes or No answer. He alludes to the signs of the Messiah articulated by Isaiah in our First Reading and in effect says, "In the light of your understanding of the promises of Scripture concerning the messianic age, draw your own conclusions. If my activity is 'messianic', then what it is that saying about who I am?"** But what of all those millions of afflicted who have not been gifted with the healing power of Jesus? Scripture scholar Brendan Byrne explains: *"The miracles are a sign of God's ultimate will for humankind – a kind of "beachhead" of the Kingdom to give us hope."* In other words, the kingdom is a present reality but one not yet fully realised. Remember the two bookends of Advent; our preparation for the return of Jesus and our preparation for his first coming. **We are in the 'between time'.** And yet, Jesus insists that the least in the kingdom are greater than John the Baptist, *"not necessarily in moral stature but in being privileged to be actually the ones who receive the invitation to the banquet of the Kingdom that Jesus is offering. As so often, Jesus is striving to communicate to his hearers a sense of the incredible richness of which he is calling them in God's name."* **We share in this richness and are turn called to share it. For some two decades Deacon Joe has shared the richness of God in word and ministry in our parish.** He has done so in addition to his previous work with Catholic Missions and for some time now as Canberra Hospital Chaplain. **Following the 4 December Consultors meeting, Archbishop Christopher this week announced that after Easter 2026, Joe will be assigned to the Gungahlin Parish while continuing his hospital chaplaincy work. In due course, we will farewell Joe appropriately.** Other clergy moves are noted in the bulletin. **This weekend we conclude the initial phase of our Parish Assembly/Renewal process.** In the new year we will be looking to renew the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). The PPC will review the Assembly process so as to further enhance parish life true to the 'synodal' process or prayerfully seeking the movement of the Holy Spirit. **Meanwhile, please prayerfully consider and perhaps, if you have not already done so, commit or recommit to a ministry/ies of the Liturgy (white form in foyer), Pastoral Care and Outreach (green form) and Leadership and Governance (purple form).**

Fr John

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION 16 December, St. Michael's, Kaleen at 7.00pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

On behalf of the Aranda and Page Conferences of the St Vincent de Paul Society, we sincerely thank Parishioners for the generous support given to the Vinnies Christmas Appeal.

We look forward to your continued support for the poor in our community



ARCHBISHOP CLERGY APPOINTMENTS for 2026

Parish Priests: Tr Tru Nguyen MSC –West Belconnen; Fr John Armstrong -Wanniassa; Fr Rofin Raphael IV Dei -Young; Fr Xavier Francis IV Dei -Cootamundra; Fr Eden Langlands -Kambah.

Assistant Priests: Fr Daniel Ukpong -Cooma; Fr Lolesio Gisa -Gungahlin; Fr Leonse Kurian -Cathedral

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: 21 Dec during 10 am Mass at St Vincent's, Aranda.

CHOIR PRACTICE for the Christmas Masses at St. Vincent's, **18 December 5:54 pm, Aranda**

All welcome.

Archdiocesan Notices

TRIBUNAL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: Marriage breakdown is a traumatic experience for all those concerned. The Church reaches out in support of those who are divorced, while upholding the permanence of a true Christian marriage. The Canberra Office of the Tribunal extends an invitation to any divorced person who would like to talk about the annulment process. For further information, phone the Canberra Office of the Tribunal on 6239 9813 or email tribunal@cg.org.au

PLANNING TO MARRY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? Go to the Archdiocesan marriage and family webpage (<https://cgatholic.org.au>.) for information and to choose a marriage preparation program. Email inquiries to marriage.preparation@cg.org.au or text Helena on 0405 440 463.

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT DINNERS: Alternating between a presbytery and the Archbishop's House on the first Thursday of the month, the dinners, along with prayer and discussion, are for men discerning a call to the priesthood. RSVP to Vocations Director, Fr Emil, emil.milat@cg.org.au.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA: Be a light in the darkness for families facing adversity this Christmas

This Christmas, we are inviting Australians to "be a light in the darkness" for families who are living through the trauma of war, displacement, and poverty. The intensity of the conflict in Ukraine has increased and more people are experiencing displacement and poverty. But with your support, we can bring hope to these families. Our partner, Caritas Ukraine are on the ground working hard to prepare food kits, emergency shelter kits and psychosocial assistance to families facing adversity. Donate today at <https://www.caritas.org.au/christmas-appeal/be-the-light-in-darkness/>

Parish Safeguarding Commitment:

The Parish of St Matthew and St Vincent de Paul is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all of our children and vulnerable people.

Communicating Safeguarding concerns: Parishioners are encouraged to raise any safeguarding issues by contacting Fr John by emailing or phoning the Parish office or by contacting our Safeguarding Volunteer, Ann Cleary, at SafeGuarding.BelconnenSouth@cg.org.au.

The Manager for the Archdiocese's Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding, Maria Hicks, can be contacted at ipss@cg.org.au.

ST VINCENT'S WORKING BEE Saturday 13 December 8:30 – 12:00

Main tasks cleaning the carpark gutters, some trimming and general tidy up of the church grounds. The church windows could also be cleaned

Morning tea provided.

Further info: Colleen & Bern: meadleycb@outlook.com

AFTER MASS

- Morning Tea after 8:30 am Mass 1st Sunday of the month St Matthew's. (Sunday 7 December)
- **Cheese and bikkies** after the 6pm Vigil 2nd Saturday of the month **St. Vincent's. (Saturday 13 December)**
- Morning Tea after 10am Mass 3rd Sunday of the month St Vincent's. (Sunday 21 December)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

As you can see the request for prayers is very long and some people may no longer need to be on the list as they are now healed. Please let the office know if there is anyone who can be taken off the list.

belconnensouth@cg.org.au or 6254 1827

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Patricia Mullins , Marjorie Avery, Letessia Pitchers, Hazel Woods, Jerry Morcombe, Pat Liddiard, Msgr Frank Marriott, SE Asian flood victims, Hong Kong fire victims, Allan Moffat, Lyn Tankey, Murray Scott, Paul Robertson

ANNIVERSARIES

David Baker, Richard Stalker, Bob Smeaton , Elizabeth Smith.

THE SICK

Margaret Wilson, Daryl Brohman, Steven Prowse, Jacqueline Donohue, Kathryn Anderson, Elizabeth Binetti, Anna Blackwell, Trevor Blake, John Collard, Angela Collier, Gemma Collier, Nicole Court, Maureen Dalzell, Anne Darmody, Leon Darmody, Denis Dellamarta, Shirley Dellamarta, Helen Driver, Mary East, Richard East, Ken Evenden, Joachim Exell, Tony Fuller, Fr Chris Gardiner OFM, Ivan Guevara, Denise Hampson, Pat Hannon, Madellon Harvey, Margaret Keen, Charlie King, Bob Longland, John Malycha, Sally Marchant, Paul Mowbray, Pamela Myatt, Barry Joseph O'Leary, Oscar Perez, Francis Power, Sam Ross, Pat Stakelum, Anthony Stewart, Cate Sweeney, Jennifer Webster, Angela Williams.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

6pm St Matthew's, Page

9pm St Vincent's, Aranda

Christmas Day

8:30am St Matthew's, Page

10am St Vincent's, Aranda

3pm Korean Community St Vincent's, Aranda

Please tell your family and friends



	13 & 14 December			20 & 21 December		
	6pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
Reader	Mary Patton Peter Rodda	Paul Coghlan John Duck	Lourdes O'Keefe Paul Scholtens	Lea Bewick Mary Williams	Yvonne McAdoo Mary Morris	Ann Cleary Jenny Murphy
Senior Server	Damien Sloane	Kevin McInerney Sacristan	Bernie Leger	David Ross	John Woods	Paul Scholtens
EMHC	Judi Ahern	Mary Morris	Rachelle Stannard	Catharina Koopman	Joan Murphy Jan Woods	Jane Burroughs Robin Taylor
Linen/Altar		Ann Tierney	Robin Taylor		Ann Tierney	Ladies of the Korean Community 24 Dec
Cleaning Group				I	Marcelo & Marianna Pererira, Brendan Gibson	

Hearing Aid Loop is installed in both Mass centres, St Matthew's **only** middle 2 sections turn your hearing aid to the T switch

LITURGY OF THE WORD 3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading [Isaiah 35:1-6, 10](#)

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

(L.) It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**

(R.) It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**

(L.) It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading [James 5:7-10](#)

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion

As you take this holy sacrament to those who cannot be here with us, may you bring a sense of healing and joy to people in need within our own parish community.