

St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

20-21 December 4th 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 (4th Sun) | 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

Twitter – <https://twitter.com/Bleconnen P>

PRESBYTERY

12 Chewings Street, Page
Fr John 0418 208 129

VIOLENCE IS NOT THE LAST WORD

The Bondi tragedy and its aftermath have been captured in dramatic footage and responded to with much comment. We mourn the loss of life, praying for the deceased and their loved ones, including the deranged gunmen. We condemn this terrorist act of anti-semitism. We condemn prejudice ('pre-judging') as undermining the dignity of one and all. Ahmed al Ahmed, the Syrian 10 years resident in Australia and father of two daughters who tackled one of the gunmen, portrayed the best aspirations of our community. Ahmed's father said his son was motivated by "his sentiment, conscience and humanity." Martin Luther King Jr put it plainly: "We must learn together as brothers or perish together as fools." Soon we will celebrate Christmas or 'God-with-us' as promised by Isaiah in our First Reading. **Our Gospel reading from Matthew is preceded by a stylised genealogy of Jesus in which only three women are mentioned before Mary.** "Tamar, whom Judah violated; Rahab, who had been a prostitute; Ruth, the Moabitess; and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba), whom King David adulterously took to himself. In each case a note of sexual impropriety or irregularity attends the reference – not so much because of what the women themselves have done but because of what has been done to them. The genealogy shows how the divine thread of salvation has run through much unsavoury human history" (Brendan Byrne). Nonetheless, our First Reading from Isaiah speaks of the sign of a young girl (later translated as a virgin) with child who will take centre stage in the story of salvation. The prescriptions of the law which Mary could have been subject to (stoning for being pregnant before living with her betrothed) are circumvented by Joseph ('a righteous man') taking her to his home, and their later fleeing to escape Herod's intent to kill the child. **Finally, the violence of the crucifixion was seen by religious and political authorities to end the life and mission of the itinerant rabbi. Not so. Entering the pain and misery of the world, he transformed it and called us to share new life. Violence will not have the last word.** Posturing about politics and policies have their place in a robust democracy but the issues are deeper. **Who are we and how do we move forward together?** Are we willing to respect diversity, seeking common ground and continuing to engage? Do we respect our 'common home'? Only by collaboration has humanity advanced. Sin turns us inward and divides. Love seeks the good of the other. **Sin builds walls. Love creates bridges. Christmas is about God's desire to seek our good. Might the Bondi tragedy enliven our resolve to be a 'beachhead' of God's hospitality with all peoples of good will.**

Fr John

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

Help life saving assistance to displaced people or people under threat of displacement whether from war or climate change in Asia, the Middle East and Africa, female access to education in Pakistan as well as student assistance in the Middle East. Communities in India, Africa and Timor Leste along with local works by The Farm in Galong and The Home in Queanbeyan will also be assisted. Donations can also be sent to: Archbishop's Christmas Appeal, GPO Box 3089, Canberra ACT 2601.

ARCHBISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

I would like my donation to be:

| \$20 | \$50 | \$100 | \$150 | Other \$ _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Rev _____
(Block letters please)

Address _____
_____ Postcode _____

Please find enclosed my | Cheque | Money Order

I prefer to use my | Bankcard | Visa | Mastercard

Signed _____ Expires ____/____/____

Please send to: **Archbishop's Christmas Appeal**
Attn: Deacon Joe Blackwell
GPO BOX 3089, Canberra ACT 2601

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://cgcatholic.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.

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/>

PAMBULA- Parish Officer

People are invited to apply for the position of **Parish Officer** for the **Catholic Parishes of Pambula** including Our Lady Star of the Sea Eden, St Joseph's Merimbula and St Peter's Pambula. This is a permanent part time position of **12 hours per week** and will be based in the Parish Office, Merimbula. There may be some travel between parishes when required. Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. For a copy of the Duty Statement please email the Parish Office pambula@cg.org.au Applications addressing the Selection Criteria and current CV to be sent to Leanne Boyd, Parish Support Manager leanne.boyd@cg.org.au and kose.joseph@cg.org.au by CoB 9 Jan 2026.

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.

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)**

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

JANUARY 2026

Please note that there will be no Children's Liturgy or Morning tea/cheese and bikkies during January

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:

Victims of Bondi, Rob Jones, Marykuty Joseph, John Lowe, Lawrence Lawlor, Andrew Murphy, Stephen Prowse, Patricia Mullins, Marjorie Avery, Letessia Pitchers, Hazel Woods, Kerry Morcombe, Pat Liddiard, Msgr Frank Marriott

ANNIVERSARIES

David Baker, Richard Stalker, Bob Smeaton.

THE SICK

Sally Pickering, Margaret Wilson, Daryl Brohman, Jacqueline Donohue, Kathryn Anderson, Elizabeth Binetti, Anna Blackwell, Trevor Blake, John Col-lard, 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 Long-land, 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 MASSTIMES

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December

6pm St Matthew's, Page

9pm St Vincent's, Aranda

Christmas Day, Thursday 25 December

8:30am St Matthew's, Page

10am St Vincent's, Aranda

3pm Korean Community St Vincent's, Aranda

Please tell your family and friends



20 & 21 December

27 & 28 December

| | 6pm Aranda | 8:30 am Page | 10 am Aranda | 6 pm Aranda | 8:30 am Page | 10 am Aranda |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Reader | Lea Bewick Mary Williams | Yvonne McAdoo Mary Morris | Ann Cleary Jenny Murphy | Conor Bradley Peter Davies | Janet Moyle Christina Rowe | Margaret O'Connor Lourdes O'Keefe |
| Senior Server | David Ross | John Woods | Paul Scholtens | Robyn Grubmueller | Greg Pocock Sacristan | Jenny Murphy |
| EMHC | Catharina Koopman | Joan Murphy Jan Woods | Jane Burroughs Robin Taylor | Dorothy Lalor | Jo Duck John Duck | Helen Digan Robin Taylor |
| Linen/Altar | | Ann Tierney | Ladies of the Korean Community 24 Dec | | Ann Tierney | Amand Kabaila |
| Cleaning Group | I | Marcelo & Mariana 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 4th Sunday of Advent (A)

Entrance Antiphon

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading [Isaiah 7:10-14](#)

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.'
'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Immanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

(R.) The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**

(L) Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**

(R.) He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,

seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Romans 1:1-7](#)

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the

spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 1:18-24](#)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion

Dear friends, as you bring the body of our Lord to our sick and housebound brothers and sisters, assure them of our solidarity with them and our prayers.