

St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

27–28 December Holy Family (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

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

PRESBYTERY

12 Chewings Street, Page
Fr John 0418 208 129

HOLY AND HEALTHY

Some families seem to have an ideal existence. They appear close, capable in their chosen fields and with looks and a manner that appeal widely. Of course, they are the exception. Indeed, it has been suggested: **“There are only two types of families; dysfunctional families and utterly dysfunctional families!”** Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The so-called ‘Holy Family’ lived in a violent world. Hence their flight into Egypt to escape the violence of Herod. They return and move north to Nazareth in Galilee, fearing Archelaus, Herod’s son. **Matthew is linking the captivity of his people in Egypt and their later return to the experience of the holy family.** In other words, *“Israel was metaphorically God’s ‘son’.* Jesus is God’s Son in a unique sense” (Brendan Byrne). **Jesus draws us into his divine family. We address God as “Our Father, ...” (Matt 6:9).** ‘Holiness’, according to the scriptural understanding, is where God is. ... God is present to the family of Jesus amid violence, forced movement, and perplexity. If our own family life is not perfect nor totally immune from such trials, all the more reason to believe that God, our ‘Emmanuel’, is with us” (ibid). **Early Christian families were trying to find acceptance in the Roman world.** The conclusion to our Second Reading reflects that. *“Highly respected in that world was the well-regulated, patriarchal household. To a large degree this became the model for the church structure” (ibid).* **Family life has changed,** not the least because of a stress on the individual, sexual equality, the movement of peoples, education and opportunities arising, social and mainstream media, and, perhaps, many parents seeking to be their child’s friend rather than their parent. **Dr Moira Eastman worked in family education for government departments, schools and the Melbourne archdiocese. She made some telling observations:** *“Despite all our textbook learning and sophisticated theories – when under stress, or when very relaxed, we fall back into our earliest learned behaviour. ... Healthy families talk less and listen more ... Questions help communication along. You might try: What happened then? Why did you decide to do that? How do you feel about the way things worked out? Is there anything else that worries you about all this? What will you do about it? Is there anything you would like me to do? ... Healthy families look for the good things and praise them. ... You can’t please your kids all the time. You have to be prepared for your kids to misunderstand you and dislike you at times. ... The parents’ relationship is the foundation stone of family life. How do you keep a balance between what you give to your relationship with your spouse and to the relationship with your children? ... Forget about quality time. Just be there (“The Magical Power of Family”, 1991).* **We all seek to belong, to be listened to, to share and to be welcomed ‘home’. God is with us in our deepest yearnings. To be healthy and holy, we need to listen prayerfully and reflectively to each other in our families, in our family of faith and the wider human family.**

Fr John

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

CHRISTMAS EVE, 6pm Mass

Children are welcome to come dressed as

Shepherds & Angels, if they would like to.

Parish Financial Report for November 2025

	Actual	Planned	Variance	
	11 mth to	11 mth to	against	
	30/11/2025	30/11/2025	Plan	
	\$	\$	\$	
Direct Giving	167,926	162,228	5,698	over budget
(Planned Giving and 2nd collection for administration of the Parish)				
Parish Income & Expenditure Statement				
Income *	212,330	202,020	10,310	over budget
Expenditure	186,599	190,686	4,087	under budget
Surplus/(Deficit)	25,731	11,334	14,397	
* Income = Direct Giving and other income				

Your ongoing financial support of the Parish and Clergy is required and greatly appreciated. Contact the Parish Office on belconnensouth@cg.org.au for details on how to contribute to the Clergy (first collection) and Parish (Planned Giving and second collection).

Archdiocesan Notices

NEW YEAR'S MMP PRAYER VIGIL 31 December 2025

Sacred Heart Church, Pearce Wed 31 Dec 2025. Eucharistic Adoration starts at 8pm, with Rosary on the hour (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful & Glorious). Concludes with Benediction at midnight- we receive two plenary Indulgences as we pray the Te Deum & Veni Creator.

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.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who assisted with our beautiful **Christmas Masses** and for your support of the **Vinnies Christmas Appeal** and the **Archbishop's Annual Christmas Appeal**. The expression of faith in the community in our celebration and support for those in material need is reflective of the spirit of the Christmas Season. The Church affords us the **Octave or 'eight days' of the Christmas Season** to better appreciate the significance of our claim that 'God is with us', all of us and for all time! **Christmas is not just a day; it changes everything.**

SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER OF GOD Thursday 1 January 2026

Mass 9:30 am at St Vincent's, Aranda and 9:30 am at St Matthew's, Page

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

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.

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.

27 & 28 December

3 & 4 January 2026

	27 & 28 December			3 & 4 January 2026		
	6pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
Reader	Conor Bradley Peter Davies	Janet Moyle Christina Rowe	Margaret O'Connor Lourdes O'Keefe	Lynne Foster Colleen Meadley	Paul Coghlan John Duck	Gerard Hogan Paul Scholtens
Senior Server	Robyn Grubmueller	Greg Pocock Sacristan	Jenny Murphy	Damien Sloane	Damien Power	Bernie Leger
EMHC	Dorothy Lalor	Jo Duck John Duck	Helen Digan Robin Taylor	Geraldine Lillingston	Carmel Brady Catherine Power	Jenny Murphy Lourdes O'Keefe
Linen/Altar		Ann Tierney	Amand Kabaila Rachelle Stannard		Margaret Sloane	Robin Taylor
Cleaning Group				2	Jennie Dwyer, Mark King, Andrew Sneddon	

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 Holy Family (A)

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.
The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is said.

First Reading [Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14](#)

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

(R.) O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

(L.) Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. **(R.)**

(R.) Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! **(R.)**

Second Reading [Colossians 3:12-21](#)

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Al-

ways be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23](#)

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.'

So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.



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.