

St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

14-15 February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (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

TO DO WHAT I OUGHT

Many Christians seem to think that if they do not do certain things, then all is good with God. In wider society we see a similar attitude expressed in the claim that I do not need to go to church because I live a 'good life'; I don't steal, cheat or commit adultery, and so on. **These folk might well be obeying some Commandments. But are they coming to terms with Jesus's fulfilment of 'the Law and the Prophets' called for in today's Gospel?** As we have noted before, Matthew portrays Jesus as the 'new' Moses, fulfilling the Law of the Old Testament (Moses was understood to be the author the Law or the Torah, the first five books of the bible). In perfecting the Law, Jesus emphasises what characterised the teaching of the prophets – justice, mercy and faith. Living in this way will give rise to a 'righteousness' far deeper than that of the scribes and pharisees (Brendan Byrne). **The response called for is personal and relational.** Thus, the prohibition on adultery is the result of perception and right relationship. Rather than being an object of male lust, a woman is seen as *"a fellow human being with whom dealings in any area, including the sexual, must be based upon equality of relationship, fidelity and consent ... When the latter prevails, the old prohibition simply becomes unnecessary"* (ibid). **In this instance and the other examples cited by Jesus the emphasis is on behaviour arising from mutual respect rather than just what I ought to avoid.** Think about it and you see a morality consistent with a maturing individual who takes ownership for their beliefs, values and actions: I aim to do what I ought, not just avoid what I should. **Such a person has interiorised the Law and the Prophets: the voice of conscience calls them beyond the letter of the law. The Second Vatican Council stated: "Conscience is the most secret core and sanctuary of a person. There we are alone with God, whose voice echoes in our depths"** (Gaudium et Spes, n.10). **Sr Mary Coloe PBVM grounds this in our lived experience:** *"It is easy to keep laws that are stated as 'thou shalt not' kill ... steal ... commit adultery. It is much harder to live up to positive ideals – love, forgive, live righteously. Examining one's conscience on these teachings is more demanding. At the end of the day, you could say, 'Killed anyone – no! Stolen anything - no! and think you can rest your conscience. But - were you generous to the beggar on the street, did you readily forgive your child, or your colleague, did you do anything today to make life a bit better for another? Jesus's sermons demand our best"* (Mary Coloe). Demanding, yes! **But, as we respond to today's Psalm: 'Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord'**

Fr John

MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS who put their name forward during our Parish Synodal Renewal have been or will be contacted by someone already in the ministry to welcome you and bring you up to speed with what to do. After Easter a particular focus will be the renewal of the **Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)**. Prayerfully consider whether you might be called to serve in that capacity. It would be great to have some younger and, or perhaps more recent arrivals on the PPC. Essentially, the PPC meets most months with Fr John to prayerfully and practically consider how to further the pastoral good of parishioners. More to come.

LADIES' DINNER 16 February 6pm.

The first dinner for 2026 will be at the Southern Cross Club, Jamison.

Please RSVP by Monday 16 February 9 am jennymurphys@icloud.com or 0437 034 148

5 March | Archdiocesan Women's Taskforce International Women's Day Breakfast

The 2026 International Women's Day Breakfast event, hosted by the Archdiocesan Women's Taskforce will be held on 5th March from 7.30 am at the Ainslie Football Club. This year's guest speaker is Chiara Porro, Australian diplomat and former Ambassador to the Holy See will share her experience in her role.

Cost: \$45. More information at <https://www.cgwomen.com.au/> Registrations: <https://events.humanitix.com/international-women-s-day-breakfast-2026-ty8dvmx7> Enquiries: Helena Zobec 0405 440 463

LENTEN RETREAT: MEETING CHRIST IN OUR DEEPEST NEED 27 February – 1 March

Archdiocesan Notices

You are invited to a 3-session Lenten retreat, facilitated by Greg Sunter. More about Greg: <https://www.wholehearted.com.au/about/>

Greg will reflect on this year's Lenten Gospels and there is time for personal reflection and optional sharing. Everyone is welcome no prior study needed and no pressure to speak.

- Friday 27th February 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm;
- Saturday 28th February 10 am - 11 am;
- Sunday 1st March 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Place: 25 Blackham St, HOLT ACT 2615

Cost: \$20 for all 3 sessions Register: belconnenwest@cg.org.au

LENTEN RETREAT: MEETING CHRIST IN OUR DEEPEST NEED 10 March 7.00–8.30pm

Marist College Canberra invites all members of the community to an Evening of Dialogue with Fr Laurence Freeman OSB.

Venue: Marist College Canberra Registration: <https://events.maristc.act.edu.au/eveningofdialogue2026>

The evening will offer a space for respectful dialogue on the National Marist theme 'Full of Grace, transformed by God's love' and its implications for Catholic education in the Canberra community.



Volunteer with IMPACT

Develop sustained self-reliant futures in overseas communities!

Join Palms International Volunteering [online](#) in this special session where you'll learn about our [diverse assignments](#) suited to your qualifications. Hear from past Palms volunteers how skill-exchange impact in communities and changes lives. makes a lasting

Venue: Online- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026

Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT

02 9560 5333

palms@palms.org.au

Want to visit a community first? Join our 13-day **Encounter Tour to Timor Leste!**

Book by **28 February** for the May tour! See palms.org.au/encounters



Vocations Discernment Dinner at Gungahlin Presbytery: Thursday 19 February 6pm. For men interested in discerning a call to the Priesthood. A meal provided with discussions & prayer. To rsvp please contact Vocations Director Fr Emil emil.milat@cg.org.au 0414 523 036.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

- 7 am St Matthew's, Page
- 9:30 am St Vincent's, Aranda
- 12 noon St Matthew's, Page

SAVE THE DATE: A Parish Farewell for Deacon Joe will be held following the 10:00am Mass, Sunday, 15 March at St. Vincent's. There will be the opportunity to donate towards a farewell gift for Deacon Joe who has been ministering in the parish for over 20 years. More details to follow.

AFTER MASS

- Morning Tea after 8:30 am Mass 1st Sunday of the month St Matthew's. (1st February)
- Cheese and bikkies after the 6pm Vigil 2nd Saturday of the month St. Vincent's. (7th February)
- **Morning Tea after 10am Mass 3rd Sunday of the month St Vincent's. (15 February)**

St Vincent de Paul branch of the Parish Library

Down sizing? Parish Library is looking for a book case.

New books:

- Cardinal Basil Hume: a pilgrim's search for God (Biography)
- St Therese of Lisieux and her Sisters (Biography)
- The Hospitality of God: a reading of St Luke's gospel (Scripture)

Reminder – Please fill in the borrowings sheet and return items as soon as you have finished (preferably within a month) so others can use them

If you have any suggestions for books that you'd like to see in our libraries, please contact the Parish Office

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Canadian Shooting Victims, Sally Marchant, Gus Grubmueller, Mick Ryan, John Needham, Paul Mowbray, Neil Charge, Nicole Court.

ANNIVERSARIES

Lorna Barnett, Helen McKeown, Peter Donnan, June Donnelly.

THE SICK

Denis De Marco, Shirley Dellamarta, Matt Chunky, Lucas Parker, Brian Fitzgerald, Fr Michael Mullen, Pauline Zerbo, Luke Buckmaster, John Muscat, Paul Collins, Sally Pickering, Margaret Wilson, Daryl Brohman, Jacqueline Donohue, Kathryn Anderson, Anna Blackwell, Trevor Blake, John Collard, Angela Collier, Gemma Collier, Maureen Dalzell, Anne Darmody, Leon Darmody, Denis Dellamarta, Mary East, Richard East, Ken Evenden, Joachim Excell, Tony Fuller, Fr Chris Gardiner OFM, Ivan Guevara, Denise Hampson, Pat Hannon, Madellon Harvey, Margaret Keen, Charlie King, Bob Longland, John Malycha, Pamela Myatt, Barry Joseph O'Leary, Oscar Perez, Francis Power, Sam Ross, Pat Stakelum, Anthony Stewart, Cate Sweeney, Jennifer Webster, Angela Williams.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

During 10 am Mass at St Vincent's, Aranda.

15 February, 1 March and 15 March

MEN'S GROUP – Thu 26 Feb 26 6:15 pm

The next get together will be at the Parish Centre, Aranda.

Please RSVP to paul.pearson@bigpond.com (0412 685 582) by **COB Tue 24 Feb 26.**



	14 & 15 February 2026			21 & 22 February 2026		
	6pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
Reader	Lea Bewick Lynne Foster	Helen Casey Paul Coghlan	Gerard Hogan Graham Williams	Conor Bradley Peter Davies	John Duck Yvonne McAdoo	Anne McCarthy Margaret O'Connor
Senior Server	Robyn Grubmueller	John Woods	Paul Scholtens	David Ross	Kevin McInerney Sacristan	Jenny Murphy
EMHC	Catharina Koopman	Kevin McInerney Jan woods	Helen Digan Catharina Williams	Dorothy Lalor	Jo Duck Joan Murphy	Annette Charge Lourdes O'Keefe
Linen/Altar		Pauline Cunneen	Robin Taylor		Pauline Cunneen	Christine Ross
Cleaning Group	5	Helen Casey, Eddie Wheeler, John & Millie KcKeough,				

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 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading Sirach 15:15-20

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

(R.) They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!

They are happy those who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**

(R.) You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.

May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes. **(R.)**

(R.) Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.

Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law. **(R.)**

(R.) Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.

Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading I Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion

Blessed by the Eucharist we have all shared together, may you, our ministers, take this same gift to our sick and housebound parishioners. May the presence of Christ you bring and celebrate with them heal and console them.