

# St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

## South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

21-22 February 1st Sunday of Lent (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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:belconnensouth@cg.org.au)

Website – [cg.org.au/belconnensouth](http://cg.org.au/belconnensouth)

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/southbelconnen?](http://www.facebook.com/southbelconnen?)

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

#### PRESBYTERY

12 Chewings Street, Page  
Fr John 0418 208 129

### A DESERT FOR GROWTH

The Season of Lent began last Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. Many attended Mass and were signed with ashes. This reflected a desire for renewal during the graced weeks of Lent in preparation for the celebration of new life in Christ during Holy-Week and Easter. The traditional Lenten practices are prayer, fasting and support for worthy causes, especially Caritas Australia's 'Project Compassion'. The theme is: **'Unite Against Poverty this Lent'**. Each household is encouraged to collect a PC box or set of envelopes from the foyer. With respect to fasting, Pope Francis suggested: *"A very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence [is] that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour"*. **The call is timely in the aftermath of the Bondi massacre and ongoing discussion of alleged 'Australian values'**. It is also well to remember that the practice of fasting is proper to all the major world religions. Indeed, our Muslim brothers and sisters will be celebrating Ramadan from 18 February – 26 March and we pray for them. **Our Readings reflect a pattern: When called by God a testing or 'desert period' follows. Our First Reading has Adam and Eve in their test being deceived into thinking that God forbids them to eat the fruit of the tree of good and evil for fear they would assume divine status too.** Their subsequent awareness of being naked is symbolic of the breakdown of trust and intimacy they had with God and each other. Sin divides. **In our Second Reading, Paul compares and contrasts Adam and Jesus.** In the former is the legacy of sin which affects all ('original sin') and in Christ, 'the new Adam', there is the offer of life in communion with God and one another. The Chosen People were tested in the desert wanderings to see whether they would trust God. Jesus was tested in the desert for forty days after his baptism. **It has been suggested that the Gospel account of Jesus' 40 days in the desert is a summation of every possible temptation. Jesus was tempted with power, possessions and prestige (Richard Rohr). Rather than succumb in pride like Adam and Eve, Jesus remained true to the will of his Father.** *"The lordship of the world, a shortcut to which Satan dangled before him, will in fact be given to him as risen Lord, following his obedient death upon the cross for the redemption of the world (Matt 28:18; see also Phil 2:8-11)"* (Brendan Byrne). **Lent is our 'desert period'**. We strip away some props and comforts to experience dependence on God, the precondition to becoming disciples. Lent is counter-cultural in that we are encouraged to forego entitlement and to deepen our trust. **Lord, grace me this Lent to acknowledge and to forego those areas of my life which undermine my dignity and right relationship with you and others and therefore my true and lasting good.**

Fr John

**"I AM CATHOLIC"** Card has been developed by the Knights of the Southern Cross (KSC) in case you are in hospital or involved in an accident and would like a priest's visit. The card is FREE to adult parishioners and senior college students (Yrs 11 and 12) and funded by your local KSC Branch. If you would like a card, please contact Bob Perkins at [perkins.family@aapt.net.au](mailto:perkins.family@aapt.net.au) with your name, phone number and the number of cards required. The card must be ordered and will not be just left in the church foyer.

## Archdiocesan Notices

# Parish Youth Coordinators 2026

### Make a Difference - Apply

Jump into the opportunity to serve in the life of the Church, develop leadership skills, and make a meaningful difference in others' faith while you work, study, or take a gap year.



[cgevangalisation.org.au/parish-youth-coordinator](https://cgevangalisation.org.au/parish-youth-coordinator)

### ARCHDIOCESAN WOMEN'S TASKFORCE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

7:30 am, Thursday 5 March, Ainslie Football Club. This year's guest speaker is Chiara Porro, Australian diplomat and former Ambassador to the Holy See.

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

**This is a ticketed event and final numbers are needed by Wednesday 25 February, so don't delay in purchasing your tickets!**

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

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](mailto:belconnenwest@cg.org.au)

**FR LAWRENCE FREEMAN OSB**, Benedictine and Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation (see the 7 February 'Tablet' foyer article 'An Education of the Heart') will speak at 2 Canberra gatherings:

- **MEETING CHRIST IN OUR DEEPEST NEED 10 March 7.00–8.30pm**

Marist College Canberra invite you to an Evening of Dialogue with Fr Laurence Freeman OSB.

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

- **CHRISTIAN MEDITATION 11 March 4–5pm**

St Christophers Cathedral, Franklin Street, Forrest

### BEHOLD & RESOUND—LITURGY AND MUSIC WORKSHOP 14 March 10:00am –3:30pm

St John Vianney Church, Waramanga. Register by 10 March at [cgevangalisation.org.au/bar](https://cgevangalisation.org.au/bar) This gathering will explore different ways the church invites us to pray. Come find out what helps or hinders meaningful worship, and the call to active participation, revealing how liturgy doesn't just shape personal faith but also builds community, and renews parish life.

#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:ipss@cg.org.au).

## Parish News

### SAVE THE DATE: Deacon Joe's Farewell 15 March

Please join Deacon Joe at the Orana centre, Aranda, after the 10am Mass on Sunday 15 March to reminisce and thank him for over 20 years' service in the Parish.

Could parishioners please bring a plate (e.g. cake, slice or biscuits) to share. Please ensure that all ingredients are clearly labelled and label your plate if you want it returned.

Tea/coffee and a sausage sandwich will be available.

If you need transport assistance on the day, please contact Jacinta at the Parish Office by Wednesday 11 March.

A card will be available at both Churches over coming weeks, so you can leave a message to Deacon Joe.

A cash retiring collection for Deacon Joe will be held on the weekends leading up to the farewell.

**RCIA: Our 7 RCIA candidates are gathering this Sunday for a 'meet and greet' with Archbishop Christopher and other candidates from across the archdiocese before attending the 11am Cathedral Mass prior to their entering full communion with the Church at our Saturday, 4 April Easter Vigil.** Please pray for Rachael, Shinta and Xavier who will be baptised at the Vigil before celebrating their Confirmation and First Holy Communion, while Apeksha, Brad, Denise and Niroshan having already being baptised will celebrate their Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

'THE JOURNEY HOME' is a booklet of daily Lenten reflections from the Archdiocese of Brisbane. **There are a very limited number of free copies in the foyer.** Please only take one if you or your group would use it through Lent.

### REGIONAL SECOND RITE (Belconnen Parishes)

6 pm Tuesday 31 March at St Vincent's Aranda.

### 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](mailto:paul.pearson@bigpond.com) (0412 685 582) by **COB Tue 24 Feb 26.**

### BABYSITTER

We are seeking a babysitter for regular Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Please call Veronica on 0401042876

## Prayer Requests

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Jesse Jackson, Canadian Shooting Victims, Sally Marchant, Gus Grubmueller.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Percy Knight, Lorna Barnett, Penny Durick, Helen McKeown, Peter Donnan, June Donnelly.

### THE SICK

Ruth Duffy, Denis De Marco, Shirley Dellamarta, Matt Chucky, 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 Exell, 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.



Caritas  
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT  
COMPASSION

**Project Compassion** please take home a box or an envelope this Lent. Or drop a donation in the box at the back of the church

### 21 & 22 February 2026

### 28 February & 1 March 2026

	6pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
<b>Reader</b>	Conor Bradley Peter Davies	John Duck Yvonne McAdoo	Anne McCarthy Margaret O'Connor	Gabrielle Jarvis Geraldine Lillingston	Mary Morris Janet Moyle	Jenny Murphy Lourdes O'Keefe
<b>Senior Server</b>	David Ross	Kevin McInerney Sacristan	Jenny Murphy	Damien Sloane	Damien Power	Bernadette Leger
<b>EMHC</b>	Dorothy Lalor	Jo Duck Joan Murphy	Annette Charge Lourdes O'Keefe	Margaret Sloane	Carmel Brady Catherine Power	Jane Burroughs Robin Taylor
<b>Linen/Altar</b>		Pauline Cunneen	Christine Ross		Yvonne McAdoo	Maddalena Cobanov
<b>Cleaning Group</b>				I	Marcelo & Marianna Pereira, 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 1st Sunday of Lent (A)

### **Entrance Antiphon**

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

### **First Reading** [Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7](#)

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**(L.)** Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**

**(R.)** My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**

**(L.)** A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**

**(R.)** Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.

O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** [Romans 5:12-19](#)

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all

from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### **Gospel** [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,

and they will support you on their hands

in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,

and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

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### **Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion**

Dear brothers and sisters, as you bring the body of our Lord to our fellow Christians who are sick and housebound, let them know that we are one with them in their sorrow and in their joy, in Christ Jesus our Lord.