

# St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

## South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

10-11 January The Baptism of the Lord (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 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

### SHARED DIGNITY AND RIGHTS ARISING

**The status of Jesus is revealed at his baptism: “This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him” (Matt 3:17).** Jesus, the anointed of God and without sin, receives John’s baptism of repentance to identify with the plight of fallen humanity at the start of his public ministry. He transforms our pain – our separation from ourselves, from others and from God – through his words, deeds and most especially in his self-offering on the cross and transformation in his resurrection. **He brings new life. This is foreshadowed in our First Reading where Isaiah speaks of a chosen one who will “establish true justice”.** Justice is a matter of affording each their due. **Justice is foundational to lasting peace or harmony.** Scripture scholar Brendan Byrne comments that Jesus “will fulfill his messianic role not through the exercise of power and domination in the conventional way of rulers throughout the world, but through solidarity with the sinful, the suffering, and burdened mass of humanity ... In fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah, God ‘endows’ him with the Spirit and addresses him as beloved Son.” **If ‘in Christ’ each day we were to hear, “You are my beloved son/daughter”, what difference would it make? What would Jesus say to my situation? And to our current geopolitical situation?** Reflecting on the latter at the end of Vatican II (1965), the Church declared, “The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and the hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts” (G et S, n.1). Six years later the Synod of Bishops claimed that justice is a “constitutive dimension” of the Gospel proclamation. **Yet the leader of the most powerful and predominantly Christian country has shown a disregard for political sovereignty and the mutual benefit arising from trade negotiations founded in trust. As a result, the strategic and commercial world order is being refashioned.** This has serious implications. History affirms that those who lord it over others will find themselves increasingly isolated. Sin has its’ own punishment. Virtue its’ own rewards. Sin always divides and it hurts. Virtue creates and nurtures community. **We pray that wiser heads prevail. Again, we need to distinguish between Zionism and Judaism.** To criticize the actions of Israel and other political entities is a right in a free and engaged society. To uphold the religious freedom of Jews and all other religious adherents is a right in a free and engaged society. **May the Spirit, source of all hope, move people of good will to insist on the dignity of all and their rights arising for the flourishing of our common good. To do so is to further God’s reign of justice, peace and love.**

Fr John

## JANUARY 2026

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

### **DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER**

#### **Devotion and Prayers**

Monday 10 am St Vincent's, Aranda.

#### **Ignatian Spirituality**

2nd Monday 7:30pm Orana Centre, Aranda OR 2nd Wednesday 11 am, Orana Centre, Aranda.

#### **Christian Meditation**

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at the Orana Centre - 6 pm For information please call 0414278774

#### **Centring Prayer**

2nd & 4th Wednesday of month 7.30pm Marian Hall, Page

#### **Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests**

Thursday after 9:30am Mass, Aranda

### **Save the Date - Cursillo Weekend**

Save the date: Fri 17 – Sun 19 April, St Clement's, Galong.

Contact [michaelderaadt@gmail.com](mailto:michaelderaadt@gmail.com)

Info and registration: <https://tinyurl.com/cursillo2026>



## **Archdiocesan Notices**

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA** appeals for support for vulnerable communities across Africa. Conflict, violence, hunger, and displacement are tearing communities apart. In places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and across the Horn of Africa, the situation is critical.

Caritas Australia is supporting partners across the region to provide vital aid including emergency shelter, food and nutrition support, and access to clean water. Your support is urgently needed.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Africa Crisis Appeal. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/africa](http://www.caritas.org.au/africa) or phone 1800 024 413

**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](mailto: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](mailto:marriage.preparation@cg.org.au) or text Helena on 0405 440 463.

**Vacancies at Supported Independent Homes:** At Marymead CatholicCare, there are currently vacancies in two of our residential Supported Independent Living homes within the NDIS CHOICES Program, supporting and empowering people with disabilities, including: a modern home in Kambah for supported independent living, sharing with two friendly, mature individuals; and Dorothy Sales Cottages in Hughes specifically designed for individuals with acquired brain injury. Contact our CHOICES and Aged Care number at 6163 7647.

**Vocations Discernment Dinners** - alternating between a presbytery and the Archbishop's House First Thursday of the month. 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](mailto:emil.milat@cg.org.au).

#### **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).

**FR FRANCIS FUCHS** died peacefully Wednesday afternoon, at Southern Cross Care, Garran ACT.

- Born 29 January 1939 in Maryborough, Qld
- Parents: Frank Fuchs and Eileen McKenny
- Siblings: Douglas (Deceased) and Mervyn (Deceased)
- Education: Christian Brothers, Maryborough and Christian Brothers, Gympie
- Seminary: Beda College, Rome
- Ordained a Deacon: 8 December 1972 by Archbishop Vigil Copas msc in Port Moresby, PNG
- Ordained a Priest: 27 May 1984 at Beda College, Rome by Archbishop Peter Kurongku
- Incardinated in Port Moresby in 1972 and in Canberra & Goulburn on 24 March 1998
- Parishes and Appointments: Port Moresby - Gerehu; Badili, Hohola, Hanabada, Cathedral. C&G – Cootamundra [1996], Pambula [1997], Young [1998], Bombala [2000], Canberra Central [2004] and Aranda [2007]
- Fr Francis retired from fulltime active ministry in 2013.
- Other appointments: Port Moreseby - Director of Religious Education, Director of Vocations, Diocesan Director of Legion of Mary, Lecturer in Catechesis at Bomana Seminary and Hospital Chaplain

**RECENTLY DECEASED:**

Fr Frank Fuchs, PP Aranda (2007-2013), Victims of Swiss fire, Victims of Bondi, Rob Jones, Marykutty Joseph, John Lowe, Lawrence Lawlor, Andrew Murphy, Stephen Prowse, Patricia Mullins

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Bob Laracy, Noel Isaac Cristobal, Brian Fitzgerald, David Baker, Richard Stalker.

**THE SICK**

Fr Michael Mullen, Pauline Zerbo, Luke Buckmaster, John Muscat, Paul Collins, Sally Pickering, Margaret Wilson, Daryl Brohman, 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.

**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

**PARISH LIBRARY NEWS**

The following items are now available for loan at the **St Matthew’s branch:**

- Polakovic, Terry: **Women of hope: doctors of the Church** 2021 [Biography]
  - Rolheiser, Rolheiser: **Chastity and the soul: you are holy ground** 2024 [Spirituality]
  - O’Shea, Bill: **Vatican II made simple** 2005 [Church History and Archaeology]
  - Radcliffe, Timothy: **Surprised by hope: further meditations on synodality** 2025 {Church and Catholic Faith}
- Reminder** – Please fill in the borrowing sheet and return items as soon as you have finished (preferably within a month) so others can use them



	10 & 11 January 2026			17 & 18 January 2026		
	6pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
<b>Reader</b>	Lea Bewick Mary Williams	Yvonne McAdoo Mary Morris	Anne McCarthy Jenny Murphy	Conor Bradley Lynne Foster	Janet Moyle Christina Rowe	Anne McCarthy Margaret O’Conor
<b>Senior Server</b>	David Ross	Dennis Morris Sacristan	Bernie Leger	Robyn Grubmueller	John Woods	Jenny Murphy
<b>EMHC</b>	Colleen Meadley	Carolyn Burns Vince Burns	Jane Burroughs	Margaret Toyne	Joan Murphy Jan Woods	Annette Charge Helen Digan
<b>Linen/Altar</b>		Margaret Sloane	Christine Ross		Margaret Sloane	Maddalena Cobanov Katy Frino
<b>Cleaning Group</b>				<b>3</b>	Caroline Weller, John Duck, Edward Mimar	

**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 The Baptism of the Lord (A)

### **Entrance Antiphon**

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,

and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,  
and the voice of the Father thundered:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

### **First Reading** [Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7](#)

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.

I have endowed him with my spirit  
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,  
or make his voice heard in the streets.

He does not break the crushed reed,  
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;

he will neither waver, nor be crushed  
until true justice is established on earth,

for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of  
right;

I have taken you by the hand and formed you;  
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and  
light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,

to free captives from prison,

and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

**(R.)** O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.

Adore the Lord in his holy court. **(R.)**

**(L.)** The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;

the voice of the Lord, full of power,

the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **(R.)**

**(R.)** The God of glory thunders.

In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'

The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;

the Lord sits as king for ever. **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** [Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38](#)

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel** [Matthew 3:13-17](#)

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. A voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'



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

Take the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to the absent members of our community, that they may share with us in our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord.