

St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

28-29 June Sts Peter and Paul (C)

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	Page
Sunday	8:30am	Page
	10:00am	Aranda
Samoa (4th Sun)	1:00pm	Page
Korean	3:00pm	Aranda

Weekday Masses

Mon	7:00 am	Liturgy of the Word	Page
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 and 5:00pm-5:30pm Page

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

DIFFERENT BUT A SHARED FAITH

Saints Peter and Paul, whose solemnity we celebrate today, reflect the response of the Church to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a response of conviction, courage and resilience. Peter was called while a fisherman, Paul while a persecutor of the early Church. God always calls where we are. In today's Gospel Peter makes the profession of faith that Jesus is not only the Messiah or anointed of God but also the son of the living God. This profession of faith is the 'rock' on which the Church will be built. Peter is also given power to bind and loose on behalf of the Church. In this instance and otherwise in the Gospels, Peter, in spite of his later denial of Jesus, clearly has a leadership position amongst the apostles. This is confirmed by the risen Lord when he asks Peter if he loves him. Peter had assumed leadership of the early Jerusalem church with James and John (Acts 10). His preaching put him at odds with the Sanhedrin (the highest authority of the Jews) and the Roman occupiers (who had him imprisoned awaiting trial and possible death). Having miraculously escaped from gaol, as we hear in our First Reading today, he is later in Syrian Antioch (possibly escaping Roman persecution). Later still he was in Rome (1 Peter 5:13), where tradition has it that he was executed, being crucified upside down, during the persecution of Nero who ruled from 54-68AD. Peter was referred to as a 'fellow elder' and 'shepherd'; the titles of 'bishop' and 'Il Papa' (Father) from where the title 'Pope' came emerged later. **After his Damascus Road experience, Paul became the great missionary disciple to the Gentiles or non-Jews.** Paul's three missionary journeys were feats of endurance, all the more so after being shipwrecked several times and being imprisoned, beaten and flogged by both Jews and Roman authorities (cf. our Second Reading today). He was beheaded during the persecution of Nero. Reflecting on his dramatic conversion from privileged Pharisee to ardent Apostle, Paul stated in his Letter to the Ephesians, *"I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if I only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts . . . All I want to know is Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his suffering by reproducing the pattern of his death. I can assure you my brothers and sisters, I far from thinking that I have already won. All that I say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come"* (Eph 3:8-10, 12-13). **For Paul and for Peter life is found "in Christ" (the phrase is used over 160 times in letters attributed to St Paul). No human effort, no matter how thorough-going can of itself reconcile us to God. It is only in Christ that sin and division is overcome such that to live fully is to live 'in Christ'.**

Fr John

Archdiocesan Notices

VOCATIONS DINNER at Calwell Presbytery: Thursday 3 July 6pm. For men interested in discerning a call to the Priesthood. A meal provided with discussions & prayer. RSVP please contact Vocations Director Fr Emil emil.milat@cg.org.au 0414 523 036.

THE ARMED MAN - a concert for peace and harmony 5 July 2025 3 pm LLEWELLYN HALL ANU

The Canberra Choral Society and The National Capital Orchestra are joining forces again to present a concert of two very special works for chorus and orchestra, 'The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace' by beloved British composer Sir Karl Jenkins, and 'Human Waves' by legendary Australian composer Elena Kats-Chernin AO. Celebrating peace, harmony and resilience, this uplifting concert will be conducted by NCO Music Director Louis Sharpe, with soprano soloist Jillian Halleron and cellist Liam Meany.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY will be celebrated in **St Christopher's Cathedral** at **11.00am on Sunday 6th July 2025**. All are invited.

AN EVENING OF DIALOGUE: PILGRIMS OF HOPE 30 July 7:00 PM

Acclaimed filmmaker and author Bill Bennett, whose spiritual journey on the Camino inspired his award-winning film *The Way, My Way*. Bill will share how walking the Camino revealed a new way of living - simpler, freer, and more hopeful. Hosted by journalist and community leader Genevieve Jacobs AM, the evening will include a keynote presentation by Bill Bennett; small group discussion and audience Q&A facilitated by Genevieve. Event will be held at Marist College Canberra Registration: <https://events.maristc.act.edu.au/EveningOfDialogue25>

ARCHBISHOP'S ST MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE 9 August 2025

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Eden A designated church for the Jubilee Year of Hope

- Pilgrimage walk starts at 11.00 am from Eden Sports Ground
- Reconciliation available during the walk
- Mass at 12.00 pm
- Visit Mary MacKillop Hall
- Please arrange your own transport

For inquiries, email woodb4922@gmail.com

MOTHERS PRAYERS RETREAT DAY 23 August 2025 8:45 AM - 4:00 PM

Become like children (Matt 18:3-5)

Come aside together for a day - ignite the child within as we explore, share, pray for our children and have fun in this nurturing community. The day includes talks, reconciliation and an introduction to Mothers Prayers. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. Gluten free options will be available for morning tea but not for lunch.

Parish Centre, Holy Trinity Church 3 Strangways Street, Curtin ACT 2605

REGISTER BY 8 August <https://www.trybooking.com/DBRES> **ENQUIRIES** Anne at Australia@mothersprayers.org

HELP CHRISTIAN IN THE HOLY LAND

Aid to the Church in Need is providing urgent support to the Church in Israel and Gaza in the ongoing conflict. Without your help, many desperate Christian families will be forced to leave. To make an emergency donation visit www.aidtochurch.org/holyland or scan the QR code.



A THOUGHT ON A DIVIDED WORLD

Both Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump subscribe to the proposition, **'Peace through Strength'**. On the contrary, as Pope John Paul II insisted, **"If you want peace, work for justice, and if you want justice be ready to forgive"**. History from the Romans onwards has shown that 'Peace through strength' is problematic. It encourages a self-justifying rationale in the build up of arms for the alleged sake of peace. However, it fails to address the underlying injustices that give rise to armed conflict. In fact, it sows the seeds for the next conflict. The nexus must be broken. **Only last Saturday, Pope Leo spoke of the need to redress the growing gap between the increasing wealth of a few and the world's poor.** "This imbalance generates situations of persistent injustice, which readily lead to violence and, sooner or later, to the tragedy of war", he said, calling for a more equitable distribution of resources (Cath News, 24/6/25)
Fr John

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.

Prayer Requests

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Ken Hill, Vito Russoniello, Victims of war in Iran, Israel, Gaza, South Sudan and Ukraine

ANNIVERSARIES

Tony Dellamarta, Alan Wilmer, Andrew Francis Dennis, Enrico Guarino, Susina Guarino Palma D'Ambrosio, Bernard Finnerty, Tania Bradley, Max Holmes, Fr John O'Keefe.

THE SICK

Kathryn Anderson, Trevor Blake, Angela Collier, Gemma Collier, Nicole Court, Maureen Dalzell, Anne Darmody, Leon Darmody, Dot Day, Denis Dellamarta, Stephen Dinn, Helen Driver, Mary East, Richard East, Joachim Exell, Tony Fuller, Fr Chris Gardiner OFM, Ivan Guevara, Denise Hampson, Pat Hannon, Madellon Harvey, Margaret Keen, Charlie King, Anne Laffan, Sally Marchant, Bob Longland, John Malycha, Glenn Mowbray, Paul Mowbray, Pamela Myatt, Barry Joseph O'Leary, Oscar Perez, Francis Power, Gabriel Rockwood, Sam Ross, Matthew Schembri, Pat Stakelum, Anthony Stewart, Denis Tarbuck, John Turyn, Olga Turyn, Jennifer Webster, Michael Worsnop, Angela Williams.

Parish News

CHURCH CLEANING: We are looking for parishioners to commit to a cleaning roster for either of our parish churches. Equipment and other needs will be supplied. Committing to the roster would be a very practical way to support your parish by reducing costs and helping to maintain the beautiful ambience of our churches. **If interested, please contact the Parish Office 6254 1827 or belconnensouth@cg.org.au**

Thank you to those who have responded already

PARISH OFFICE Monday 30 June 2025

Jacinta will be away. The office will be closed

LITURGY OF THE WORD AND HOLY COMMUNION

With both Mngr John and Fr Andrew away on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, the Tuesday 5:30 pm Liturgy at St Vincent's and the Wednesday 7:00 am Liturgy at St Matthew's will be a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion, not Mass.

LIBRARY NEWS- The following items are now available for loan at **St Matthew's**:

- Doherty, Tony: **Struggling to believe?: the journey of one contemporary believer** 2023 [Church and Catholic Faith]
- Healey, Charles J.: **Praying with the Jesuits: finding God in all things** 2011 [Prayer]
- Pope Francis: **Hope: the autobiography** 2025 [Biography]

Any queries or suggestions contact Megan Thompson (St Matthews) on 6254 0524

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

The following items are now available for loan at **St Vincent's**:

- **Lourdes: body and spirit in the secular age** by Mary Harris (Spirituality)
- **Imagine heaven: near-death experiences, God's promises, and the exhilarating future that awaits you** by John Burke (Spirituality)
- **Jesus and the Jewish roots of Mary: unveiling the mother of the Messiah** by Brant Pitre (Mary)

Any queries or suggestions contact Karna O'Dea (St Vincent's) on 0450 811 010

Reminder – Please fill in the borrowing sheet with the accession no eg V445 on the title page and return items as soon as you have finished (preferably within a month) so others can use them

28 & 29 June

5 & 6 July

	6pm Page	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Page	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
Reader	Conor Bradley Peter Davies	Yvonne McAdoo Janet Moyle	Anne McCarthy Jenny Murphy	Geraldine Lillingston Colleen Meadley	Walker Lino Ale Paul Coghlan	Marie Carroll Graham Williams
Senior Server	Paul Scholtens	Dennis Morris Sacristan	Bernie Leger	Paul Scholtens	John Woods	Jenny Murphy
EMHC	Dorothy Lalor	Greg Pocock Cathy Power Damien Power	Helen Digan Karna O'Dea	Dorothy Lalor	Joan Murphy Jan Woods	Lourdes O'Keefe Catharina Williams
Linen/Altar		Ann Tierney	Maddalena Co-banov		Margaret Sloane	Ladies of the Korean Community

Hearing Aid Loop is installed in both Mass centres, St Matthew's **only** middle 2 sections turn your hearing aid to the T switch

Entrance Antiphon

These are the ones who, living in the flesh,
planted the Church with their blood;
they drank the chalice of the Lord
and became the friends of God.

First Reading [Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11](#)

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) The Lord set me free from all my fears.

(R.) I will bless the Lord at all times
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

(L.) Glorify the Lord with me.

Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

(R.) Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

(L.) The angel of the Lord is encamped
around those who revere him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **(R.)**

Second Reading [2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18](#)

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;

the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 16:13-19](#)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion:

Dear friends, when you come to our sisters and brothers who are sick, strengthen them by God's word and minister to them this holy sacrament.