

St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

31 May–1 June Ascension of the Lord (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

HOPEFUL IN THE RISEN AND GLORIFIED CHRIST

The Ascension is not to be interpreted literally. Rather it teaches a theological truth which has its genesis in the Old Testament. Luke, the author of both the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, draws on the departure of the Old Testament prophet Elijah in presenting the end of the earthly ministry of Jesus and the start of the Church's mission. In 2 Kings 2:1-18, Elijah blessed his disciples, promised a share of the Spirit and was carried up to heaven without experiencing death. The hope was that Elijah would return as the Messiah. Luke presents Jesus, who has conquered death, bless his disciples and promise to send the Spirit to continue his mission before returning as triumphant Lord (Acts 1:11). **Our Second Reading addresses the same reality with Jesus entering the sanctuary of heaven once and for all, unlike the priests of the old covenant who each year on the Day of Atonement entered the innermost sanctuary of the Temple for purification of the Chosen People.** Jesus is the fulfilment of the hopes of the Chosen People and indeed for all peoples and this is expressed in ways that the audience could relate to. *"Communicated here is, of course, a vision of the future, an act of hope. The forces hostile to God and to true humanity have by no means yet been fully overcome. The essential blow has been struck in the Paschal victory of Jesus but his messianic work continues as he breathes his Spirit into the Church that carries on his mission. What the Church [we] must understand – what the Ascension assures her – is that accompanying all her labour and suffering is the victory of the risen Lord, who now stands at the right hand of God interceding on behalf of all (Rom 8:34)"* (Brendan Byrne). **The English Catholic journal 'The Tablet' is celebrating 185 years. In the 24 May 2025 edition a variety of folk shared reflections about their hopes for the next 15 years.** The former MP Oliver Letwin spoke of his concerns about the breakdown of a rules-based international order as a result of chauvinist regimes and domestic insecurities which *"disregard moral human rights and international law"*. His hope is for the resurrection of the rule of law, low-tariff global trade and of liberalism. There were hopes for a reform of the overcrowded prison system (Andy Keen-Downs CBE, is CEO of the prison charity, Pact) and for *"a more contemplative rather than a technological and material approach to reality"* (Tomas Halik, Czech priest, philosopher and theologian). Especially telling was the reflection of Frank Cottrell-Boyce, the UK's children's laureate for 2024-2026 who said, *"We have no idea about the kind of future we are sending our children into. We don't know what work will look like, what community, communications or relationships will look like. We have no idea what kind of climate they will live in. But we do know that they will need all the things that only faith can bring – a sense of being loved, being consequential, of having purpose and of belonging."* **Knowing that God's Spirit leads us and that we are called to to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' in this Jubilee Year, it is timely to ask what are my hopes? And what will I do to bring them to birth?**

Fr John

ENCOUNTERING THE PSALMS: Parishioner, Dr Glenn Burns will present a talk on the Psalms at the Orana Centre after the 9:30am St Vincent's Mass on Thursday 12 June and again at the Mariam Hall, adjacent to St Matthew's Church, on Tuesday 17 June at 7.30pm. The presentation will not be a sermon or a theological lecture but rather an overview of the Psalms so as to deepen our understanding of these prayers we proclaim at each Mass.

Archdiocesan Notices

1700TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUNCIL OF NICAIA, Saturday 7 June, 10 am– 12:20pm— An ecumenical pilgrimage walk organised in partnership with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia.

Opening liturgy at 10am St Christopher's Cathedral, and concluding with prayer and refreshments at the Greek Orthodox Church of St Nicholas in Kingston. Flyer on foyer notice board.

ST THOMAS FORUM AND DINNER Friday 27 June 2025 | 6.45pm for 7.30pm

Will it be Lawful to be a Christian in 2025?

And what the ACT compulsory takeover of Calvary Hospital means for Australia

Keynote Speaker: **Bishop Tony Percy** Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Sydney

Register Now: <https://bit.ly/stmf-270625>

AN EVENING OF DIALOGUE: PILGRIMS OF HOPE, 30 July 07:00 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.

ARCHBISHOP'S MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE 9 August 2025

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Eden. This special church has been designated 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

90th ANNIVERSARY OF ST PATRICK'S, BRADDON 19 October 2025

St. Patrick's Church Braddon was dedicated on 20th October 1935. The anniversary will be commemorated on Sunday, 19th October with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Prowse at 8am followed by refreshments. Organisers wish to contact former pupils to share their memories, to attend the Mass and celebrations on the day. For more information please contact Ray Toohey 0411 182545 or Mary Boyle, maryeboyle8@gmail.com.

CORAL'S COTTAGE located in Narrabundah, offers short-term accommodation for teenagers and young adults up to the age of 25 living with moderate to severe physical and/or intellectual disability under the NDIS. We aim to provide an enjoyable experience, while also nurturing independence away from home. Contact our friendly team to arrange a tour, or for more information please contact STAb bookings@mccg.org.au or phone 6162 6100 / 6162 5800

RICKY STUART HOUSE - Ricky Stuart House is a purpose built, state of the art facility, situated in Chifley and set up to work with children, aged 5-12 years, and their families and support networks, to ensure collaborative relationships to achieve outcomes specific to each child. Contact our friendly team to arrange a tour, or for more information please contact STAb bookings@mccg.org.au or phone 1800 427 920.

HERITAGE AND SACRAMENTAL ADMINISTRATOR: Position Vacant- Mary Queen of Apostles Parish Goulburn: Part Time, Permanent role. For more information contact: goulburn@cg.org.au

PART TIME PARISH SECRETARY-GUNNING

People are invited to apply for the position Parish Secretary for Gunning. This is a part-time permanent of four hours per week based in Gunning. Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. Please email Gunning Parish Office gunning@cg.org.au for a copy of the duty statement. Applications addressing the Selection Criteria with attached resume to the Fr Peter My, Parish Priest to gunning@cg.org.au by 6 June 2025.

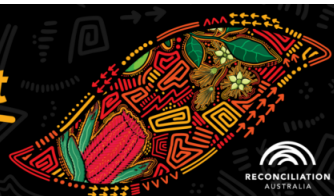
[National Reconciliation Week - Reconciliation Australia](#)

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to Next

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2025 | RECONCILIATION.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.

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:

Alain Gilsoul, Alan Driver, Ivan Stibohar, Kay Robinson, Hector Steele.

ANNIVERSARIES

Minnie Allam, Joseph & Linda Balthazaar, Bernadine Ward, Alan Wilmer, Andrew Francis Dennis, Enrico Guarino, Susina Guarino, Palma D'Ambrosio, Bernard Finnerty.

THE SICK

Kathryn Anderson, Gabrielle Austin, Trevor Blake, Angela Collier, Gemma Collier, Nicole Court, Maureen Dalzell, Anne Darmody, Leon Darmody, 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

Ivan Stibohar Funeral Mass 3 June 10 am

St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Sunday 1 June 10 am Mass at St Vincent's, Aranda.

PLATE RACKS/STANDS: We are looking for donations to the St Vincent's library so that beautiful books can be displayed. Please leave the donations in the St Vincent's Library.

LADIES LUNCH -TUESDAY 3 JUNE 12 noon This month we begin our lunchtime celebration of winter! At the Southern Cross Club, Jamison, Over the following months we will change days to allow those who work the opportunity to attend. RSVP by 5pm Monday June 2 on 0437034148 or jennymurphys@icloud.com

GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL 31 May -1 June 2025

For the support of our seminarians. The Archdiocese currently has 6 seminarians - Dylan House, Jeremy Cains, Isaac de Roadt, Nicholas Barry, Cinnil Thomas and Bran Grgic, - at Good Shepherd Homebush, Sydney. At Masses this weekend you will have the opportunity to make a contribution to support this appeal.

SACRAMENT OF ANNOINTING Friday 6 June 9:30am

Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing will be celebrated at St Matthew's Church with morning tea to follow. A plate to share would be appreciated.

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 so indicate on the clipboard form in the foyer.**

AFTER MASS

- **Morning Tea** after 8:30 am Mass first Sunday of the month at **St Matthew's**.
- **Cheese and bikkies** after the 6pm Vigil second Saturday of the month at **St. Matthew's**.
- **Morning Tea** after 10am Mass 3rd Sunday of the month at **St Vincent's**,



31 May & 1 June

7 & 8 June

	6pm Page	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Page	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
Reader	Peter Davies Peter Rodda	John Duck Yvonne McAdoo	Adora Calub Lourdes O'Keefe	Geraldine Lillingston Colleen Meadley	Helen Casey Walker Lino Ale	Marie Carroll Ann Cleary
Senior Server	Paul Scholtens	John Woods	Bernie Leger	Damien Sloane	Kevin McInerney Sacristan	Jenny Murphy
EMHC	Judi Ahern	Jo Duck Jan Woods	Helen Digan	Margaret Sloane	John Duck	Lourdes O'Keefe
Linen/Altar		Ann Tierney	Ladies of the Korean Community		Ann Tierney	Amanda Kabaila Rachelle Stannard

Hearing Aid Loop is installed in both Mass centres, St Matthew's **only** middle 2 sections turn your hearing aid to the 1 switch

Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

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

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in **Jerusalem** but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

(L.) All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

(R.) God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

(L.) God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Ephesians 1:17-23](#)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Luke 24:46-53](#)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from **Jerusalem**. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion: We have listened to God's word in today's liturgy, and now you carry to our sick brothers and sisters the body of Christ. May you reverence what you carry, as you bear the healing Eucharist of the Lord who gave his life that we may have life to the full.