

# St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

## South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

29-30 March, Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)

Msr John Woods- PP; Fr Andrew Yang-Korean Chaplain; Rev 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 am Aranda (Child's Lit 1 & 3 Sundays)  
Samoan (4ttSun) 1pm Page  
Korean 3:00pm Aranda

#### Weekday Masses:

Monday 7 am Liturgy of the Word Page  
Tuesday 5:30pm, Aranda (preceded by Adoration from 4:45pm)  
Wednesday 7 am Page  
Thursday 9:30 am Aranda  
Friday 9:30am, Page (Anointing 1st Friday)  
Saturday 12 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

### LOST AND FOUND

**“What About Me”** was a popular song by ‘Moving Pictures’ in the early ‘80s. The title would have been a good description of the feelings of the righteous who could not reconcile Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners while they observed the law and yet seemed to be on the outside. **What about me? What about us?** As always it helps to situate the Gospel. Today’s Gospel of the so-called Prodigal Son follows two parables which also address the apparent reckless hospitality of God. The first speaks of a shepherd leaving the ninety-nine sheep in search of the lost one. The second of a woman who ransacks her house in search of a lost coin. Today we see a father defy convention and moved with compassion ‘deep in his guts’ welcomes home a son who had as good as wished him dead. *“In the culture of the time, for a middle-aged man of means to run in public, to display extravagant signs of affection to a son who had caused the family disgrace is foolish behaviour in the utmost degree – as the older brother will soon so “reasonably” point out (Brendan Byrne).* The father puts on a big party to which all are invited. The older son and all righteous folk to whom the parable is addressed have a problem with this. **Mary Coloe, Scripture scholar and Religious Sister of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary points out they have missed the point.** *“The older son has been living a sterile life, not really in relationship with his father. He had been like a ‘slave’ and he distances himself from his father and his brother – ‘this son of yours’. Even though he stayed at home, his relationships are dead. It is the younger son who discovers a living and loving father when he knows he doesn’t deserve one.”* Byrne insists *“and that is the real bite of the parable. Are you inside with the younger brother joining in the celebration of God’s mercy or does anger and resentment keep you stamping your foot with the older son outside? Like so many of Jesus’ parables this is one basically saying, “Come to the feast”.* The only blockage is what may lie, unconverted, in your heart.” **True, but I would also suggest that we are variously both sons. As Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, the call of Lent is away from self-sufficiency to awareness of and the sharing of God’s compassion.**

Fr John

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

### PARISH OFFICE (MON, TUES & THURS)

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

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

### PRESBYTERY

12 Chewings Street, Page

## Archdiocesan Notices

**SYNOD ON SYNODALITY:** Pope Francis approved the final document from the Synod on Synodality on 26 October 2024. On 11 March 2025 the Vatican released a timeline extending to October 2028 to implement synodality, at which time an ecclesial assembly will be held in Rome. **To be clear: the notion of synodality is the way to 'do church'; by virtue of our baptism all are called and all need to be listened to so that together we can be more attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.** Times of quiet in Mass and in parish meetings are to facilitate a sensitivity to the movement of the Spirit. So too private times of prayerful quiet. **Where is God calling you, me, and all together as a faith community?**

### **CARITAS AUSTRALIA Fourth Sunday of Lent 29th & 30th March 2025**

**Irene** lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.

**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

**Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413



*The Caritas Project Compassion Appeal is now available in the Parish QkR App. Your donation helps Caritas Australia in their work with local communities around the world to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.*



**THE HOLY PLACES COLLECTION** will be taken up on Good Friday for the support of the Church's works in the war devastated Holy Land. Last year Australia contributed \$1,534,519.59, of which our archdiocese contributed \$43,809.55

**COMBINED EASTER CELEBRATION FOR WESTERN AND ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS** on 20 April this year is noteworthy. So too, the 2200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council of Nicea (325AD) to proclaim the nature of Jesus.

**CARLO ACUTIS** will be canonised the first saint of the new millennium on 27 April. His deep faith and work with IT in promoting the same has inspired many of Gen Z.

**LENTEN BOAT RETREAT Tuesday 8 April | 1:30PM-5:00PM** Join Fr Troy this lent on a unique experience on Lake Burley Griffin. Come away for a few hours and be transported to the very heart of Jesus' ministry of healing and teaching on a short and prayerful cruise. Cost \$65 per person - please click here to register

<https://forms.gle/4zUH3GQuFvyGJSoY7> or contact Jovina on 62429622 or [office@holyspiritungahlin.org.au](mailto:office@holyspiritungahlin.org.au).

### **Sunday 13 April 2025 | Palm Sunday Rally: Say Yes to Refugees**

Vinnies supports refugees and asylum seekers still stuck on temporary visas for a decade. Thousands can't seek our permanent protection in a fair and timely way. Join Vinnies to call for an end to this injustice at 1pm on Sunday 13 April in Civic Square. Anglican Bishop Mark Short and a Canberra refugee will speak at the rally. [Tim.Mckenna@vinnies-cg.org.au](mailto:Tim.Mckenna@vinnies-cg.org.au)

### **Wednesday 16 April | Catholic Connect 5:30PM-7:00PM**

The ANU Catholic Society is excited to announce a new networking and mentorship program for Catholic students, graduates, and young professionals in Canberra. We are currently looking for Catholic professionals who are interested in volunteering as mentors. Information Session: Wednesday 16 April, 5:30-7:00PM at John XXIII College, ANU for those interested. Contact: [anucathsoc@gmail.com](mailto:anucathsoc@gmail.com)

### **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).

## Prayer Requests

### RECENTLY DECEASED:

Maria Stramandinoli, William Flynn. ,Michael Thompson, Andre Kieswimmer, Rosemary Crowley, David Kwadijk, Maria Simon, Helen Crennan,

### ANNIVERSARIES

Penny Durick, John Connolley, Peter Dawson, Sean Reiher, Paul Richter, Margaret Wilkinson, Greg Donnelly, Carmela Russoniello, Archbishop Francis Carroll, Madeleine Williams, Bryan Ward.

### THE SICK

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

**From Saturday 5 April 2025 Vigil Mass 6 pm, Page**

**FIRST RECONCILIATION:** We pray for those families preparing with their son or daughter to celebrate their First Reconciliation. May this be a graced time of awareness of God's love and mercy.

## Parish News

### Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion:

*May the Lord bless you with the grace of his joyful presence as you go to share this great gift of his love with our brothers and sisters whom you will visit today.*

### HOLY WEEK-EASTER TIMETABLE:

**The Chrim Mass or Mass of the Oils** will be celebrated at St Christopher's Cathedral, 5:00pm, Monday, 14 April.

**The Regional Second Rite of Reconciliation** will be celebrated at St Matthew's, 7:00pm, Tuesday, 15 April.

**The Holy Thursday Commemoration of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated at St Vincent's, 7:00pm, Thursday, 17 April.

**The Good Friday Stations of the Cross** will be celebrated at St Matthew's, 10:30am, Friday, 18 April and **the Commemoration of the Lord's Passion** will follow at 3:00pm at St Vincent's.

**The Easter Vigil** will commence at 7:00pm, Saturday, 19 April with the lighting of the Easter fire outside St Vincent's.

**Easter Sunday Masses**, 20 April will be 8:30am at St Matthew's and 10:00am at St Vincent's.

**Praying the Franciscan ecological Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm Friday 4 April 2025 Aranda.**

### The Parish's 2024 Financial Outcome

The Finance Council's 2024 Annual Report to the Parish is available from the foyer of each Church and was emailed to those receiving the Parish Bulletin electronically. A key message from the report is that planned major maintenance and unexpected remediation in 2024 has significantly decreased our cash reserves. The Parish faces ongoing challenges to increase income and minimise expenses while continuing to provide safe and welcoming places for worship and gathering. An update will be provided mid-year on the 2025 position and out-years.

#### 29th March & 30th March

#### 5th April & 6th April

	6pm Aranda	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Page	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
<b>Reader</b>	Colleen Meadley Mary Patton	Mary Morris Helen Casey	Lisa Harris Graham Williams	Peter Rodda Michael White	Helen Casey Christina Rowe	Gerard Hogan Bernie Leger
<b>Senior Server</b>	Cheryl Hamill	John Woods	Jenny Murphy	Paul Scholtens	Vince Burns	Jenny Murphy
<b>EMHC</b>	Lynne Foster	Joan Murphy Jan Woods	Helen Digan Katharina Williams	Dorothy Lalor	Carolyn Burns Mary Morris	Karna O'Dea Lourdes O'Keefe
<b>Linen/Altar</b>		Mary Morris			Mary Morris	

**Entrance Antiphon**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;  
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**First Reading** [Joshua 5:9-12](#)

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

**Responsorial Psalm****(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

**(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.)**

**Second Reading** [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#)

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel** [Luke 15:1-3, 11-32](#)

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they

said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

**Communion Antiphon**

You must rejoice, my son,  
for your brother was dead and has come to life;  
he was lost and is found.