

ST MATTHEW'S & ST VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH SOUTH BELCONNEN

ARANDA MASS CENTRE: 7 BINDEL ST

PAGE MASS CENTRE: 12 CHEWINGS ST

Beginning with Baptism

Congratulations and blessings on the arrival of your child! It is wonderful to share in the experience of bringing new life into our world.

Baptism is where we begin our public commitment to the people of God. It is a time of great joy and celebration for family and friends as well as the whole community. Baptism immerses us into life with Jesus Christ who shared in our lives. It plunges us into the benefits of his life of teaching and healing, his death, and his rising to new life. Our lives become a pattern of little dyings and risings like his. Baptism also affirms us as beloved children of God and that each of us are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is a time for our families and godparents to be enriched in faith. Children aren't able to fully embrace what baptism means. That is where one or more godparents take on a special role. A godparent is like the child's special representative in the Church community. A godparent is a confirmed Catholic who is likely to have a long term relationship with the child and is willing to share their own faith and support the faith of the child. To be baptised in the Catholic Church we need to have at least one baptised and confirmed Catholic godparent. Families can add another person as well to be a Christian witness. Godparents and witnesses need to be at least 16 years of age.

Just as we have people we look up to, the Church has long encouraged us to give great reflection to choosing our child's name. Choosing a biblical name or saint's name is still strongly encouraged. For example, Jesus' name means "God saves" and Claire means "light". The 'Busted Halo' website has useful video clips on sacraments, including baptism, <http://bustedhalo.com/video/baptism>.

A baptismal dalmatic, candle and certificate will be provided by the parish. Baptisms are held at St Matthew's church (Page) on the 2nd Sunday of the month and at St Vincent de Paul church (Aranda) on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11.30am. I ask that you attend a Mass on the 1st weekend of the month (see weekend Mass times below) to participate in the Rite of Welcome by the South Belconnen parish. Our parish would like the opportunity to warmly welcome your family and support you in prayer, praying to God for the gift of a strong faith for you and your children. Please let the priest know **before Mass** that you are there to attend the Rite of Welcome. If this is your first child to be baptised you will need to attend a Baptism Preparation Session which is conducted on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7.00pm in Marian Hall (next to St Matthew's church, Page).

Please complete the attached form and either email to belconnensouth@cg.org.au or drop it into the parish office at least 2 weeks before the baptism. Your baptismal certificate is to the faith community what your birth certificate is to civil records. **Please keep your baptismal certificates in a safe place as they are needed to enrol in other sacraments, to enrol in a Catholic School and for marriage preparation.** Lastly, a donation of \$50.00 would be greatly appreciated if families are able. Some of this supports the clergy and some assists with the running costs of the parish.

Many thanks and blessings,

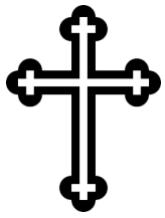
Fr Simon C.J. Falk
Parish Priest

South Belconnen weekend Mass times are:

Saturday Vigil	St Matthew's church (change to St Vincent's during Daylight Saving Time)	6.00pm
Sunday	St Matthew's church	8.30am
	St Vincent's church	10.00am

Postal Address: PO Box 4266 Hawker ACT 2614 Phone: Aranda 6251 1525 Page 6254 1827

Email: belconnensouth@cg.org.au



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