

St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

15 & 16 August 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Msgr John Woods- PP, Fr Andrew Yang-Korean Chaplain, 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)	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 (Anointing 1st Thurs odd months)
Fri	9:30am	Page (Anointing 1st Friday even months)
Sat	12:00 pm	Page

Confessions

Saturday 11:00am-11:30am Page 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
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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

START WITH ENCOUNTER

The Second Vatican Council put to bed any remaining anti-Jewish sentiment for the death of Jesus. It also called for dialogue with Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and other religions (*Declaration on Non-Christian Religions, 1965*). While it affirmed that the fulness of divine revelation "**subsists**" or is gifted to the Church (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, 1964*), it also maintained that there are **elements of sanctification in other Christian traditions and non-Christian religions** (*Decree on Ecumenism, 1964*) and that **religious freedom** is to be insisted upon (*Declaration on Religious Freedom, 1965*). **Benedictine Scripture scholar Henry Wansbrough cautions that a failure "to appreciate the other great religions of the world is an act not of homage to the Christian God but of failure to appreciate the divine omniscience and omnipotence."** Moreover, all are called to obey the voice of **conscience**, our "*most secret core and sanctuary*" where the voice of God speaks (*Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, 1965*). However, mindful that we are subject to the effects of sin and are relational beings, the Council also insisted that our conscience needs to be **'formed'** for the sake of our individual and common good. **I am never just a rule unto myself.** These comments are by way of background to today's Readings. Our First Reading makes clear that after return from exile in Babylon and mixing with foreigners who had moved in during their absence, the Chosen People understood that they were to bring God's salvation not only to their own people but to all peoples. **All will be led to the Lord's holy mountain (the Temple mount).** In our Gospel Jesus encounters a Gentile woman. **It is the only instance in the Gospels where someone gets the better of Jesus.** He is at first very rude and dismissive of the woman as if to illustrate the barrier between Jews and Gentiles. This is "*only to highlight the significance of what is happening when, as a result of the woman's faith, the barrier comes crashing down. Recent feminist interpretation has rightly identified this Canaanite Woman as one of the great heroes of the Gospel tradition. Jesus allows her to 'educate' him out of the narrow understanding of his mission that his early responses betray*" (Brendan Byrne SJ). The great missionary charge at the end of the Gospel (28:18-20) has its impulse here. **How appropriate then that the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement, 'Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division', released on 7 August in the lead-up to Social Justice Sunday, 30 August, insists that social cohesion only results when "love draws us out of ourselves and into a culture of encounter with others."** We are drawn out of ourselves and encounter the person of Jesus in communal and personal prayer. So too in meeting the other and sharing our stories, acknowledging that God reaches out in all peoples. In fact, evangelisation is summarised as an ongoing journey of **'Encounter, Discipleship and Mission'**. **Copies of the Social Justice Statement are available in the foyer.**

Fr John

PARISH NEWS

AFTER MASS

- Morning Tea after 10am Mass 3rd Sunday of the month St Vincent's, **16 August, Parish Family Mass**

ORDINATION AND MASS OF THANKSGIVING: Following his ordination as a Jesuit Priest this Saturday, 8 August, at St Mary's Church, North Sydney, **Father Matthew Pinson SJ** will, in recognition of and thanksgiving for his vocation being in part nurtured at St Matthew's, celebrated yesterday's 12 noon, 15 August Mass, The Feast of the Assumption. We pray God's blessings on Matthew's ministry and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood. Thank you to all who contributed to the appeal for the support of our seminarians at Good Shepherd Seminary, Homebush. A total of \$2185 was contributed by parishioners

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING: You are invited to join Martin Fisk from St John's Ambulance for a 'show and tell' session about defibrillators, **7:00pm, Monday, 17 August, Orana Centre**. A defibrillator will be placed at each church.

ON THE MOVE: After six and a half years of ministry with Marymead Catholic Care in Canberra, Sister Noelene Quinane RSJ is preparing to join the pastoral care team at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney. While sad to be leaving a ministry she has loved, building partnerships with the secondary Colleges in Canberra and raising funds for MacKillop and MINOSA Houses, Noelene is aware the time is right for a change of pace. In shining a light on the pressing needs of those made homeless, she has established a supportive network that will continue the work under the leadership of Anne Kirwan, CEO. Noelene will move to North Sydney on September 1st. She has loved her time with us all, extends warm thanks and asks your prayer support during this time of transition.

MEN'S GROUP, Thursday 27 AUGUST 2026 6:15 PM

Parish Centre, Aranda.

RSVP to paul.pearson@bigpond.com (0412 685 582) by COB Tuesday 25 August 26.

SEASON OF CREATION: The 12 noon, Saturday, 4 September Mass will be a celebration of the '*Mass for the Care of Creation*', prepared by the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development. This will be part of the ecumenical Season of Creation, 1 September - 4 October, inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical '*Laudato Si*'.

YOUNGER PARISHIONERS

1st and 3rd **Sundays** Children's Liturgy of the Word continues during the **10:00am St Vincent's Mass**, but not in school holidays. Next: **16 August (Parish Family Mass)**

2nd Sunday of the month after 8:30am Mass for Primary School parishioners in the Marian Hall, Page

4th Sunday of the month Children's Liturgy of the Word during the **8:30am Mass at St Matthew's. 23 August**

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

Janet Blair, Gertrude Fletcher, Colombia earthquake victims, Maria and Theresa (anon), Jan Chesworth, Sophie Hennessey, Ed Skrzypczak, Rudi Grcman.

ANNIVERSARIES

THE SICK

Brian Myers, Leone O'Brien, Shirley Platt, Rodrigo Perez, Patricia Walker, Sharon Chisholm, Maureen Dalzell, Ivor Thomas, Tim Lindley, Sophy Jacob, Lucas Parker, Brian Fitzgerald, Fr Michael Mullen, Pauline Zerbo, Luke Buckmaster, John Muscat, Kathryn Anderson, John Collard, Angela Collier, Gemma Collier, Anne Darmody, Mary East, Ken Evenden, Tony Fuller, Fr Chris Gardiner OFM, Ivan Guevara, Denise Hampson, Pat Hannon, Madellon Harvey, Margaret Keen, Charlie King, Bob Longland, John Malycha, Pamela Myatt, Barry Joseph O'Leary, Oscar Perez, Francis Power.

ROSTERS

	15 & 16 August 2026			22 & 23 August 2026		
	6 pm Page	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda	6 pm Page	8:30 am Page	10 am Aranda
Reader	Colleen Meadley Mary Patton	John Duck Yvonne McAdoo	Jenny Murphy Margaret O'Connor	Peter Rodda Michael White	Mary Morris Janet Moyle	Lisa Harris Lourdes O'Keeffe
Senior Server	Paul Scholtens	John Woods	Bernadette Leger	Robyn Grubmueller	Greg Pocock	Jenny Murphy Sacristan
EMHC	Lea Bewick Lynne Foster	Anita Clifford Jan Woods	Lourdes O'Keeffe Rachelle Stannard	Catharina Koopman Dorothy Lalor	Victoria Aik-Ikpeama Anthony Ikpeama	Jane Burroughs Robin Taylor
Linen/Altar		Pauline Cunneen			Pauline Cunneen	
Cleaning Group			Jenny M, Marie C, Robyn G, Peter K, Catharina K			

ARCHDIOCESAN NOTICES

FR LOLESIO GISA, Assistant Priest, has been appointed Administrator of Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin until the end of the year when a Parish Priest will be appointed to replace the late Fr Troy Bobbin.

STAND FOR LIFE @ Federal Parliament, CBR 17 August 11:30 am

Please join us and stand peacefully with our Christian sisters and brothers for the 4th annual campaign to speak up for the rights of pre-born babies and support Federal pro-life parliamentarians who are trying to progress pro-life legislation. We need thousands to attend! More info <https://www.acl.org.au/babybooties/>

ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY: For easy access, all Festival Week information leading up to and registration for the Archdiocesan Assembly next Saturday, 22 August is available at: www.cgevangelisation.org.au/assemblyfestival. See the foyer poster also.

FAITH AND LIGHT Saturday 5 September, 2-4pm at Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Curtin.

Come and See afternoon for Faith & Light, a Christian community for people with intellectual disability, their family and friends, where we share the joy of the gospel, prayer, friendship and afternoon tea. For further details contact Anne on 0415 175 802.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES -Australia-Pacific - The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

Volunteers to start January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.

Applications close October 31st, 2026. Enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

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

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading [Isaiah 56:1.6-7](#)

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

(R.) O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.

So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **(R.)**

(L.) Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **(R.)**

(R.) Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Romans 11:13-15. 29-32](#)

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what

their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel [Matthew 15:21-28](#)

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Commissioning of Ministers of Holy Communion

May the healing touch of the Lord be conveyed by our ministers as they take Holy Communion to our sick and house-bound parishioners. May we all be united in prayer and love.