

St Matthew & St Vincent de Paul Parish

South Belconnen

Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

21-22 March 5th Sunday of Lent (A)

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 Aranda |
| Sunday | 8:30am Page |
| | 10:00am Aranda |
| Samoa (4thSun) | 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 |
| Fri | 9:30am Page (Anointing 1st Friday) |
| Sat | 12:00 pm Page |

Confessions

Saturday 11:00am-11:30am Page and 5:00pm-5:30pm Aranda

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](https://twitter.com/BleconnenP)

PRESBYTERY

12 Chewings Street, Page
Fr John 0418 208 129

If anyone believes in me, even if he dies, he will live

One of the concerns faced by the Johannine community living in the late 90's was the issue of Christian death. Jesus had promised life to those who believed in him, but in the time after Jesus' resurrection how is this promise to be understood? The reality is that Christians do die, so what can Jesus' words mean? The Lazarus episode is the Gospel writer's reflection on the promises of Jesus to be a source of eternal life, and the reality of Christian death.

Many Jews did believe in resurrection at the end of time. This is the faith that Martha expresses: that her brother will rise on the last day. What mainline Jewish theology lacked was any sense of what happened between death and the end-of-time resurrection. This was an empty space where the dead had no share in God's life. In the Lazarus episode, Jesus shows that there is a life beyond the grave, even as we await resurrection at the end of time. While physical life will cease, the God-life that has been given to us through Jesus will never cease.

Christians today, like John's community, still face the great mystery of death. Our Christian hope is that God keeps faith with us. The power of God manifest in Jesus' Resurrection is a power for life in which we will share. Jesus displayed this power for life in restoring the life of Lazarus and thus revealing that death for the believer is not a dead end. The God who has called us into life remains faithful to that gift of life.

Jesus says, 'I have come that you may have life -to the full'.

Sr Mary Coloe PBVM, 'Sundays Under the Southern Cross' 2005 p.17

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.



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND

Traditionally in Australia, a special Collection has been taken up on Good Friday to support the Franciscans who administer and maintain the Holy Land pilgrimage sites. The Franciscans also support medical centres, schools and suffering communities. With the horrific hostilities presently smothering the Holy Land and the Middle East, the need for support has never been greater.

Please consider giving generously this Good Friday.

"The Collection for the Holy Land, sustained daily by the invaluable work of the Franciscans and those who serve local communities, may seem like a drop in the ocean. Yet the ocean, deprived of its drops, becomes a desert." Cardinal Gugerotti, Prefect.

THANK YOU to all the parishioners who helped celebrate Deacon Joe's time with us on Sunday through setting up, providing food, socialising and/or cleaning up. It was a wonderful parish occasion.

This week we recognise 2 special days established by the UN: **the International Day of Forests** (March 21) and **World Water Day** (March 22). "These days deepen our awareness and gratitude of creation, calling us into better stewardship of these systems, and an insistence on more equitable and just sharing of these life sustaining wonders." Sr Mary-Anne Casanova PhD.

For more information see the following from the Sisters of St Joseph
<https://www.sosj.org.au/international-day-forests-world-water-day/>

Archdiocesan Notices

Institute for Synodal Evangelisation Thursday, 26 March 2026 from 4pm - 5pm

Official launch: live-streamed, online-only event. Register your interest here: bit.ly/institute-launch

The Institute for Synodal Evangelisation emerges from the fruits of our Archdiocesan Assembly and responds to the call for deeper faith formation, leadership development and parish-specific accompaniment. The Institute will further animate a vision of synodal evangelisation across our Archdiocese through a range of gatherings, courses and intensives designed to call, form and send a new generation of missionary disciples. For further information, please email institute@cg.org.au.

CANBERRA CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT 29 March 5:00pm

As part of the UPSTAGEING CANBERRA festival, Canberra Choral Society presents 'Our Stories'.

Ticket bookings: <https://events.humanitix.com/ccs-our-stories>

PALM SUNDAY RALL IN SUPPORT OF REFUGEES 29 March 1:00pm Civic Square

The theme, 'Refugees and Migrants Welcome Here' Join Vinnies to support Australia's 53-year-old commitment to an immigration program, which does not discriminate on the basis of race

LOOKING FOR FLEXIBLE WORK—AND A CHANCE TO SUPPORT PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS?

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia is seeking a Diocesan Outreach Assistant to give short presentations at weekend Masses across the Archdiocese of Canberra. This part-time role involves sharing stories of the suffering Church and helping build prayerful support within parish communities. If you are comfortable speaking in front of others and have a heart for this mission, we would love to hear from you. For details:

www.aidtochurch.org/work

PARISH OFFICER –GUNNING PARISH

This is a permanent part time position of 4 hours per week and will be based in the Parish Office, Gunning. For a copy of the Duty Statement please email the Parish Office gunning@cg.org.au Applications addressing the Selection Criteria and current CV to be sent to Fr Peter My, Parish Priest peter.my@cg.org.au by CoB Friday 27 March 2026.

PARISH OFFICER-WEST WYALONG MISSION

People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Officer for St Mary's Parish West Wyalong, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Lake Cargelligo, and St Joseph's Parish Ungarie. This is a permanent part time position of 8 hours per week and will be based in the Parish Office, West Wyalong. For a copy of the Duty Statement please email Leanne Boyd, Parish Support Manager leanne.boyd@cg.org.au Applications addressing the Selection Criteria and current CV to be sent to Fr Hilary Rotich, Parish Priest hilary.rotich@cg.org.au by CoB Friday 27 March 2026

ANZAC DAY MASS 7:45 am

St Christopher's Cathedral, Forest, ACT. Parishioners are requested to be at the Cathedral by 7.45am for 8.00am Mass.

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.

Parish News

Prayer Requests

REGIONAL SECOND RITE (Belconnen Parishes)

6 pm Tuesday 31 March at St Vincent's Aranda.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM will be celebrated at St Matthew's Church, Page

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:00pm

Good Friday

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 3:00pm

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Masses

St Matthew's Church, Page 8:30am

St Vincent's Church, Aranda. 10:00am

Korean Mass St Vincent's 3:00pm

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

St Vincent's Church, Aranda 11:00am

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Michael "John" Kain, Denis De Marco, Ray Mini-us, Alex Mahl, Keiron Hart.

ANNIVERSARIES

Carmela Russoniello, Rosemary Crowley, Margaret Wilkinson, Sean Reiher, John Bryan, Percy Knight.

THE SICK

Maureen Dalzell, Ivor Thomas, Tim Lindley, Sophy Jacob, Ruth Duffy, Shirley Dellamarta, Matt Chucky, Lucas Parker, Brian Fitzgerald, Fr Michael Mullen, Pauline Zerbo, Luke Buckmaster, John Muscat, Paul Collins, Margaret Wilson, Daryl Brohman, Kathryn Anderson, Anna Blackwell, Trevor Blake, John Collard, Angela Collier, Gemma Collier, Anne Darmody, Leon Darmody, Denis Dellamarta, Mary East, Richard East, Ken Evenden, Joachim Exell, 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, Sam Ross, Pat Stakelum, Anthony Stewart, Cate Sweeney, Jennifer Webster, Angela Williams.

PREPARATION OF CANDLES

Parishioners are asked to support a working bee for the preparation of candles for the Easter Vigil will be in Marian Hall following 9.30 Mass on Friday 27 March. We would love to see you there!

MEN'S GROUP – Thursday 26 March 2026

6:15 pm

The Parish Centre, Aranda.

RSVP to paul.pearson@bigpond.com or 0412 685 582 by **COB Tue 24 MAR 26.**

Working Bee St Vincent's Saturday 21 March 8:30 – 12:00

Tidy up of the grounds and some maintenance matters

Morning tea provided

If you can spare some time, please come and give a hand

More info – meadleycb@outlook.com or 0406378351



ALL SINGERS 25 March St Matthew's Church, Page

 Please come and join us for a practice for Easter Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses, from 6 to 8 pm.



21 & 22 March 2026

28 & 29 March 2026

| | 6pm Aranda | 8:30 am Page | 10 am Aranda | 6 pm Aranda | 8:30 am Page | 10 am Aranda |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Reader | Peter Rodda Mary Williams | John Duck Yvonne McAdoo | Lisa Harris Graham Williams | Conor Bradley Peter Davies | Paul Coghlan Mary Morris | Gerard Hogan Bernadette Leger |
| Senior Server | Damien Sloane | Dennis Morris (Sacristan) | Bernadette Leger | Robyn Grubmueller | Damien Power | Jenny Murphy |
| EMHC | Michael White | Jo Duck Mary Morris | Lourdes O'Keeffe Catharina Williams | Mary Williams | John Duck Catherine Power | Michael Allam Robin Taylor |
| Linen/Altar | | Yvonne McAdoo | | | Yvonne McAdoo | |
| Cleaning Group | | | | Jenny M, Marie C, Robyn G, Peter K, Catharina K | Caroline Weller, John Duck, | |

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD 5th Sunday of Lent (A)

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.
The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.

First Reading [Ezekiel 37:12-14](#)

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.**

(L.) Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**

(R.) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**

(L.) My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.

(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**

(R.) Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading [Romans 8:8-11](#)

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel [John 11:1-45](#)

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying

to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day?

A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling
because he has the light of this world to see by;

but if he walks at night he stumbles,

because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me

will never die.

Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me,
but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,

so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

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.