

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

### COMMITMENT STATEMENT

The emotional, physical and spiritual safety, well-being and dignity of Children and Adults is an integral part of the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. The Archdiocese is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of all Children and Adults at Risk, and acknowledge its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility to create a safe and nurturing environment for those Children and Adults.



**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS A CRIME.** The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the Police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the Police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on phone (02) 9390 5810 or via email [Safe-guardingEnquiries@SydneyCatholic.org](mailto:Safe-guardingEnquiries@SydneyCatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest. The Archdiocese of Sydney has a legal obligation to report crimes to the Police.

### WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK CLEARANCE

You must keep your personal details up to date so that you can be contacted about your Working with Children Check (WWCC). Go to <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/working-children-check/apply-wwcc/update-or-upgrade-your-wwcc-details> for more information. Please provide the Parish office with a copy of your WWCC. Thank you.

## The Catholic Weekly

### IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

- Parish Renewal Team: Equipping parishes for mission with Alpha.  
DATE: Saturday 31 January 2026  
TIME: 9am - 4pm  
VENUE: St Martha's, 38 Renwick St Leichhardt. COST: Free (morning tea and lunch included)
- "I try to help the Church in Sydney be what it's meant to be," says outgoing chancellor Chris Meney
- 'Be open to what the Lord has in store for you,' Pope Leo tells SEEK 2026 attendees.
- As jubilee year ends, the faithful heed Pope Leo's call to keep the church alive.
- Sisters who manage school of kidnapped Nigerian children: 'Your compassion became a life-line'.

Copies available at the entrances for \$2.00. Proceeds to St Vincent de Paul.

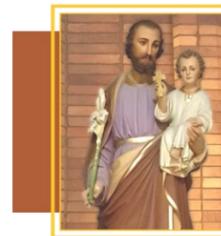
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEAST DAYS OF JANUARY

- SAT 10 JAN—St William of Bourges
- SUN 11 JAN—**FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**
- MON 12 JAN—St Tatiana
- TUE 13 JAN—St Hilary of Poitiers
- WED 14 JAN—St Sava; St Barbasymas
- THU 15 JAN—St Ita of Killeedy
- FRI 16 JAN—St Fusca & Marura
- SAT 17 JAN—St Anthony the Abbot
- SUN 18 JAN—St Margaret of Hungary
- MON 19 JAN—St Absadah
- TUE 20 JAN—St Fabian & St Sebastian
- WED 21 JAN—St Agnes
- THU 22 JAN—St Vincent
- FRI 23 JAN—St Marianne Cope
- SAT 24 JAN—St Francis de Sales
- SUN 25 JAN—THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, APOSTLE
- MON 26 JAN—Ss Timothy & Titus
- TUE 27 JAN—St Angela Merici
- WED 28 JAN—St Thomas Aquinas
- THU 29 JAN—St Abundantia the Martyr
- FRI 30 JAN—St Adelelmus
- SAT 31 JAN—St John Bosco



IN PERSON with  
**CHRISTOPHER WEST**  
**THEOLOGY of the BODY I**  
HEAD & HEART IMMERSION  
PRESENTED BY TOB INSTITUTE  
TOBI.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG  
**18-23 JANUARY 2026**  
Benedict XVI Retreat Centre



# St Joseph's

CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BELMORE

*We are called to reach out to everyone with the Love of God.*

## NEWSLETTER

11 JAN 2026 | Number 267



### ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

763 Canterbury Road,  
BELMORE, NSW 2192  
Parish Priest: FR ITA KOLOAMA-TANGI  
Assistant Priest: FR FALAKIKO AFU  
Deacon: REV. CHRISTOPHER ROEHRIG  
Phone: (02) 9759 1280  
Email: [ad-min@StJosephBelmore.org.au](mailto:ad-min@StJosephBelmore.org.au)  
[Facebook.com/StJosephBelmore](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephBelmore)  
Web: [www.StJosephBelmore.org.au](http://www.StJosephBelmore.org.au)

### MASS TIMES:

Mon-Sat: 9:00am  
Sat: 5:30pm Vigil Mass  
Sun: 8:00am & 10:00am  
Youth Mass: 7:00pm  
(First Friday of the Month)  
Tongan Mass: 2:00pm  
(Last Sunday of the Month)  
Filipino Mass: 3:00pm  
(First Sunday of the Month)

### RECONCILIATION:

Wed 6:00pm-6:45pm,  
Sat 4:00pm-5:15pm

### ADORATION & BENE-DICTION:

Wed 6:00pm-7:00pm

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals by appointment, please contact the office.

### TONGAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY

763 Canterbury Road,  
BELMORE, NSW 2192  
Priest: FR ITA KOLOAMATANGI  
Assistant Chaplain: FR FALAKIKO AFU  
Ph: (02) 9145 2892  
Email: [admin@TCCAustralia.org.au](mailto:admin@TCCAustralia.org.au)  
Social: [Facebook.com/TCCAustralia1](https://www.facebook.com/TCCAustralia1)  
Web: [www.tccaAustralia.org.au](http://www.tccaAustralia.org.au)

### ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

8 Wilson Avenue,  
BELMORE, NSW 2192  
Principal: MRS KELLY PISANI  
Ph: (02) 9759 1154  
Email: [ino@StJBelmore.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ino@StJBelmore.catholic.edu.au)  
Social: [Facebook.com/StJosephsBelmore](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsBelmore)  
Web: [www.StJBelmore.catholic.edu.au](http://www.StJBelmore.catholic.edu.au)

## FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR A

### REFLECTION FOR TODAY

—MyCatholic.life

*It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:9-11.*

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a liturgical bridge that connects the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. During the Christmas season we pondered the Incarnation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, and Epiphany. Today, we see Jesus manifesting Himself to the world as He began His three years of public ministry.

Jesus begins His ministry through an act of deep solidarity with the fallen human race. John the Baptist had been preaching in the desert and offering a baptism of repentance. John's baptism was not the same as our baptism today. Instead, it was only a sign of one's willingness to turn away from sin and turn toward God. Jesus, of course, had nothing to repent of. He was sinless in every way. But that didn't stop Him from freely choosing to receive the baptism of repentance. Why would He do that?

Simply put, Jesus chose to unite Himself with fallen humanity, taking upon Himself our own sins and suffering their consequences. He humbly allowed Himself to be identified as a sinner in need of repentance. This was done out of love for us and out of His longing to become one with us so that we could become one with Him.

By bowing His sacred head to receive the baptism of repentance, Jesus united Himself and His divinity to everyone who had already chosen to repent. And He gave power to every forthcoming act of repentance others would make, even until today. When we repent today, we meet Jesus in that same water of repentance.

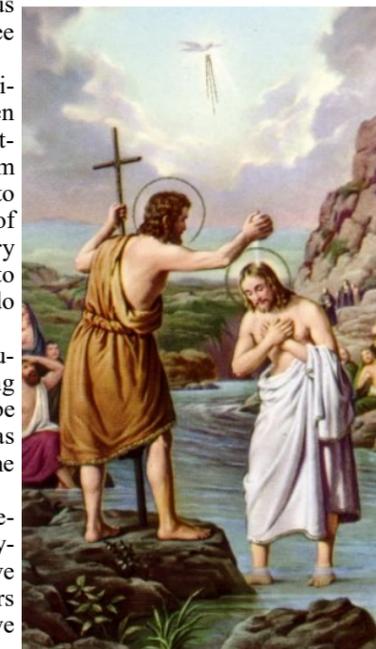
It was not only the Eternal Son Who was present at that baptism of repentance, but the Father and the Holy Spirit as well. The Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and the Father's Voice spoke to acknowledge His oneness with His Son. Therefore, every time we make a humble act of repentance, such as when we combine the crucifixion, the Trinity, and holy water upon entering a church and blessing ourselves, we not only meet our Lord but also receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and share more fully in our adoption as sons and daughters of the Father in Heaven.

As we commemorate Jesus' baptism liturgically, we celebrate the fact that our Christian baptism was the beginning of this new unity with the Holy Trinity. But we also celebrate our oneness with God, which is renewed every time we make an interior act of repentance for our sins. If we fully understood what happens every time we acknowledge our sins and repent of them, we would never grow tired of repenting. Every time we acknowledge and repent of our sin, we meet Christ anew, receive a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and affirm and deepen our adoption by the Father in Heaven.

*Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You came to me in my baptism and united me in my fallenness with You in Your divinity. I pray that I will continuously be aware of all that divides us and will never grow weary of repenting of my sin. I do repent once again, dear Lord. I beg for Your mercy and forgiveness and open myself more fully to You, Your Father, and the Holy Spirit. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I trust in You.*

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Our mission is to find ways, centred on the love of God, to provide a welcoming Parish, a place of spiritual nourishment, and a home to a community that supports everyone and encourages them to contribute their gifts.*



**FIRST READING**

**A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH**

42:1—4, 6—7

*Here is my servant, my chosen one in whom I am well pleased.*

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Ps 28:1—4, 9—10

**R The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

- O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R**
- The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R**
- The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. **R**

**SECOND READING**

**A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

10:34—38

*God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ — but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil'.

The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

3:13—17

*When Jesus was baptised, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God came upon him.*

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands'. At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

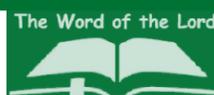


NEXT WEEK: 18 JAN 26—SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

**READINGS:**

**Reading 1:** Isaiah 49:3, 5—6  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 39:2, 4, 7—10

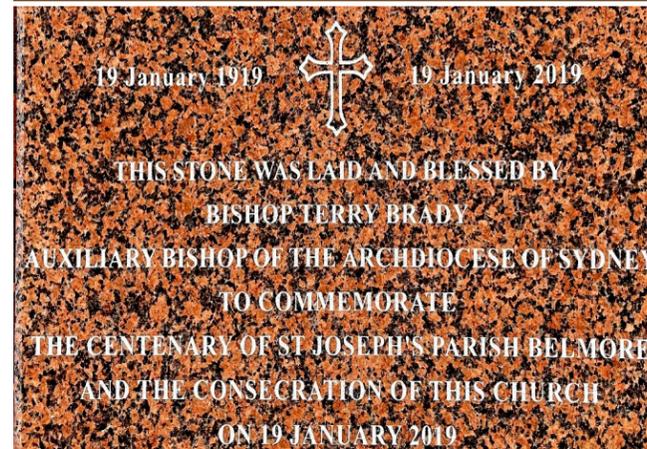
**Reading 2:** 1 Corinthians 1:1—3  
**Gospel:** JOHN 1:29—34



**ST JOSEPH PARISH BELMORE—107<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY**

MONDAY 19 JANUARY—7:00PM

Our Parish will celebrate 107 years next Monday 19 January. We will have Mass as per usual at 9:00am and at 7:00pm. We will have light refreshments. Let us celebrate by bringing a plate to share over a cup of coffee or tea. Thank you for your continued support of our parish. God bless you.



**Nominate your Parish Hero!**

For the past 100 years, our parishes have been the cornerstones of local Australian communities. It's those special people that help make our nation thrive. As we move into the 21st century, who in your parish stands out and makes our community what it is today? Tell us their story and why they deserve recognition as a Parish Hero.



Please contact the Parish Office for your prayer requests and intentions.

Email: [admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au](mailto:admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au)

Phone: +61 2 9759 1280

*May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy*



**DEATH ANNIVERSARY—JANUARY**

1<sup>st</sup>—David Noonan; 3<sup>rd</sup>—Mary Semaan; Stephen Finneran; 4<sup>th</sup>—Raymond Ghanem; Patrick Nolan; 8<sup>th</sup>—Joanne Coffey; 10<sup>th</sup>—Grace Renehan; Michael Tadros; 13<sup>th</sup>—Edgardo O'La-co; 14<sup>th</sup>—Henry McIntyre; 17<sup>th</sup>—Georges Melanie; 20<sup>th</sup>—David Dickie; 23<sup>rd</sup>—Taylor Clarke; 25<sup>th</sup>—Lebos El Hag; Joan Crockett; 26<sup>th</sup>—John Darcy; 27<sup>th</sup>—Norah Carr; Alan Warnken; 30<sup>th</sup>—Frederick Hawes.

**Volunteers Needed**

**CAN YOU HELP?**

We need your help especially during our Sunday liturgies. If you're able to, please send your details to the Parish Office via email:

[admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au](mailto:admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au) stating which ministry you'd like to help—Collector, Lector, Choir, Eucharistic Minister etc.

For more information / registration details, go to: <https://Liturgy.SydneyCatholic.org/ministry-training-formation/> or scan the QR code.



Thank you for your support and God

**LET'S KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN**



**Our church is cleaned by**

**Volunteers:** Please place any rubbish you have into the bins at the entrances, or take them home with you. If you can help clean our church, inside & outside, please contact the office on 9759 1280 or email

[admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au](mailto:admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au).

Thank you for keeping our church clean.

