

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 SafeguardingEnquiries@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

- Press pause on NSW hate speech laws, says Archdiocese of Sydney.
 - Final Bondi terror victim farewelled at St Mary's Cathedral.
 - Milestone for Carmelite "powerhouse of prayer" in rural NSW.
 - Hundreds 'putt' heart into charity golf day.
 - Marking 50 years of 'no-fault' divorce.
 - Feature: Brown Nurses continue Eileen O'Connor's legacy.
- Copies available at the entrances for \$2.00. Proceeds to St Vincent de Paul

KIDS CORNER

God's Eyewitness News

"I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." John 1:34 NIV
Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
O	T	V	Q	N	U	A	B	Y	X	R	L	W	Z	P	D	G	S	F	E	M	H	J	K	C	

- 2-21-19-2-3-20-10 _____
- 14-1-12-13-17 _____
- 13-8-22-9 _____
- 17-1-4-21 _____
- 19-3-6 _____
- 14-8-2-21-12 _____
- 23-21-8-4-21-6 _____
- 19-16-3-12-3-2 _____

WATER	WORLD	DOVE	SPIRIT
HEAVEN	TESTIFY	SIN	LAMB

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAYS OF JANUARY

- 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—Sts 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



Sapientia

Single adults, 18-35 years of age, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for this weekend retreat of prayer, formation, and fellowship.

13-15 February 2026
St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre
Douglas Park

For more information or to register:
www.trybooking.com/DHJBL
or email the Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.



St Joseph's



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

NEWSLETTER

18 JAN 2026 | Number 268



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

763 Canterbury Road,
BELMORE, NSW 2192
Parish Priest: FR ITA KOLOAMATANGI
Assistant Priest: FR FALAKIKO AFU
Deacon: REV. CHRISTOPHER ROEHRIG
Phone: (02) 9759 1280
Email: admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au
[Facebook.com/StJosephBelmore](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephBelmore)
Web: www.StJosephBelmore.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 & BENECTION:

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
Social: [Facebook.com/TCCAustralia1](https://www.facebook.com/TCCAustralia1)
Web: 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: info@StJBelmore.catholic.edu.au
Social: [Facebook.com/StJosephsBelmore](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsBelmore)
Web: www.StJBelmore.catholic.edu.au



MONTH OF
THE HOLY NAME OF
JESUS

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR TODAY THE NEW PASCHAL LAMB

—MyCatholic.life

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me'". John 1:29-30.

Central to the Jewish faith was the Feast of Passover, the commemoration of God's deliverance of His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 12). In Jesus' time, Passover was one of three major annual feasts during which the Jews made a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem. Additionally, the Feast of Weeks celebrated the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai and the first fruits of the harvest (Leviticus 23:15-22), and the Feast of Tabernacles recalled the Israelites' wandering in the desert and celebrated God's providence (Leviticus 23:33-43).

Recall the first Passover meal. Moses instructed the people to sacrifice an unblemished lamb, mark the doorposts of their homes with its blood, and eat the lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs in haste, ready to depart. This act of faith and obedience protected them from the angel of death who passed over the marked houses, sparing the firstborn of Israel, while striking down the firstborn of Egypt. The Passover thus became a perpetual memorial of God's saving power and His covenantal faithfulness to His people.

Because of the Passover, the idea of a sacrificial lamb was intimately familiar to the Jewish people. The Jews were also familiar with the prophecy in Isaiah 53—often referred to as the Suffering Servant—in which the servant of the Lord is described as "a lamb led to the slaughter," who bears the sins of many (Isaiah 53:7, 10-12). Additionally, each morning and evening, a lamb was sacrificed in the temple as a continual offering for sin (Exodus 29:38-42).

As Jesus began His public ministry, the first thing said of Him came from John the Baptist: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." His words would have resonated within the minds and hearts of John's disciples. His disciples believed that John was a great prophet and the forerunner of the Messiah, sent to prepare the way for the Lord. They saw him as a holy man who called for repentance and renewal, and some even wondered if he himself might be the Christ, though John consistently denied this.

Because John's ministry was one of preparation for the Messiah, his disciples would have anticipated the Messiah's imminent arrival. Imagine the excitement, surprise, questions, uncertainty, and hope that would have filled their minds and hearts as they listened to John's prophecy about Jesus. John continued, "He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'"

Though John's proclamation about Jesus took on a powerful significance for his disciples that first moment that he revealed Jesus as the Lamb of God, John's words must resonate within each of us today. Now that the Christmas Season is complete and we enter into Ordinary Time, we are invited to embrace Jesus' public ministry, with all His teachings and Paschal Sacrifice, as something extraordinary in our lives. We must approach His ministry with the same hope, enthusiasm, excitement, and anticipation that John's disciples experienced.

Reflect today on the moment when John the Baptist's disciples heard him proclaim, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" Like them, strive to see Jesus with new eyes and hopeful anticipation as we begin Ordinary Time. This liturgical season marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, and it must also be a renewed beginning of His works in your life. Follow Him without reserve, allowing Him to take away your sins and share in His life and love.

Most holy Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, I choose to follow You, for You are the Messiah, the Son of God. As we enter into Ordinary Time, please give me the grace to embrace Your public ministry in an extraordinary way. May Your working in my life begin anew, transforming me and leading me to the freedom won by Your Paschal Sacrifice. Jesus, 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.

READINGS OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

49:3, 5—6

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth'.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 39:2, 4, 7—10

R Here I am, Lord;
I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **R**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **R**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **R**
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **R**

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

1:1—3

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

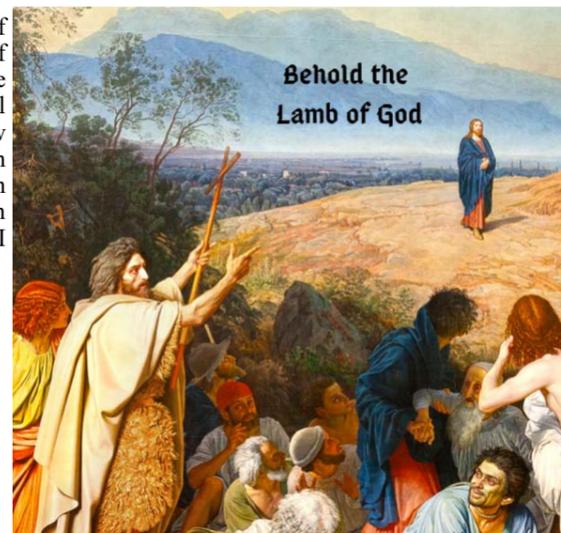
A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

1:29—34

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit". Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God'.

The Gospel of the Lord.



NEXT WEEK: 25 JAN 26—THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

READINGS:

Reading 1: Isaiah 8:23—9:3

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26:1, 4, 13—14

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 1:10—13, 17

Gospel: MATTHEW 4:12—23

The Word of the Lord



PARISH / LOCAL NEWS

LET'S KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.

Thank you for keeping our church clean.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION—REMINDER

During Holy Hour (Adoration & Benediction) from 6:00pm to 7:00pm every Wednesday evening, Father will also be available for confession. All Welcome.



St Joseph Belmore YOUTH Group

Youth Mass 7:00pm - First Friday's of every month... all welcome.

scriptures & activities every Friday night at 7:00pm

LECTORS ROSTER—JANUARY 2026

JANUARY	SATURDAY 5:30PM VIGIL	SUNDAY 8:00AM	SUNDAY 10:00AM
3 rd & 4 th	Florencia Parajo Caroline Parajo	Gloria Dahdah Mary Castro	Fil Pensabene Eucharika Okonkwo
10 th & 11 th	Peter Deeb Gloria Dahdah	Agatha Nicol John Khoo	Katie Pohahau Kalala Sakopo
17 th & 18 th	Kalala Sakopo John Manuel	Peter Townsend Chika Okpala	Helen Di Vicenzo Ofa Matavesti
24 th & 25 th	Florencia Parajo Caroline Parajo	Julie Chung Gloria Dahdah	Kesa Pohahau Kalala Sakopo
31 st Jan & 1 st Feb	Peter Deeb Gloria Dahdah	Fred Damm Mary Castro	Fil Pensabene Eucharika Okonkwo

MASS AND BLESSING OF THE SICK

SUN 8 FEB—OUR LADY OF LOURDES, EARLWOOD

Join us for a special day of prayer and healing at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood.

Date: Sunday 8 February 2026

Time: 2:30pm—Rosary

3:00pm—Mass & Blessing of the Sick

Main Celebrant: Bishop Terry Brady

In case of extreme weather, the Mass will be held in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. All welcome.

Prayer Requests
& Special Intentions

Please contact the Parish Office for your prayer requests and intentions.
Email: admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au Phone: +61 2 9759 1280
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



DEATH ANNIVERSARY—JANUARY

1st—David Noonan; 3rd—Mary Semaan; Stephen Finneran; 4th—Raymond Ghanem; Patrick Nolan; 8th—Joanne Coffey; 9th—Charles Micallef; 10th—Grace Renahan; Michael Tadros; 13th—Edgardo O'Laco; 14th—Henry McIntyre; 17th—Georges Melanie; 20th—David Dickie; 23rd—Taylor Clarke; 25th—Lebos El Hag; Joan Crockett; 26th—John Darcy; 27th—Norah Carr; Alan Warnken; 30th—Frederick Hawes.



MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners who are sick.
Our Elderly Parishioners.
Parishioners celebrating their birthdays.
REPOSE OF SOULS
Souls of our dearly departed family members.

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 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.



ST JOSEPH PARISH BELMORE—107TH 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.



ST JOSEPH LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING

SAT 31 JAN, 10:00AM—PRESBYTERY MEETING ROOM



Sydney Local Health District

Canterbury Hospital

30/12/2025

St Joseph's Parish
763 Canterbury Rd,
Belmore NSW 2192

Re: Heartfelt Thanks for Your Donation – Canterbury Hospital

Dear St Joseph's Parish Community,

On behalf of Canterbury Hospital and our entire team, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your recent delivery of essential resources, including food and other supplies, to our hospital. Your kindness and generosity have made a meaningful difference to our community during this festive season. Acts of compassion like yours remind us of the strength and care within our community. Your support not only helps meet practical needs but also uplifts the spirits of those who dedicate themselves to caring for others.

Please know that your contribution is greatly appreciated and will have a lasting impact. We are truly fortunate to have partners like St Joseph's Parish standing with us in service to those in need. Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness and commitment to supporting our hospital.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Morris
General Manager
Canterbury Hospital