

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

- Governor-General affirms faith communities' role after Bondi attack.
 - Christopher West challenges Catholics to rethink Christianity.
 - Jan Ruff-O'Herne, our Australian saint of forgiveness?
 - Almost 400 million Christians face 'high levels' of persecution: report.
 - New book on the dangers on AI.
- Copies available at the entrances for \$2.00. Proceeds to St Vincent de Paul

KIDS CORNER

Fishing for People

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Matthew 4:19 (NLT)
Choose the word that best matches the definition.



1. An animal without legs that lives in water
A. turtle B. dog C. fish D. hippo
2. A small vehicle for traveling on water
A. bicycle B. boat C. car D. fish
3. To move along by putting one foot in front of the other
A. swim B. fish C. walk D. sitting
4. The land along the edge of the sea, lake, or wide river
A. water B. boat C. nets D. shore
5. Two or more males who have the same parents
A. sisters B. aunts C. cousins D. brothers
6. To move along behind someone
A. follow B. fish C. shore D. nets
7. Open fabric made of threads or cords used to catch fish. (Plural)
A. boat B. fish C. nets D. people
8. Men, women, and children; human beings
A. fish B. people C. follow D. walk

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAYS OF JANUARY

- 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



FEAST DAYS OF FEBRUARY

Month of The Holy Family

- SUN 1 FEB—St Brigid of Ireland
- MON 2 FEB—The Presentation of the Lord
- TUE 3 FEB—St Ansgar; St Blaise
- WED 4 FEB—St Aldate
- THU 5 FEB—St Agatha
- FRI 6 FEB—Sts Paul Miki & Companions
- SAT 7 FEB—St Lorenzo Maiorano
- SUN 8 FEB—St Jerome Emiliani; St Josephine Bakhita



FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2nd

EVERLASTING LOVE

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

A God-centred program empowering engaged couples to future proof their relationship and make marriage last.

2026 DATES

13 - 14 FEBRUARY 2026
ST CATHERINE LABOURE PARISH | GYMEA
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

5 - 6 JUNE 2026
ST JOACHIM'S PARISH | LIDCOMBE
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

20 - 21 NOVEMBER 2026
ST JOSEPH'S PARISH | MOOREBANK
6PM TO 10PM FRIDAY - 9AM-5PM SATURDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:
LIFEMARRIAGEFAMILY@SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG



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

NEWSLETTER

25 JAN 2026 | Number 269



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.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 & BENEDICTION:

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR TODAY

GOD'S PERMISSIVE WILL

—MyCatholic.life

When John the Baptist was arrested, his followers were likely overcome with fear and grief. The man they revered as a prophet, who fearlessly proclaimed the coming of the Messiah and called for repentance through baptism, had been imprisoned. John was arrested by Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great, infamous for ordering the massacre of infants in Bethlehem. Like his father, Herod Antipas was ambitious and morally corrupt. As tetrarch of Galilee and Perea under Roman authority, Herod's political survival depended on maintaining Roman favour. He often used religion to secure legitimacy among the Jewish people, though his actions routinely violated Jewish law.

Though nominally Jewish, the Herodian dynasty was of Idumean descent, tracing its lineage to Esau rather than Jacob. The Idumeans were forcibly converted to Judaism between 135-104 BC. While this history granted the Herods a claim to Jewish identity, their foreign lineage and collaboration with Rome made them unpopular with many Jews. Herod Antipas, like his father, prioritized political cunning and personal ambition over genuine adherence to Jewish law. When John the Baptist emerged on the scene, he proclaimed his message with fearless conviction. His central call was one of repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins, urging the people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Yet John did not shy away from addressing the moral and spiritual corruption of his time. He famously denounced the Pharisees and Sadducees as a "brood of vipers," rebuking their hypocrisy and lack of genuine repentance. John also boldly condemned Herod Antipas for violating Jewish law by divorcing his wife and marrying Herodias, the wife of his half-brother, Philip. This marriage not only violated Mosaic Law but also reflected Herod's ambitions to consolidate power and status. John's fearless denunciation of sin, even among the powerful, ultimately led to his arrest and eventual martyrdom.

This historical context surrounding John's arrest is crucial because it helps us understand God's providence—how He permits certain evils to occur in order to bring about a greater good. Jesus Himself later affirmed John's greatness, saying, "Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11). If the Son of God declared John's greatness shortly after John's arrest, why didn't God miraculously free him from persecution? The answer lies in John's mission. He had fulfilled his primary role: preparing the way for the Lord, the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Once John's mission was complete, God permitted him to seal his testimony with his own blood, offering his life as a martyr for the Lord and for the Truth that sets all people free.

Reflect today on John's arrest and consider how you might have reacted if you had been one of his disciples. From an earthly perspective, martyrdom is difficult to comprehend or accept, especially in our own lives or in the lives of those we love. Though John's arrest and subsequent martyrdom likely brought fear and grief to his disciples, shaking their sense of security, from an eternal perspective, John's martyrdom was his greatest act of witness. It fulfilled his mission by pointing his disciples—and all of us—toward the true Prophet and Messiah, Jesus Christ. John is forever glorified in Heaven, and in the end, that is all that truly matters. As we honour John's unwavering faith, seek to embrace God's permissive will in your own life. Even in the face of suffering or evil, trust that God, in His providence, can bring about a greater good if we surrender ourselves fully to Him.

My provident and loving God, You permit evil to touch the lives of Your faithful followers, knowing that in Your perfect Wisdom, You can bring forth a greater good. Grant me the heart of a martyr, filled with courage and trust, whenever I face injustice in my life. Help me to unite my every trial to Yours, in imitation of Saint John the Baptist and Your own Passion and Death. 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

8:23—9:3

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations.

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 26:1, 4, 13—14

R The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink? **R**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple. **R**
3. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **R**

SECOND READING

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

1:10—13, 17

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

I appeal to you, brothers, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul?

For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

4:12—23

He went to Capernaum, that the prophecy of Isaiah be fulfilled.

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'.

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men'. And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.



NEXT WEEK: 1 FEB 26—FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

READINGS:

Reading 1: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12—13
Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7—10

Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 1:26—31
Gospel: MATTHEW 5:1—12

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



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 Renehan; 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.



EQUIPPING PARISHES FOR MISSION WITH ALPHA COACHING DAY

SAT 31 JAN, 9:00AM—4:00PM, ST MARTHA'S LEICHHARDT
Come and explore how Alpha can equip and support renewal and mission in parishes, providing new opportunities for people to encounter Christ. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that explores the basics of Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment.
Free Registration (lunch included) close on Wednesday 28 January at: <https://GoMakeDisciples.org.au/cas-events>.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR SEPA & ST JOSEPH PARISH

On Monday 19 January, we celebrated the 107th year of our Parish and Father Sepa's 80th birthday. Thank you all who joined us in this celebration. St Joseph, pray for us.

