

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

- High Court ruling changes legal landscape in abuse cases.
- Love and a bouquet for Our Lady at ordination.
- Brendan's journey from rage to renewal.
- Analysis: Vatican II and the way forward.
- Beatification approved for Archbishop Fulton Sheen.
- NZ priest offers a way out of pornography addiction.
- New Lourdes grotto dedicated in Belfield.

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

KIDS CORNER



Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1 (NIV)

SOTNE
 BERAD
 CTIY
 TPMELE
 AGNELS
 WOPSHIR

OF

Unscramble each word, then use the marked letters to reveal the secret word.

HERE ARE SOME CLUES IN CASE YOU NEED HELP!

1. A small rock. Matthew 4:6 (NIV)
2. Food made from flour and water and baked in loaves. Matthew 4:3 (NIV)
3. A place that is larger than a town or village. Matthew 4:5 (NIV)
4. The main place of worship in Jerusalem. Matthew 4:5 (NIV)
5. Heavenly beings who serve as servants of God. Matthew 4:11 (NIV)
6. To praise and adore the LORD God. Matthew 4:10(NIV)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAYS OF FEBRUARY

Month of The Holy Family

- SAT 21 FEB—St Peter Damian
- SUN 22 FEB—FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, APOSTLE
- MON 23 FEB—St Polycarp
- TUE 24 FEB—St Adela of Blois
- WED 25 FEB—St Aldetrudis
- THU 26 FEB—St Andrew of Florence
- FRI 27 FEB—St Gregory of Narek
- SAT 28 FEB—St Augustus Chapdelaine
- SUN 1 MAR—2ND SUNDAY OF LENT; St Ursus of Toul
- MON 2 MAR—St Angela of the Cross Guerrero
- TUE 3 MAR—St Camilla
- WED 4 MAR—St Casimir
- THU 5 MAR—St Lucius I, Pope
- FRI 6 MAR—St Cyril of Constantinople
- SAT 7 MAR—Sts Perpetua & Felicity
- SUN 8 MAR—3RD SUNDAY OF LENT; St John of God



SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Thursday 19 March 2026
 Mass at 9:00am & 7:15pm.
 Procession starts at 7:00pm followed by Mass.
 Light refreshments after Mass.
 All Welcome.

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

WOMEN'S Lenten RETREAT
 with THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA

OPTION 1
 SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2026
 9AM-4PM | ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

OPTION 2
 SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2026
 9AM-4PM | ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

TO REGISTER
WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/DIBPT

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S NETWORK
 DOMINICAN SISTERS OF Saint Cecilia
 Sydney Catholic Schools

St Joseph's CATHOLIC CHURCH BELMORE

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

NEWSLETTER

22 FEB 2026 | Number 273



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
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MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

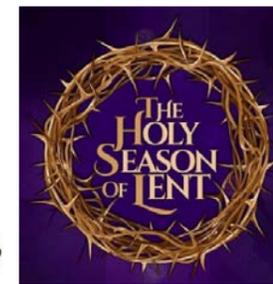
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR TODAY

BATTLING THE TEMPTER THIS LENT.

—MyCatholic.life

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread". Matthew 4:1-3



In His great humility and compassion for us, Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God, allowed Himself to endure something that we sinful human beings encounter every day—temptation. God's glorious plan from the beginning included the creation of both humans and pure spirits—angels—to form one glorious Kingdom of God. Original Sin, the fall of the angels, and our struggle against temptation were not part of God's original intention, but they became realities due to the misuse of free will, both by angels and by humans. Free will was necessary for both angels and humans to love God freely, which led to a third of the angels and many humans turning away from Him.

Theologians such as Saint Thomas Aquinas and Saint Augustine offer profound insights into God's original plan for His Kingdom. In that plan, angels were believed to have been tasked with assisting humans in their journey toward perfection through enlightenment and contemplation. Some choirs of angels were tasked with the governance of the cosmos, guiding the physical world in harmony with God's will. Tragically, the fall of a third of the angels, along with the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, has resulted in a world filled with struggle and sin. The fallen angels—now demons—use their natural gifts to deceive, confuse, and tempt. Those who were once responsible for guiding the cosmos now seek to sow chaos, contributing to the existence of natural disasters, disease, and death. While Catholic angelology is speculative, based on a limited amount of biblical revelation, it is important to recognize the role of angels and demons as we enter this sacred season of Lent.

Today's Gospel focuses on the activity of the most powerful fallen angel—Satan, originally named Lucifer, meaning "Light-Bearer." Tradition holds that he was among the highest of the angels, possibly a Seraphim. According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, Lucifer's fall resulted from pride: He desired to be a god unto himself, to create and govern according to his own will, refusing to serve God. This cosmic reality, of which both Jesus and Satan were fully aware, sets the stage for and adds profound significance to their encounter in the desert. In this dramatic confrontation, Jesus, by allowing Himself to be tempted, begins the ultimate defeat of Satan, a victory that will culminate in Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection. This is the only recorded instance in which Jesus permits Satan to tempt Him directly. While Satan remained active throughout Jesus' ministry, seeking to disrupt His mission, this moment in the desert addresses temptation specifically. By rejecting each temptation, Jesus not only demonstrates how to overcome the devil but also empowers humanity with the grace needed to resist temptation through His triumph on the Cross.

As we enter into the first full week of Lent, reflect today on the temptations you face in your own life. Though Satan is powerful and highly intelligent, he is no match for the grace of God. By uniting ourselves to Christ, we are strengthened to resist all that Satan and his demons throw at us. Victory over temptation is not achieved by our own strength but through Christ's grace, which He freely offers to all who turn to Him.

My victorious Lord, You faced Satan with courage, the once-beautiful angel who fell from grace through pride and envy. Now he seeks to destroy those whom You love. Give me Your strength and courage this Lent as I confront my own temptations, so that united with You, I may share in Your victory. 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 BOOK OF GENESIS

2:7—9; 3:1—7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil'. The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 50:3—6, 12—14, 17

R Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **R**
2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **R**
3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R**
4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **R**

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS

5:12—19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking,' yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgment with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

4:1—11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone'. Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: - You must not put the Lord your God to the test'. Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me'. Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone'. Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

NEXT WEEK: 1 MAR 26—SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR A

READINGS:

Reading 1: Genesis 12:1—4

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:4—5, 18—20, 22

Reading 2: Romans 1:8—10

Gospel: MATTHEW 17:1—9



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

STUDY GROUP ON THE GOSPEL OF ST MATTHEW

Deacon Chris is holding a 12-week study group from Friday 13 February at 7:30pm. Seats are limited to 20, so contact Deacon Chris at the office on 02 9759 1280 or email Christopher.Roehrig@SydneyCatholic.org to reserve your spot. Thank you & God Bless.

COMING SOON... another centennial celebration, Sunday 8 March, 8:00am. St Joseph Parish Belmore



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—FEBRUARY

1st—Cliff I. Doman; Santana Virtu; Mauro L Aguiar; 2nd—Thomas P Jones; Br. Alfred Dolabenty FMS; Antonio Pruscino; Seham Basil; Eugenie Jones; Elizabeth Rolls; Cecilia Doris Jones; 3rd—Ruby Lane; 4th—Myrine Needs; Maudie Huon; 5th—Edward J Greer; Jennie Morrissey; 6th—Charles Summer; Phillip Chahoud; 7th—Rupert J Toohey; Joseph P Sherry; Hilary J Sherry; 8th—Giuseppe Vespa; 9th—Bartolo D' Ambra; Patrick S.Y. Leung; Secondo Forner; 10th—John Formosa; Mary Rose Fenech; Mario Quessy; 12th—Helen Ann Bache; 14th—Ena G Muir; Ruth Hutch; Romeo Estep; George Saouma; 15th—Natividad Deguma; 16th—George Stambouliah; George Saouma; 18th—John W Dowe; Joe Vella; Segundia Castro; Maria Paula Lesta; 19th—Mavis Beachamp; Patrick Coulbourne; Alick Coorey; 20th—Gerard J Rochecoust; Henry Beachamp; 21st—Noura Khoury; Kathleen Mitchell; George B Melanie; Gerard Rochecoust; 22nd—Grant Barnes; 23rd—Sydney Mitchell; Charles Morris; 24th—Keith Pocock; 26th—Len Rees; Reginald Deeham; Marion Lawson; Joseph Karim Afif; 27th—Edna Higginson; 28th—Edward Farrel; Joseph A Gilles; Delor F Salmon.

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. Thank you for your support and God bless you.



Children's Liturgy

ST JOSEPH BELMORE PARISH HALL

Every Sunday during 10:00am Mass, in the Hall. All children and parents welcome.

Children under 3yrs MUST be accompanied by an adult (parent/guardian).

Sharing the Gospel in a child-friendly way.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII XIII XIV

Every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2026

DATE	EVENT
Sat 28 Feb – 5:30pm	Enrolment Mass Please bring your child's enrolment card with you
Sat 28 Feb – after Vigil Mass	Session One (all 1-hour sessions, held in the Hall)
Sat 7 Mar – After Vigil Mass	Session Two
Sat 14 Mar – After Vigil Mass	Session Three
Sat 21 Mar – After Vigil Mass	Session Four
TUE 24 MAR – 7:00PM	CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

NOTE: It is a requirement for all candidates along with at least one parent / guardian attend and participate in ALL sessions, except the Parent Information Evening.

MASS INTENTIONS

Parishioners who are sick. Our Elderly Parishioners. Parishioners celebrating their birthdays. George Saouma.

REPOSE OF SOULS

Souls of our dearly departed family members.