

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 5813 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

- Auburn's vibrant community celebrates parish feast.
 - Bishops' call for peace in Iran war.
 - Processions are back in 2026.
 - Damien Parer: Australia's first Oscar.
 - Sydney Franciscans celebrate 800 years of St Francis.
 - Dr Paul Morrissey on 12 years leading Campion College.
- Copies available at the entrances for \$2.00. Proceeds to St Vincent de Paul.

KIDS CORNER

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. John 9:7 (NIV)
The puzzle is based on John 9:1-34 (NIV).



S R E X T B S D W O R L D W T
R B P N H D E I A M B I R T H
I P R C E V R W G V X V S O L
L O P N I T D B R H V L R D Q
B K N E H U P O O L T I G E U
E I C G B A K M V X P G M L Z
S E I S L F A E P K A H W H E
R N I G I Q I O W A R T Y M V
F C Q D N D H Z S X E O O L P
X O U H D D G T I A N H T T K
L M P Z E Q K R L E T C R G C
P I W E W A S H O Z S S P I T
C C F E N W K J A U Q R O R Y
P Q D E U E K E M Q N B S H O
T N E Y E S D S E L A D M Z Z

BLIND	EYES	SPIT	POOL	WASH
WORLD	SINNED	SIGHT	NIGHT	BORN
HOME	MUD	LIFE	OPENED	LIGHT
SILLOAM	PARENTS	RECEIVED	BIRTH	GROUND

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAYS OF MARCH

MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

- SAT 14 MAR—St Urio of Padua
- SUN 15 MAR—4TH SUNDAY OF LENT; St Zachary, Pope
- MON 16 MAR—St Benedicta of Assisi
- TUE 17 MAR—St Patrick
- WED 18 MAR—St Cyril of Jerusalem
- THU 19 MAR—ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- FRI 20 MAR—St Wulfram of Sens
- SAT 21 MAR—St Serapion the Scholastic
- SUN 22 MAR—5TH SUNDAY OF LENT; St Darcus
- MON 23 MAR—St Turibius de Mogrovejo
- TUE 24 MAR—St Latinus
- WED 25 MAR—SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE LORD
- THU 26 MAR—St Bathus
- FRI 27 MAR—St Augusta of Treviso
- SAT 28 MAR—St Hilarion of Pelecete
- SUN 29 MAR—PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Solemnity of St Joseph
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday 19 March 2026

Celebration Mass
Sunday 22 March, 10:00am
Refreshments afterwards

FINDING SILENCE WITH ST JOSEPH: MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

SAT 21 MAR, 9:00AM—4:00PM, ST JOSEPH'S MOOREBANK

'Finding Silence with St Joseph: Praying with the Leader, Provider, and Protector of the Holy Family' is a day retreat for men dedicated to mental prayer and deep encounter with God. The day will include Mass, Adoration, Retreat Talks, Spiritual Direction and Confession in a spirit and environment of silence.

Cost: \$50 per person.

Clergy, Religious and Seminarians are FREE. Tickets are limited.

Book at: <https://www.tryBooking.com/DHKRV> or scan the QR code:



Bus trip to Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa.
Sunday 17 May.
Bus leaves at 7:30am - \$50 a ticket.
Breakfast provided, please bring your lunch. Bus returns at 2:30pm.
Contact Georgette (0421 286 180) or Kalala (0434 988 030) for more details.



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

NEWSLETTER

15 MAR 2026 | Number 276



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:

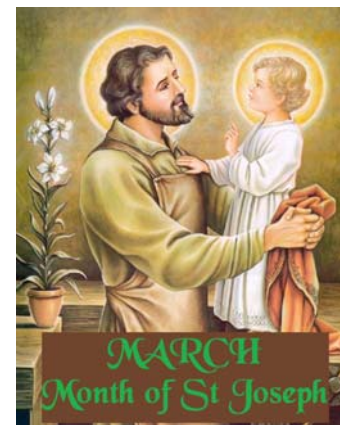
Mon—Sat: 9:00am
Sat: 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Sun: 8:00am & 10:00am
Youth Mass: 7:00pm (First Friday of the Month)
Tongan Mass: 2:00pm (Last Sunday of the Month)
Filipino Mass: 3:00pm (First Sunday of the Month)
RECONCILIATION: Wed 6:00pm-6:45pm, Sat 4:00pm-5:15pm
ADORATION & BENEDICTION: Wed 6:00pm-7:00pm
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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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR TODAY

SPIRITUAL SIGHT RESTORED.

—MyCatholic.life

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him". John 9:1-3



Imagine being blind throughout your life and then suddenly being healed. All of the sounds you had heard from childhood, all that you had touched, tasted, or smelled suddenly took on new form within your imagination as these images registered with sight for the first time. Colours suddenly made sense. Large items, such as trees that you had only heard in the wind and touched with your hands, could be seen from a distance, glimmering in the sunlight. Your mind suddenly perceived in a new way the utensils, clothing, and other items you used dai-

ly. Just as the blind man was filled with awe at receiving his sight, so too is the soul overwhelmed when freed from the blindness of sin and brought into the light of God's grace.

The healed blind man was given a gift that those who can see from birth are not. Perceiving and understanding the physical world only through four of his senses, and then adding the powerful fifth sense of sight later in life, provided immediate wonder and awe, filling him with profound gratitude for something most of us take for granted.

Think of a person who lives a sinful life for many years and understands life only through the distortions of sin and selfishness. Once set free from sin, the person's spiritual eyes are opened. Those who experience such a conversion are given a blessing that those who have been faithful throughout their lives do not receive in the same way. They understand the contrast between spiritual blindness and sight, and the newfound freedom they receive after conversion provides a greater understanding of the gift of God's grace and its transforming effects. They will never forget the weight of bondage once caused by their sin.

One reason God permitted this man to be born blind and live that way into adulthood was to illustrate the contrast between spiritual darkness and light. This is part of what Jesus means when He says this man was born blind "so that the works of God might be made visible through him". The miracle not only illustrated Jesus' divine power but also symbolized the much deeper spiritual healing He offers to all. Just as the blind man received physical sight, we are offered the gift of spiritual sight through grace.

We are born with poor spiritual sight. Our fallen human nature, which suffers from concupiscence, tends toward selfishness and sin. Although capable of love and affection, a child is prone to selfishness, anger, emotional outbursts, and other "childish" behaviour. Over time, with the guidance of good mentors, children begin to understand the value of greater patience and selfless acts of love, kindness, and generosity. Those who are not well-formed as adolescents or who choose to rebel selfishly in their later years never gain a clearer spiritual sight. The world around them remains blurry, and divine wisdom never penetrates their eyes of faith.

The story of the man born blind is an opportunity for each of us to examine how clearly we perceive our lives and the world around us. Just as the man was healed, we need healing from the blindness caused by our fallen nature. God's grace restores our spiritual sight, allowing His light to illuminate all we encounter in life.

Reflect today on your own need to see more clearly. We need our spiritual sight restored and sharpened if we are to perceive ourselves and our world with divine Wisdom. It takes humility to admit we have poor spiritual sight, and profound humility to admit if we are spiritually blinded by sin. Learn from the wonder and awe that this healed blind man experienced, and know that our Lord wants us to have clearer spiritual vision.

My healing Lord, because of my fallen human nature and my sin, I often fail to see the light of truth with clarity. Please heal me, as You healed this blind man, so that I will understand my life and Your will more clearly and be filled with wonder and awe at the reception of that gift. 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 FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

16:1, 6—7, 10—13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons'. When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him', but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart'. Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these'. He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep'. Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes'. Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one'. At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22

R The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

- The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R**
- He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R**
- You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R**
- Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R**

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

5:8—14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

9:1—41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one'. Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man'. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath'. Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' He is a prophet' replied the man. Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord. (Shorter Form, 9:1, 6—9, 13—17, 34—38)

NEXT WEEK: 22 MAR 26—FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR A

READINGS:

Reading 1: *Ezekiel 37:12—14*
Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 129*

Reading 2: *Romans 8:8—11*
Gospel: *JOHN 11:1—45*



PARISH / LOCAL NEWS

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.



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.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS (STATIONS OF THE CROSS)

FRI 20 MAR, 10:00AM, ROCKWOOD CEMETARY
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School with the schools in the Auburn to Lakemba network will have a Way of the Cross at the Memorial Gardens & Waterway Chapel, Rookwood Cemetery. Morning Tea Provided by Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria—Grief Care. Booklets will be provided by the Family Educators of the different schools. Please join us.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR ROBERT GASCOIGNE, Professor of the School of Theology, Australian Catholic University, will present the 5th lecture on the **Gospel of Matthew on Chapter 5—The Moral Theology** found in the Beatitudes.

Friday 20 March, 7:30pm in the Presbytery. **RSVP** Deacon Christopher at Christopher.Roehrig@SydneyCatholic.org or the Parish Secretary at admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au. 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—MARCH

1st—Pietro Milazzo; Keith Lane; Linda M McGlinchy; 2nd—Laurie Worth; Anna M Jemon; Eileen A McQuinn; Anne M Jemon; Enri Magsakay; Thomas P McQuinn; 3rd—Francisco Masejar; 4th—Noeline Smith; 5th—Mary Walters; Alice Cleary; Queenie Grace; 6th—Saturnino C Bonbon; Lucy Murphy; 7th—Angelo John Digilio; 8th—Joseph Khoury; Gary Swanson; Angela Prusicno; Maria R Divola; Marie Naoum; 9th—Sam Lill; Michael O'Connor; 11th—Fred H Weis; Joseph Attie; 12th—Bessem H Khoury; 13th—Charles Feeney; Frederick G Bellingham; 14th—Thomas M Glennon; Teresita McBryde; 15th—Tony Elia; 16th—Violet C Rowan; Ellen McGlynn; Edmund Fernando; Patrick F Steward; Evelyn Florence Hentry; 17th—Henry Attard; Antoine Khoury; Catherine Morris; 19th—Errol Moore; 20th—Helen Fellenw; George Tsafaropoulos; 22nd—Albert Worth; 23rd—Basil T (George) Donnelly; Maria L O'Laco; Francis Sidney Jones; 24th—Noeline McDonald; 26th—Harold Bull; 27th—Thomas L Crow; James K Fisher; Elizabeth Hayer; 28th—Arthur J; Sandra Petris; Myles Huon; Antonia Quinto; 29th—Eva Cummings.

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. Thank you for keeping our church clean.



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.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 14—15 March 2026

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code or online at: www.ProjectCompassion.org.au/donate or call: 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

