

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

- Women share hunger for Christ at Lenten retreats.
 - Catholic religious call for Middle East ceasefire.
 - Archbishop Fisher OP urges unity at annual Iftar dinner.
 - Sydney youth summit to form next generation of leaders.
 - Adelina's story: from the mosque to Catholic music ministry.
 - Synod report examines women's roles.
- Copies available at the entrances for \$2.00. Proceeds to St Vincent de Paul.

KIDS CORNER

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- To be physically ill; not well or healthy
A. tomb B. asleep C. alive D. sick
- To stop living
A. die B. live C. sleep D. resurrection
- To be alive or have life
A. live B. sleep C. sick D. die
- A man that Jesus raised from the dead
A. Mary B. Lazarus C. Martha D. John
- Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
A. Lazarus B. Martha C. Mary D. tomb
- One of Lazarus' two sisters
A. Lazarus B. Martha C. Deborah D. Elizabeth
- A place where someone is buried
A. bed B. live C. die D. tomb
- Rising from the dead or returning to life
A. die B. resurrection C. sick D. asleep

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAYS OF MARCH

MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

- SAT 21 MAR—St Serapion the Scholastic
- SUN 22 MAR—5TH SUNDAY OF LENT;
- 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
- MON 30 MAR—St Dominno of Thessalonica
- TUE 31 MAR—St Daniel of Venice
- WED 1 APR—St Venantius of Spalato
- THU 2 APR—HOLY THURSDAY (THE LORD'S SUPPER)
- FRI 3 APR—GOOD FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
- SAT 4 APR—THE EASTER VIGIL
- SUN 5 APR—EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Saint Joseph, pray for us.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

March 25th

Mass at 9:00am & 7:00pm



PASSIONTIDE SUNDAY

All crucifixes and sacred images in the church are veiled in purple



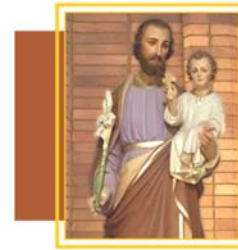
Bus trip to Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa.

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.



St Joseph's

CATHOLIC CHURCH
BELMORE

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

NEWSLETTER

22 MAR 2026 | Number 277



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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR TODAY

JESUS' HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE.

—MyCatholic.life

When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died". When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see". And Jesus wept. *John 11:32-35*

Jesus' humanity shines clearly in today's Gospel. In the face of Lazarus' death, Jesus is deeply moved by the grief around Him. The Gospel says He "became deeply distressed and troubled" and eventually "wept". The Greek word for "deeply distressed," *embrimaomai*, suggests a strong emotional disturbance, even indignation or anger. It could be translated as "He snorted in spirit," indicating an involuntary, visceral response from the depth of His soul. Some commentators suggest Jesus' anger wasn't directed at the people weeping but at the reality of death itself, caused by sin. As God, Jesus knew death was never part of the Father's original plan for humanity. From a divine perspective, He saw death as a consequence of sin. From this point of view, death provoked righteous indignation and deeply troubled His human heart.

As the passage continues, Jesus' humanity is powerfully portrayed in the shortest verse in the Bible: "And Jesus wept". Why did He weep? Saint Paul reminds us in Hebrews: "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus' tears show us that the Holy Trinity knows human pain firsthand. The Incarnate Son allowed Himself to experience sorrow, and the Father and the Holy Spirit shared in this sorrow through Him.

It's important to note that Jesus' sorrow was different from the weeping of Lazarus' sisters and the others present. Jesus' weeping uses the Greek word *edakrysen*, which means "to shed tears" or "weep silently". His tears were personal, controlled, intimate, heartfelt, and full of divine compassion. In contrast, the weeping of the others is described by the Greek

word *klaió*, meaning loud wailing, a typical expression of communal and ritualistic mourning at the time. Jesus' grief was neither ritualistic nor excessive; it was intimate and heartfelt, born from personal sorrow and divine compassion. We must never forget Jesus' deep compassion, empathy, and sorrow. His human heart feels the same emotions we do—He grieves when we grieve, shares in our pain, and is moved by the hold sin has on us. After feeling these emotions at Lazarus' death, Jesus stood outside the tomb and "cried out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'" (John 11:43). We can imagine the passion behind His command. In our lives, when we are trapped in sin or burdened by human weakness, we must hear Jesus calling us to freedom with the same divine authority and human passion.

Reflect today on Jesus' humanity and how He perfectly understands everything we experience. His deep empathy for our suffering and His joy when we rise with His grace show us how intimately He knows us. God became one of us in every way, sharing in our human condition—though without sin—so that we might share in His divinity. Ponder His humanity and let His closeness draw you to Him, giving you a share in His divine life. *Most compassionate Lord, You experienced human nature in its fullness. Though You never sinned, You allowed Yourself to feel the effects of our sin and suffering, filling them with Your divine compassion. Help me to always remember Your humanity, knowing that through it, I come to share in Your divinity. 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 EZEKIEL

37:12—14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this — it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129

R With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord). **R**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R**

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS

8:8—11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

11:1—45

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill'. On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified'. Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, let us go to Judaea'. On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you'. Your brother said Jesus to her 'will rise again'. Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day'. Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world'. Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see'. Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away'. Martha said to him 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day'. Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me. But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me'. When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free'. Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord. (Shorter Form, 11:3—7, 17, 20—27, 33—45)

NEXT WEEK: 29 MAR 26—PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD—YEAR A

READINGS:

Reading 1: Isaiah 50:4—7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8—9, 17—20, 23—24

Reading 2: Philippians 2:6—11

Gospel: MATTHEW 26:14—27:66



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.



Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Every Sunday after 8:00am Mass
Please join us as we prepare for Eucharist 2028

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Friday during Lent, 9:00am & 7:00pm

EASTER OFFERING
Easter Envelopes are now available at the entrances. Please give generously. Thank you

Holy Land Appeal envelopes are now available at the entrances. Please give generously. Thank you

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—Bessema 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.

PROJECT COM-PASSION 2026
Boxes available at the church entrances. Please give generously. Thank you for your generosity.

HOLY WEEK 2026
MASS TIMES

2 APRIL—HOLY THURSDAY
• 7:00pm—Mass of the Lord's Supper
• Adoration until 12:00 midnight

3 APRIL—GOOD FRIDAY
• 9:00am—Stations of the Cross
• 11:00am—2:00pm—Confessions
• 3:00pm—Veneration of the Cross

4 APRIL—THE EASTER VIGIL.
• 7:00pm—Easter Vigil Mass

5 APRIL—EASTER SUNDAY
• 8:00pm—Easter Mass
• 10:00am—Easter Mass

MASS INTENTIONS
Parishioners who are sick. Our Elderly Parishioners. Parishioners celebrating their birthdays.

REPOSE OF SOULS
Christopher Pinto; Alban Dias;
Souls of our dearly departed family members.