

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

- Patriarch receives Sydney welcome.
 - Pope Leo speaks on same-sex blessings.
 - Young athletes shine nationally.
 - Gympie prepares for a new Pentecost.
 - Debate tests pro-life approaches.
 - St Joseph, a silent and faithful guardian.
- Copies available at the entrances for \$2.00. Proceeds to St Vincent de Paul.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAYS OF MAY

MONTH OF MARY

- SAT 2 MAY—St Athanasius
- SUN 3 MAY—**STs PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES**
- MON 4 MAY—St Antonina of Nicaea
- TUE 5 MAY—St Britto of Trier
- WED 6 MAY—St Evodius of Antioch
- THU 7 MAY—St Juvenal of Benevento
- FRI 8 MAY—St Desideratus of Bourges
- SAT 9 MAY—Isaiah the Prophet
- SUN 10 MAY—St John of Avila; St Damian of Molokai
- MON 11 MAY—St Estelle of Saintes
- TUE 12 MAY—Sts Nereus and Archilleus; St Pancras
- WED 13 MAY—Our Lady of Fatima
- THU 14 MAY—St Matthias the Apostle
- FRI 15 MAY—St Alvaro
- SAT 16 MAY—St Simon Stock
- **SUN 17 MAY—THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**



Donate to the Charitable Works Fund Appeal

2 and 3 May 2026

Your generous support today will help us continue the vital charitable works of the Catholic Church. Help advance our faith and care for those who need it most.

Give generously.
Your tax-deductible gift changes lives.



SERIES OF TALKS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

In preparation for the feast of Pentecost, we invite you to join us for a series of talks to deepen your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Sessions will be held weekly from 7:30pm—8:30pm in the hall at St James' Catholic Primary School, Glebe:

- **Thursday 7 May – Fr James Baxter OP** *The Holy Spirit in Liturgical Worship*
- **Thursday 14 May – Fr Chris Caruana OP** *What Happened at Pentecost and Why Does It Matter?*
- **Thursday 21 May – Tania Rimac (Parish Renewal Team)** *Following the Spirit, Living Christ's Call*

All are warmly invited.

Registration is not required, but is appreciated for catering and seating purposes. Scan QR code to register. For further information, please email: pastoral@bbjCatholicParishes.org.au.



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

NEWSLETTER

3 MAY 2026 | Number 283



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

763 Canterbury Road,
BELMORE, NSW 2192
Parish Priest: FR ITA KOLOAMATANGI
Assistant Priest: FR FALAKIKO AFU
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Phone: (02) 9759 1280
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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)
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ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

8 Wilson Avenue,
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Principal: MRS KELLY PISANI
Ph: (02) 9759 1154
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MAY—MONTH OF MARY

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR TODAY

THE WAY TO THE FATHER

—MyCatholic.life

“Where I am going you know the way”. Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”. John 14:4–6



In addition to His parables and moral teachings, Jesus revealed to His disciples deep mysteries in a direct way that they did not immediately comprehend, especially when He spoke to the Twelve in intimate settings, such as the Last Supper, the context for today's Gospel. In this discourse, Jesus explains, in veiled form, that He will soon ascend into Heaven where He will prepare a place for His followers. He explains that because they know Him, they know the way to

where He is going—the way to the Father—because He Himself is that Way. As Jesus spoke these mysterious truths, we can imagine the Twelve listening attentively, yet with confusion. Everything Jesus taught was true. His words, recorded in the Gospels, reveal to us the deepest divine mysteries. Within the Scriptures, we find all we need to know to attain perfect holiness and the eternal life of Heaven. Yet we cannot quickly digest Jesus' words as we might an intriguing novel or history book. There are many layers of depth to what He says, and we can only understand those layers through prayer.

As the conversation continued, “Philip said to him, ‘Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us’. Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’” (John 14:8–9).

Jesus' response likely surprised Philip and the other disciples because they did not understand what He was saying. Their intention was good—they wanted to understand—but Jesus' words were more than they could comprehend at that moment. Despite this, Jesus gently rebuked Philip as a way of drawing him deeper into the mystery He was revealing.

God often treats us the same way. There are many things that we do not understand. Why do innocent people suffer? Why doesn't God heal my loved one in answer to my prayers? Why do my children no longer practice the faith? What am I supposed to do with my life?

Just as Philip struggled to understand Jesus' words, we, too, face moments of confusion when God's ways seem beyond our grasp. God's answer to life's most challenging questions is rarely straightforward or immediate. Why? Because such an approach can never fully satisfy the depth of our hearts. Instead, God reveals a kernel of truth to us and then invites us to ponder it, revealing the divine mystery we seek to understand little by little, to the degree we are open.

The answers we seek come only as we conform our wills to God's, patiently opening ourselves to His Wisdom. Divine mysteries can only be understood through prayer and deep attentiveness to the truths in God's mind. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Only by uniting ourselves to Him in prayer will we discover the path we must walk, the truth we need to hear, and the life we are called to live.

Reflect today on anything you struggle to understand. See yourself as one of the Twelve, listening to Jesus speak, but failing to comprehend. Do not be discouraged; instead, allow the fullness of Jesus' divine Truth to sink in gradually. Spend time in prayer, read the Gospels, be open, and listen from the depths of your heart. Seek out His gentle voice and know that He is your Way, Truth, and Life. Let Him lead you and reveal to you the mysteries of His divine Wisdom so that you, too, know the way to the Father in Heaven.

Most glorious Lord, everything You have revealed to us is pure truth, yet my mind is often incapable of fully comprehending Your Wisdom. Draw me into the many mysteries You wish to reveal, and teach me to pray so that I will more fully comprehend the way to You and to Your Father in Heaven. 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.

KIDS CORNER

Divine Discovery Hunt Word Search

Solve the puzzle with the word bank below. Puzzle based on John 14:15

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

SHOW JESUS LOVE GUIDE

OBEY WORDS FATHER KEEP

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READINGS OF THE DAY

FIRST READING

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

6:1—7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and Wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked.

So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word'. The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicartor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 32:1—2, 4—5, 18—19

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **R.**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **R.**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF ST PETER

2:4—9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring me down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

14:1—12

I am the way, the truth and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going'. Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him'. Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied. "Have I been with you all this time, Philip," said Jesus to him "and you still do not know me?" To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father'.

The Gospel of the Lord.



NEXT WEEK: 10 MAY 26—SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER —YEAR A

READINGS:

Reading 1: Acts 8:5—8, 14—17

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 65:1—7, 16, 20

Reading 2: 1 Peter 3:15—18

Gospel: JOHN 14:15—21

The Word of the Lord

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 Eucharistic 2028



2026 NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE

This weekend, Mass attendance will be conducted at each of our Masses. Please remain until the end of Mass to get our count correct. Thank 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.



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.

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—MAY

1st—James Tyler; Muriel Crockett; Terry Walsh. 2nd—Helen Elia; Rufina Mortillero. 3rd—Alexander Duncan; Jim Bradley. 5th—John Whelan; Mario Lucie De Douza; 6th—Tony Michael; Walter B Stuckey; Maria Mizzi. 7th—Theresa Eid; 9th—Dorris Morgan; Placida Yap. 10th—Myra Folwell; 11th—Nicholina Manganaro; Elizabeth Cividin; G. McDonald; 12th—Nicola Ricco; 14th—Ron Macdonald; 15th—Ann Vuong Tran; Ida Williams; 16th—Valarie Sarah Byrnes; Dominic Camillieri; 17th—Mary Hennessy; Venetta Daniel; Maria Camelotti; 19th—Sister Mary; Tony Calleja; Jack Salmon; 21st—Catherine O'Connor; Lorenza Estepa; Jack Martin; 22nd—Jessica V Eade; 23rd—Rino Lazaric; Joseph Elia; Kalmat Zouki; 24th—John Patrick Weston; Francesca Cantore; 25th—Alfred K Keeble; Jason Shori; Joseph Merciega; 26th—Frederico Valli; Patricia Badaovi; Anne Sheedy; Col Mullen; 27th—James M McKeown; Marie Ritchie; Helen Farah; 28th—Chung Yit Hing (Anna); 29th—Francesca Defina; Michael Kayrooz; 30th—Giovanna Di Giambattista; Colm Mullen; 31st—Guiseppe Attard.

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, please contact the office on **9759 1280** or email admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au. Thank you for keeping our church clean.



NOTICE NO FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED IN CHURCH

MAY- The Month of Mary

During the month of May, we will pray the Rosary. Please join us every night at 6:00pm and after the Saturday Vigil Mass, as we ask Our Blessed Mother for her intercession.
Ave Maria, gratia plena...



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM 2026

DATE	EVENT
Now	Commencement of Registration
Wed 20 May – 7:00pm	Final date for Registration. Information Evening in the Hall.
Sat 30 May – 5:30pm	Commitment Mass Please bring your child's commitment card with you
Sat 30 May – after Vigil Mass	Session One (all hourly sessions, held in the Hall)
Sat 13 Jun – after Vigil Mass	Session Two
Sat 20 Jun – after Vigil Mass	Session Three
Sat 27 Jun – after Vigil Mass	Session Four
Sat 25 Jul – 9:00am – 12:00pm	Reflection / Rehearsal
SUN 2 AUG – 12:30PM	CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, SYDNEY

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.

REPOSE OF SOULS

Souls of our dearly departed family members.