

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE

COMMITMENT STATEMENT

If you or someone you know has experienced abuse, or if you are worried about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult, please know that you are not alone and that help is available. The Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office is available to listen, support you, and provide guidance about reporting options. You can contact the office on (02) 9390 5800 or at SafeguardingEnquiries@SydneyCatholic.org. You may also wish to speak with your Parish Priest, who can offer pastoral care and assist you in taking the next step. The Archdiocese takes all safeguarding concerns seriously and is required to report criminal matters to the police. If there is an emergency or someone is in immediate danger, please contact **NSW Police on 000**.

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

- Australian bishops confront growing divisions.
 - Finding Mary in the Old Testament.
 - Five parishes ignite young adult faith.
 - When pregnancy enters the marketplace.
 - Martyrs' relics find a home at Revesby.
- Copies available at the entrances for \$2.00. Proceeds to St Vincent de Paul.

KIDS CORNER



Mary Visits Elizabeth

A few days later, Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-40 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45

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

GREETING	LEAPED	JOY	TOWN
ZECHARIAH	MARY	ELIZABETH	BABY
MOTHER	CHILD	HOUSE	BLESSED

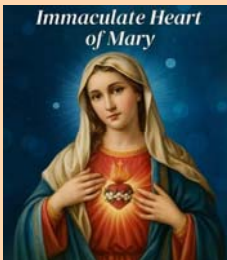
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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAYS OF AUGUST

MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

- SAT 15 AUG—THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
- SUN 16 AUG—St Stephen of Hungary
- MON 17 AUG—St Clare of Montefalco
- TUE 18 AUG—St Helena
- WED 19 AUG—St John Eudes
- THU 20 AUG—St Bernard of Clairvaux
- FRI 21 AUG—St Pius X, Pope
- SAT 22 AUG—The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- SUN 23 AUG—St Rose of Lima
- MON 24 AUG—St Bartholomew the Apostle
- TUE 25 AUG—St Louis; St Joseph of Calasanz
- WED 26 AUG—Our Lady of Czestochowa
- THU 27 AUG—St Monica
- FRI 28 AUG—St Augustine of Hippo
- SAT 29 AUG—The Passion of St John the Baptist
- SUN 30 AUG—St Adaeuctus of Rome



Grace & Truth

4 September 2026
St Mary's Cathedral, 5-8:30PM

Prof. Hayden Ramsay & Fr. James Baxter, OP
and the Dominican Friars and Sisters

Topic: *What and who are you looking for?*

Plus a special announcement
about upcoming 2027 events

Questions: sydney@op-tn.org

Didasko

FAITH FORMATION 2026

The Eucharist and Devotion

Rev Dr Benjamin Johnson OFM Cap

Mondays 17, 24 and 31 August

Online via Zoom
Cost: \$35 per person (+ booking fees)
\$100 for Parish Groups, in-person gathering (+ booking fees)
Register at: gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko



St Joseph's

CATHOLIC CHURCH
BELMORE

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

NEWSLETTER

16 AUG 2026 | Number 298



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:

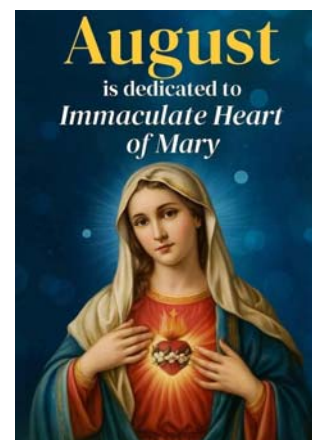
Mon–Sat: 9:00am
Sat: 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Sun: 8:00am & 10:00am
Youth Mass: 7:00pm
(First Friday of the Month)
Tongan Mass: 2:00pm
(Last Sunday of the Month)
Filipino Mass: 3:00pm
(First Sunday of the Month)
RECONCILIATION: Wed 6:00pm–6:45pm,
Sat 4:00pm–5:15pm
ADORATION & BENEDICTION:
Wed 6:00pm–7:00pm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



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR TODAY

Divine Humiliation.

—MyCatholic.life

"It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." Matthew 15:26–28.

Imagine the Son of God referring to you as a dog. For most people, that would be deeply offensive. So why would Jesus do such a thing? He did so, in part, to draw forth from this woman an act of profound humility and faith. Through this moment of divine humiliation, Jesus invited her to rise to a heroic response, prompting Him to exclaim, "O woman, great is your faith!" He desires to do the same with each one of us. When Jesus first encountered this woman, He saw into her soul and perceived the depth of her faith. As God, He knew everything about her—her suffering, her love for her daughter, her perseverance. He also knew He would heal the girl, yet He did not do so immediately. Instead, He engaged in what theology refers to as divine pedagogy—a method of instruction by which God teaches slowly, carefully, and with purpose. In this case, Jesus used the moment to teach His disciples—and us—a profound lesson about humility and unwavering faith. He tested her, and she passed the test marvellously. The location of this encounter is also significant. It took place in the region of Tyre and Sidon, in modern-day Lebanon—a Gentile territory known for its Greek-speaking population and pagan customs. The woman is specifically identified as a Canaanite, evoking the memory of Israel's ancient enemies. And yet, it is precisely this outsider—this woman of seemingly little spiritual privilege—who becomes a model of the faith the chosen people were meant to embody. She first approaches Jesus, crying out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon". By calling Him, "Son of David," she reveals her belief in His messianic identity. But what does Jesus do? Nothing. He appears to ignore her—not because He is displeased or uncaring, but because He is testing her faith, knowing full well she will persevere and shine. God often allows similar experiences in the lives of the faithful. It's easy to assume that if we follow Christ, we will be shielded from difficulty. On the contrary, one of the most powerful ways God forms His saints is by allowing them to undergo trials. These trials, far from being signs of abandonment, are invitations to heroic virtue. They are divine tests. And God never permits more than we can endure by His grace. If that seems confusing or difficult to accept, we need only look to the Son of God Himself. Though Jesus was perfect, it was the Father's will that He endure the deepest depths of humiliation: rejection, persecution, suffering, and death. Through this ultimate "divine pedagogy," the Son not only conquered sin and death but also taught us how to follow Him—by transforming our humiliation into humility, our weakness into strength, and our suffering into sanctification. In this way, God's power is made perfect in our weakness (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9).

As the conversation with the woman unfolds, Jesus continues to appear distant, yet He knows she will not give up. Her faith and her love for her daughter drive her to persevere. She humbly persists through every trial, and in doing so, she wins grace—not only for herself and her daughter, but also for the disciples who witnessed the exchange and for all who read her story today.

Reflect today on the ways God may be inviting you to a deeper faith through silence, delay, or trial. Could He be calling you, like this woman, to heroic humility and steadfast trust? Embrace those moments of divine testing, for they are often the very means by which His greatest works of grace are accomplished—in you and through you. *Divine Teacher and Guide, You teach us through Your Word, Your actions, and even through Your silence. When You are silent in the midst of trials and tribulations, grant me the grace to persevere in faith, trusting that You will never abandon me. Help me to understand that every trial You permit is an invitation to deeper trust, so that Your grace and glory may be revealed in me, and through me, shine forth to others. 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

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants — all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

- O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.
- Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth.
- Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

Ps 66:2—3, 5—6, 8

R.

R.

R.

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now — and only because of the mercy shown to you — will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

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

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.



NEXT WEEK: 23 AUG 26—TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

READINGS:

Reading 1: Isaiah 22:19—23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1—3, 6, 8

Reading 2: Romans 11:33—36

Gospel: MATTHEW 16:13—20

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. 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.



HEALING MASS

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST—6:00PM—
ST JOSEPH BELMORE

Father John Iacono will be having a Healing Mass in our church on Sunday 16 August at 6:00pm. Please join us for this celebration.



ST CARLO ACUTIS RELIC & EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES EXHIBITION

Venue: Campion College, 8-14 Austin Woodbury Place, Toongabbie NSW 2146

EXHIBITION & VENERATION TUE 1 & WED 2 SEP

Exhibition entry is available hourly from 10.00am, with final admission at 4.00pm

PLUS, JOIN US FOR TWO SPECIAL EVENING EVENTS:

5.30pm-9.00pm, Tue 1 Sep -
Evening Prayer and Adoration

5.30pm-9.00pm, Wed 2 Sep -
Guest Lecture and Adoration

FREE REGISTRATION



CAMPION.EDU.AU/EVENTS



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—AUGUST

2nd—Paul Feeney; Peggy Robins; Terezinha Dias De Souza; 3rd—Henrietta Sullivan; Fritz Clair; Sarah Gaul; Joseph P. Sherry; Reg Irland; William Ramalinga; 4th—Ethel E. Kelaher Jnr; 5th—James Humphries; Idea Russie; Martin Paul Nesbitt; 6th—Isabel E. Kaufman; Youseff Abdallah; 7th—Linsay Feeney; Emily Johnston; James Newman; Mary Anne Morgan; 8th—Mary MacKillop; Irene E. Dee; Olga Harter; Mark Luk; Irene M. Sherry; George El Hage; Nicasio Cab; 9th—Marian Mansour; Amelda Hunt; Theodore H. Daus; 10th—Alexander Allan; Elisio Talens; Eusebio Tan; 12th—Selemena Tupaelangi; Mary Elizabeth Crow; Anne Beauchamp; Patrick Cannon; Thomas Reilly; 14th—Veronica Watkins; Raymond Forner; Francis Keating Snr; Ray Hagg; 15th—John C Ongley; Teresa Eipel; Theodore Crockett; Wadeha Caraco; John Ongley; Wadeha Caracoglia; 16th—William J Fletcher; William Nicholas; 17th—John O'Kearns; 18th—Eva Summers; Dolores Cilia; 23rd—Margaret Mary Jenkins; 24th—Eliza & Manuel Matos; 25th—Adelia Pizzirusso; John T. Damm; 26th—Patrick O'Dea; 27th—William H. Watkins; Vida Butcher; Paula Leota; 28th—Nello Moretti; Josephine Dolahenty; 29th—Daniel Draper Cocoran; 30th—Jean B. Spratt; Paul Huon; 31st—Bill Mitchell; Vincenzo Auciello.

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. Please contact the office on **9759 1280** or email admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au if you can help. Thank you for keeping our church clean.



NOTICE NO FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED IN CHURCH

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.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR HOLY COMMUNION 2026

DATES	EVENTS
Sat 22 Aug, 5:30pm	Commitment Mass <i>Please ensure that you have your child's enrolment card is with you.</i>
Sat 22 Aug, 6:30pm – 7:30pm OR Immediately after Mass	Session 1 <i>Venue: All classes are held at the hall</i>
Sat 29 Aug, 6:30pm – 7:30pm	Session 2
Sat 5 Sep, 6:30pm – 7:30pm	Session 3
Sat 12 Sep, 6:30pm – 7:30pm	Session 4
Sat 19 Sep, 9:00am – 12:00pm	Reflection / Rehearsal
Sun 20 Sep, 10:00am Mass	Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

It is a requirement that all candidates along with at least one parent / guardian attend and participate in ALL sessions.

Note: if you miss one lesson, you are most welcome to re-enrol in 2027.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

REPOSE OF SOULS

Souls of our dearly departed family members.