

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

- Archbishop Fisher challenges ABC over VAD
  - Sydney looks to Mary on the feast of her Assumption
  - Catholic Schools chief fronts ICAC
  - The enduring appeal of Simone Weil
  - Clergy and laity learn together at Arête
  - The faith behind a footballing rise.
- Copies available at entrances—\$2.00. St Vincent de Paul.

## KIDS CORNER

### Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- Persons; men, women, and children; human beings  
A. people B. father C. prophet D. man
- To speak  
A. sing B. say C. mime D. rock
- A male child in relation to his parents  
A. daughter B. prophet C. son D. father
- An adult male human being  
A. prophet B. man C. son D. people
- A persons who speaks for God  
A. Christ B. man C. prophet D. father
- A male parent  
A. Christ B. father C. prophet D. church
- The Messiah, as foretold by the prophets  
A. Peter B. Elijah C. Jeremiah D. Christ
- The name that Jesus called Simon  
A. Jeremiah B. Peter C. Elijah D. Christ
- A large stone that sticks up out of the ground or the sea  
A. father B. Christ C. rock D. prophet
- The whole body of believers in Christ  
A. prophet B. rock C. church D. man

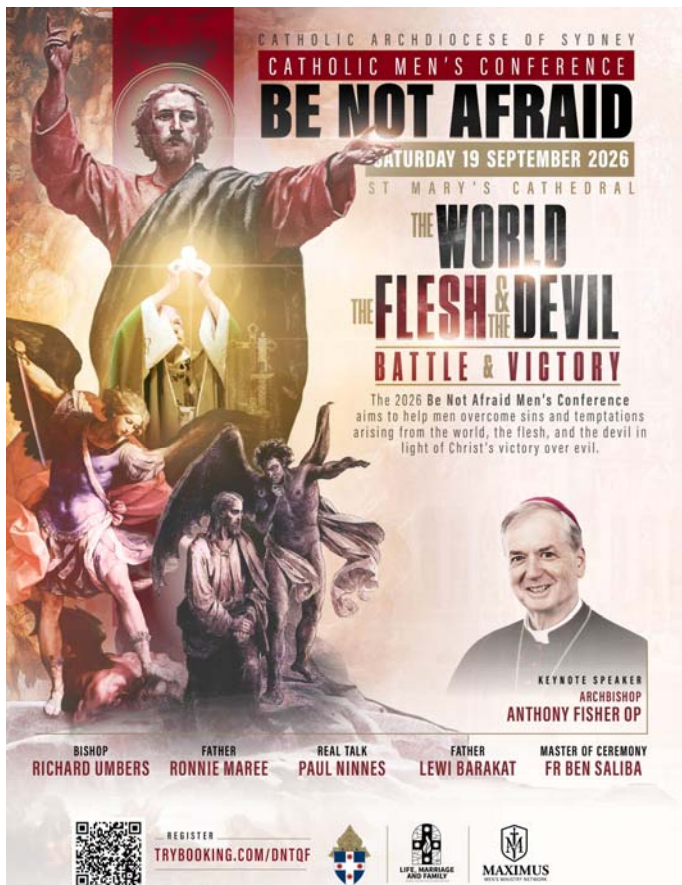
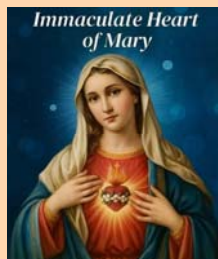
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FEAST DAYS OF AUGUST

#### MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

- 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 Adactus of Rome
- MON 31 AUG—St Rufina of Caesarea



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

## NEWSLETTER

23 AUG 2026 | Number 299



### 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](mailto:admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au)  
[Facebook.com/StJosephBelmore](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephBelmore)  
Web: [www.StJosephBelmore.au](http://www.StJosephBelmore.au)

### MASS TIMES:

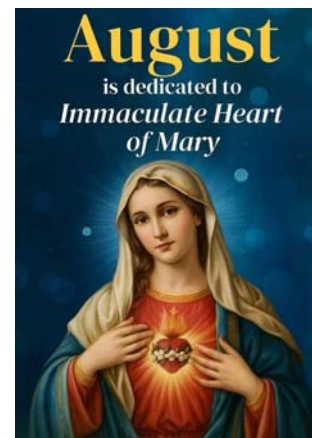
Mon–Sat: 9:00am  
Sat: 5:30pm Vigil Mass  
Sun: 8:00am & 10:00am  
Youth Mass: 7:00pm  
(First Friday of the Month)  
Tongan Mass: 2:00pm  
(Last Sunday of the Month)  
Filipino Mass: 3:00pm  
(First Sunday of the Month)  
**RECONCILIATION:** Wed 6:00pm–6:45pm,  
Sat 4:00pm–5:15pm  
**ADORATION & BENEDICTION:**  
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](mailto:admin@TCCAustralia.org.au)  
Social: [Facebook.com/TCCAustralia1](https://www.facebook.com/TCCAustralia1)  
Web: [www.tccaAustralia.org.au](http://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](mailto:info@StJBelmore.catholic.edu.au)  
Social: [Facebook.com/StJosephsBelmore](https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsBelmore)



## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

### REFLECTION FOR TODAY

#### Overcoming the Gates of Hell.

—MyCatholic.life

*"Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter said in reply, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Matthew 15:26–28.*

The symbolism associated with Caesarea Philippi is central to today's Gospel. Located north of Jesus' home base in Capernaum, it was a predominantly pagan city known for its shrines to false gods. One of the most prominent was Pan, after whom the region was named Panias (later Banias). Pan, a Greek god, was honoured at a shrine near a large cave and spring considered the entrance to Hades. Pan was the god of nature, shepherds, flocks, wild places, fertility, and rustic music, and was often depicted as half man, half goat, with horns and hooves. He played the pan flute and was associated with lust, chaos, and sudden fear—from which we get the word panic.

Additionally, the city was the site of a temple dedicated to the late emperor, Caesar Augustus, who was worshiped as a god throughout the Roman Empire. It was into this spiritually dark pagan setting that Jesus led His disciples—on what may have been a two-day journey—for what culminated in a single, monumental question. Jesus took the Twelve away from the comfort of their familiar fishing village and Jewish neighbours for a reason. He wanted them to answer His question not in the midst of the familiar and safe, but in a place marked by spiritual confusion and idolatry. Why? So that faith could be professed even there, and divine grace could confront the darkness that permeated the region.

At first, He asked who the people said He was. They answered, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." But then He posed the question that reached the heart of His mission: "But who do you say that I am?" This was a moment of divine testing—one which Simon passed with profound faith: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus' extraordinary and consequential response has enduring significance to this day. He declared: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:17–19).

With these sacred words, Jesus founded His Church upon Peter, making him the first pope. In biblical tradition, a change of name signifies a new mission and identity. Simon, son of Jonah, was now to be called Peter—Petros in Greek and Cephas in Aramaic—meaning "rock." Peter became the solid foundation upon which Christ's Church would be built. No pagan power, false god, or earthly ruler would ever overcome what Christ established with divine authority.

Reflect today on the significance of the papacy. Even now, in the successor of Saint Peter, the words of Simon continue to echo throughout the world: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This is the pope's first and most important duty—to bear witness to Christ, the Son of God. Despite the personal weaknesses of some popes and the saintliness of others, it is Jesus who established Peter and his successors as the visible foundation of the Church. Pray for the Holy Father, and trust in the timeless witness of every pope since that first moment in Caesarea Philippi—a witness upheld not by human strength, but by Christ's own promise. To profess faith in the papacy is to profess faith in the One who instituted it and endowed it with His divine authority.

*My Lord, You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. With Simon, I profess this truth and place my faith in You, who established Simon, son of Jonah, as Peter—the rock and foundation of Your Church. I believe and profess that the gates of hell shall never prevail against the Church, not because of human strength or perfection, but because of Your eternal promise. I pray for our Holy Father, the pope, and for all his successors. Make them true and faithful witnesses to the confession first spoken by Saint Peter. 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 place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

R.

R.

R.

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God — how deep his wisdom and knowledge — and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets'. 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God'. Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven'. Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.



22:19—23

Ps 137:1—3, 6, 8

11:33—36

16:13—20

The Word of the Lord

READINGS:

Reading 1: Jeremiah 20:7—9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2—6, 8—9

Reading 2: Romans 12:1—2

Gospel: MATTHEW 16:21—27

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](mailto: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.



Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Every Sunday after 8:00am Mass, from 9:00am - 9:30am. Please join us as we prepare for the Sydney Eucharistic Congress 2028.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR HOLY COMMUNION 2026

| DATES                                                       | EVENTS                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 22 Aug, 5:30pm                                          | Commitment Mass<br>Please ensure that you have your child's enrolment card is with you. |
| Sat 22 Aug, 6:30pm – 7:30pm<br>OR<br>Immediately after Mass | Session 1<br>Venue: All classes are held at the hall                                    |
| 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.

Prayer Requests & Special Intentions

Please contact the Parish Office for your prayer requests and intentions. Email: [admin@StJosephBelmore.org.au](mailto: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

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

THANK YOU!

To ALL who helped in any way to make our celebration of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary a success. Special thanks to our various multi-cultural communities, Fr Talia, St Therese Lakemba, all who contributed food, the choir, Road Safety marshals, carriers and the organisers who did all the work in the background. On behalf of Fr Ita and Deacon Chris, thank you St Joseph parishioners and all involved. May God continue to bless you all. Queen assumed into Heaven, pray for us.

THE LITURGY OFFICE PRESENTS A SERIES OF TALKS ON SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

7 SACRAMENTS

7 CONSECUTIVE TUESDAYS | 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER TO 3<sup>rd</sup> NOV 2026 | 6:30PM TO 9:00PM

HOLY INNOCENTS' PARISH HALL | CNR OF QUEEN ST & CHELTENHAM RD, CROYDON

| SESSION 1                                                                                                                          | SESSION 2                                                                                                                    | SESSION 3                                                                                                          | SESSION 4                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS<br>TUESDAY 22 <sup>nd</sup> SEP 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>              | SACRAMENTS OF HEALING   ANOINTING OF THE SICK<br>TUESDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> OCT 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup> | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   HOLY ORDERS<br>TUESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> OCT 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup> | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   MATRIMONY<br>TUESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> NOV 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup> |
| SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION   BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION<br>TUESDAY 29 <sup>th</sup> SEP 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup> | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   HOLY ORDERS<br>TUESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> OCT 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>           | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   MATRIMONY<br>TUESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> NOV 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>    | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   MATRIMONY<br>TUESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> NOV 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup> |
| SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION   EUCHARIST<br>TUESDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> OCT 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>                 | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   HOLY ORDERS<br>TUESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> OCT 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>           | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   MATRIMONY<br>TUESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> NOV 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>    | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   MATRIMONY<br>TUESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> NOV 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup> |
| SACRAMENTS OF HEALING   PENANCE<br>TUESDAY 13 <sup>th</sup> OCT 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>                     | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   HOLY ORDERS<br>TUESDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> OCT 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>           | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   MATRIMONY<br>TUESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> NOV 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup>    | SACRAMENTS OF SERVICE   MATRIMONY<br>TUESDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> NOV 2026   6:30 <sup>PM</sup> - 9:00 <sup>PM</sup> |

PRESENTED BY DR MARIUSZ BILINIEWICZ  
DIRECTOR OF THE LITURGY OFFICE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY | LITURGY OFFICE | SCAN OR CODE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE AND REGISTER | [liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/news-events](http://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/news-events)



MASS INTENTIONS

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

REPOSE OF SOULS

Souls of our dearly departed family members.