

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

- The night Sydney's streets belonged to St Joseph
- Telehealth not needed for VAD access: Quinlan
- The archbishop who refused to manage decline
- What do newly weds need? We're asking them
- Archbishop Fisher calls for balance between protest and worship.

Copies available at entrances—\$2.00. Proceeds go to St Vincent de Paul.

KIDS CORNER



Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Matthew 16:24 (NIV)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FEAST DAYS OF AUGUST

MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

- SAT 29 AUG—The Passion of St John the Baptist
- SUN 30 AUG—St Adaeuctus of Rome
- MON 31 AUG—St Rufina of Caesarea

FEAST DAYS OF SEPTEMBER

MONTH OF THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY

- TUE 1 SEP—St Sixtus of Rheims
- WED 2 SEP—St Agricola of Avignon
- THU 3 SEP—St Gregory the Great
- FRI 4 SEP—St Theodore the Martyr
- SAT 5 SEP—St Teresa of Calcutta
- SUN 6 SEP—St Sanctian of Sens



St Joseph's

CATHOLIC CHURCH
BELMORE

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

NEWSLETTER

30 AUG 2026 | Number 300



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.au

MASS TIMES:

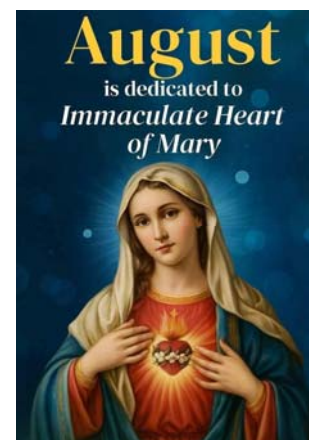
Mon–Sat: 9:00am
Sat: 5:30pm Vigil Mass
Sun: 8:00am & 10:00am
Youth Mass: 7:00pm
(First Friday of the Month)
Tongan Mass: 2:00pm
(Last Sunday of the Month)
Filipino Mass: 3:00pm
(First Sunday of the Month)
RECONCILIATION: Wed 6:00pm–6:45pm,
Sat 4:00pm–5:15pm
ADORATION & BENEDICTION:
Wed 6:00pm–7:00pm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



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

REFLECTION FOR TODAY

A Stark Contrast.

"Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Matthew 16:23.

This scene likely unfolds in or near Caesarea Philippi, a Gentile region steeped in pagan worship. There, at the mouth of a cave long associated with the entrance to the underworld—believed by some pagans to be the very gate of Hades—Jesus had just questioned His disciples: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" and then more directly, "But who do you say that I am?" (cf. Matthew 16:13–15). Peter, speaking with conviction on behalf of the Twelve, boldly proclaimed, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Jesus responded by declaring him "Peter," the rock upon which He would build His Church, promising that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Just moments later, Jesus issues one of the strongest rebukes recorded in the Gospels: "Get behind me, Satan!" The same Peter who had just spoken divine truth now speaks human fear and short-sightedness. In trying to dissuade Jesus from His suffering and death, Peter unknowingly opposes the very mission of the Messiah. Jesus calls this mindset not merely a mistake, but a diabolical temptation—echoing the same temptation He faced in the desert, when Satan sought to lure Him away from the Cross with promises of worldly glory.

What a stark contrast. Peter goes from being the rock of faith to an obstacle in the Lord's path. But why was Jesus so severe in His response?

Because the stakes were eternal. The Cross is not optional. It is the means of salvation—not just for Jesus, but for all who would follow Him. To think otherwise, even with good intention, is to prefer human comfort over divine wisdom. Peter's protest reflects a natural aversion to suffering, but Jesus exposes it for what it truly is: a stumbling block to the will of the Father. This dramatic Gospel scene is recorded for a reason. By calling Peter "Satan," Jesus wanted to warn him—and us—of the real and ever-present danger of rejecting the way of the Cross. Like Peter, we can easily fall into the trap of wishful thinking and misguided compassion by saying about ourselves or those close to us, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen..." We are saying, in essence: "Lord, please make sure that neither I nor anyone I love ever has to suffer!" But such a prayer, though well-meaning, is clearly mistaken, and Jesus wants that point to be clearly understood.

Peter was troubled because "Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." But all that Jesus revealed about His suffering was good—very good. Though His suffering was inflicted by the sins of others, His free and loving embrace of that suffering was the greatest act of love the world has ever known. Peter was blinded to this truth. He could not yet see beyond the horror of suffering to the divine good that would come through Jesus' sacrificial embrace of it.

Reflect today on Peter's and Jesus' words: "God forbid, Lord!" and "Get behind me, Satan!" In this exchange, Jesus is also speaking to each of us, saying, "Never run from the Cross!" We must never flee from a selfless and sacrificial embrace of suffering, even when that suffering is unjust. God can and will transform all freely embraced suffering into a means of His eternal glory and our sanctification. With our Lord, reject the evil one's false empathy. Reject the lie that suffering is meaningless. Choose instead to lay down your life in love with Christ, and in doing so, you will rise with Him, victorious over every sin and diabolical lie, overcoming even the sufferings of this life through your free and faithful embrace.

My compassionate Lord, Your firm rebuke of Peter was direct, powerful, and loving. Rather than offering false comfort or misleading empathy, You spoke a hard truth to awaken Peter—and all of us—to the spiritual necessity of the Cross. Grant me the grace, dear Lord, to say "Yes" to the suffering I must face. May I embrace it not with fear or resistance, but with a heart filled with Your love and unwavering courage. 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 JEREMIAH

20:7—9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more'. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62:2—6, 8—9

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. R.
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. R.
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. R.
4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. R.

SECOND READING

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS

12:1—2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

16:21—27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour'.

The Gospel of the Lord.



NEXT WEEK: 6 SEP 26—TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

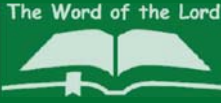
READINGS:

Reading 1: Ezekiel 33:7—9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1—2, 6—9

Reading 2: Romans 13:8—10

Gospel: MATTHEW 18:15—20



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.



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 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 **except, the Parent Information Evening.**

* 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 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.

St Joseph Belmore YOUTH Group

7:00pm - Youth Mass First Friday of every month All welcome Refreshments in the hall after Mass

ONLINE WITH IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

CALLED & GIFTED DISCERNMENT PROCESS

The path to discerning your charisms

DISCERN YOUR CHARISMS | GROW IN FREEDOM | BUILD THE KINGDOM

Wed 9 Sept - Wed 25 Nov 2026 | \$95 (booking fees limited places)

gomakedisciples.org.au/called-gifted-discernment-process/

MASS INTENTIONS

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

REPOSE OF SOULS

Souls of our dearly departed family members.