



Third Sunday of Advent Year A

11 December 2016

First Reading **Is 35:1-6, 10**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
God himself will come and save us.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

Second Reading **Jas 5:7-10**

A reading from the letter of St James

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel **Mt 11:2-11**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



Carols Festival
21 December
7.30pm

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
 pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
 T (02) 9644 7787

Priests in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari, Cor Bishop
 T (02)8723 9192
 M 0418 459 431

Fr Mark Spora
 Pastor Emeritus SJW

Parish Secretary

Marisa Squadrito
 Tues to Fri 9am -3pm
 T (02) 9644 7787

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)
 T. 0402071849
 Karim Kassis (Vice Chair)
 T. 0408404130
 Maureen Hynes (Secretary)
 Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),
 Micheline Botham (Social
 Committee)
 Jenny Michael (Liturgy Committee)
 Pat Kavanagh (Social Justice),
 Jann Rockliff (Hospital Visit) ,
 Joe Moses, Rhia Victorino, Danny
 Pavicic, Arthur Doumit and
 Principals of the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
 T (02) 9644 8859
 Micheline Botham (Secretary)
 0422939342,
 Joe Moses, Ingrid Scharenguivel &
 Brendon Nazareth

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
 T. 96449083
 Principal - Phil Townsend
 Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South
 T. 96461434
 Principal - Gai Melville
 Family Educator - Angela Finnane

Parish Diary This Week!

Monday	6.45am Mass
Tuesday	Feast St Lucy 6.45am Mass 9.00am Mass at Auburn South
Wednesday	Feast St John of the Cross 6.45am & 9.15am - Mass 7.00pm Meditation in the Jubilee Hall
Thursday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass 9.00am Playgroup in the Mark Spora Room 6.00pm Legion of Mary (SJW Hall) 7.00pm Xmas Luncheon meeting 7.00pm Psalmist practice at 8 Wallace St Sefton 7.30pm General Choir Practice at Maureen's house (as above) for Carol Festival & Christmas Masses,
Friday	6.45am Mass & 9.15am Mass
Saturday	8.00am Mass 9.00am - 10.00am Adoration, Novena, Reconciliation 5.00pm Sunday Vigil Mass 4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday	8.00am Mass at SJW Church Auburn Sth 4th Sunday of Advent 10.00am Mass 4th Sunday of Advent 4.00pm Final Choir Practice for Carol Festival and Christmas Masses IN THE CHURCH.

Mass Intentions

Anniversaries: John Rockliff
Deceased: Peter Francis Smith, Rosemary Dutton
Deceased members and friends of : Ross & Mitchell Families, Erwin
 & O'Dwyer Families

May their Souls Rest In Peace

"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel
 at the Amarille home,
 15 Johns Rd, Berala.
 Please join them any evening at 7.30pm
 for the Rosary
 To host the Pilgrim Statue from St Peter Chanel
 contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

ROSARY STATUE from St Joseph the Worker
 To host the Rosary Statue from St Joseph the Worker
 contact the Legion of Mary.



Just for laughs!

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures illustrating Biblical stories. The teacher walked by and noticed one little boy was drawing an airplane! "Oh, what Bible story are you drawing?" she asked. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy answered. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."



Alcohol and Drug Information Service: (Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats

Carmelites Varroville - www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby - www.divineretreatcentre.org.au

Sara's place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 96998190

Is he the Christ, or do we have to wait for someone else?

“John in his prison had heard what Jesus was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’” (Mat11:2-3) I can relate to the confusion and doubt of John the Baptist in prison. Like John, I was preparing the people of Palar Parish in India for Christ. I was their first Parish Priest. Therefore it was my duty to organise the parish. In my attempt to build up the Body of Christ in Palar, after much thought and prayer, announced a First Friday devotion. To my disappointment, not a single parishioner turned up for the prayers. Then I was feeling like John; taken away from my ministry and imprisoned. Just as John’s preaching and work seemed futile. Such were my feeling too. I was tempted to substitute Bible prayers and Sacraments with Social action and Psychology for the benefit of the people of Palar. I had a kind of doubt whether Christ is the real saviour Palar was waiting for. But I did not send disciples like John to Jesus to ask him whether Christ is the saviour Palar is waiting for, or should we look someone else. Palar really needed salvation from problems like alcoholic addiction, illicit activities, violence, aimless life, poverty etc. It was a group of broken people who needed a saviour.



John sent disciples to ask Jesus the question, but I asked him directly. The way I did it was like this. Each morning before Mass I sat in meditation focussing on Jesus until he gave me an answer. I did not get any apparitions. But He came to me in flesh and bone in the form of other people. Out of the blue one of the parishioners came to me requesting a Bible Prayer be conducted at their house. I agreed to do so as long as they invited some more of their acquaintances, like neighbours. From the first one, there were more requests for similar prayer services and it became a chain reaction of numerous prayer sessions. Within 2 years miracles happened in this place. A place which was full of ganga (weed) cultivation and moon shine business turned away from their illicit practices. Looking back at those experiences, I would say, Our Lord, when I sought his answer through my meditation prayers, was telling me, ‘what do you hear and see? The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are made clean’ (ref Mt 11:4:5). Yes I could see the people of God in Palar seeing things in life with eyes of Christ, those who could not stand on their own legs are now able to get up and go forward in their lives, and they have regained their dignity like a healed leper of Jesus’ time. I am fully convinced that Jesus Christ is the saviour and he was present to Palar through Church for which I was the priest and prophet.

Here in our parish I am not alone trying to listen to Jesus. I am pleased that there are a number of people professing Jesus Christ is the Saviour who can open the eyes of the blind, make the lame walk, and restore dignity to those who are marginalised. Let us be together in our listening to Christ and telling the world that our God is working among the humanity as its saviour.

Christmas Giving Trees

At SJW Church: Tags are on the tree which can be taken and attached to presents for the needy for Christmas. Please return the presents soon so that they can be distributed before Christmas. Your participation is appreciated.

At SPC Church: The Tree has been erected in the entrance of the church and all are invited to leave a gift. Please label wrapped gifts with who they may be most appropriate for (i.e. child, man). Your generosity will help bring a smile to those less fortunate.



Christmas Schedule 2016

Wednesday 21 December

7.30pm Carols Festival at SPC Berala

Friday 23 December

7.30pm Second Rite Reconciliation at SPC Berala

Saturday 24 December

7.00pm Mass at SPC Berala with children & families.

Children are invited to dress up as shepherds,
Magi (kings), angels.

12.00am Solemn Midnight Mass at SPC Berala

Sunday 25 December

8.00am Mass at SJW Auburn South

10.00am Mass at SPC Berala

11.00am - 3.00pm Christmas Lunch in the Jubilee Hall

Monday 26 December

10.30am Mass (Anniversary of Ordination for Fr Thomas)





Parish Carol Festival

7.30pm Wednesday, 21 December

On the lawn beside St Peter Chanel Church

Bring along rugs and picnic baskets if you wish.

Electronic candles can be purchased for \$2 on the night.

All Welcome!

Choir Practice for Carols & Christmas

There are 3 more choir rehearsals left before our Carols and Christmas Masses. **This Sunday (11th) at 4.00pm** (not 5.00pm as previously advised) and Thursday (15th) at 7.30pm at 8 Wallace St Sefton. Our last practice will be next Sunday (18th) at 4.00pm in St Peter Chanel Church.

Christmas Masses Roster

The Liturgy Roster for all Christmas Masses is now being organised. There are 4 Masses over Christmas - The Vigil Mass, Midnight Mass, 8.00am at St Joseph the Worker Church and 10.00am at St Peter Chanel Church. Please let the parish office know if you are available to read, do the offertory, be a Special Minister, open the Church Shop or be a Greeter at any of these Masses.

Advent Recollection Day for Women: Prepare the Way of the Lord

You are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia for a day of recollection, prayer and fellowship on Saturday December 17th 2016 at St. Peter Chanel's Parish Hall. The day will include: Mass (8am); Adoration and Confession (9am); Welcome and morning tea (10am) followed by talks given by the Sisters and time for personal recollection. The day will end at 4.30pm and 5pm Vigil Mass is available. Please bring a plate to share for lunch. more info contact Dominican Sisters: sydney@op-tn.org or PH:96442786

Looking for Baby Jesus

The Christmas Vigil Mass at 7pm on Saturday, 24 December is meant to focus on families with children. We usually have a tableau of the Holy Family with child Jesus in front of the Crib in the church. We are looking for a family with a baby to do this part. Please contact the parish office or Fr Thomas to volunteer

The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Invite all who wish
to share the joy of Christmas with others
to a Christmas Lunch
Food and drink provided

Date: 25 December 2016

**Place: Jubilee Hall, 64 Kingsland Rd Berala
(next to church)**

Time: 11am to 3pm

RSVP for lunch and transport: Please phone Anne or
Christine no later than Friday 16 December on 96437794

For further details please contact
Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378 or Arthur Doumit on 0417 270 923

Christmas Lunch Donations

Donations are needed for our luncheon on Christmas day to ensure it is a success. We require donations of salads, desserts, meat, hot food and alcoholic drinks. If you can help please fill in the Christmas Lunch Donation Sheet located at the rear of the church. Together we can bring some joy to many. For more details contact Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378

Introduction to Meditation

Meditation is an art of praying used by many contemplative spiritual leaders in the history of the Church. Fr Thomas will be giving an introduction to Meditation. This talk will refer to Christian Contemplative schools of Hesychasm, Desert Fathers, Ignatian Spirituality, and Eastern contemplative schools of Vipasana and Pathangali Yoga.

Venue: Jubilee Hall Date: Wednesday, 14 December Time: 7 PM – 8.30 PM Cost: Free
To enrol please contact the parish office.

Foreign Coins

This photo shows the number of coins from other countries that have been placed on the collection plates over a period of time. As there is no process in place that would enable us to swap these coins for Australian currency, the coins are virtually worthless. Your assistance is sought in ensuring only Australian coins are placed on the collection plates.

In addition to the abovementioned coins, we also have a number on NZ \$2 and \$1 coins. If you are planning to visit New Zealand any time soon, we are prepared to sell these coins to you at a favourable exchange rate. Contact John Le Mottee, 9644 8859, for details.



Happy Birthday Fr Mark!

To celebrate Fr Mark Spora's birthday and the anniversary of the Legion of Mary, there will be a special morning tea after the 8.00am Mass at St Joseph the Worker Church this Sunday. Please join us for birthday cake and light refreshments.

Enrolment in Sydney Catholic Systemic Secondary Schools

From 2017, all Sydney Catholic Secondary Systemic schools will be enrolling students for year 7 two years before their intended start date.

This means that, for students in year 5 in 2017, enrolment applications, interviews and offers of place will be conducted at Sydney Catholic Secondary schools over the course of 2017.

The earlier enrolment timing will give parents greater assurance of securing a place for their child so that they can follow a continuous Catholic education pathway from Kindergarten to Year 12.

For more information, please contact the principal at your child's Sydney Catholic School.

From the REC at St Joseph the Worker Primary School

As we come to the end of 2016, we reflect on the Jubilee Year of Mercy as a time of forgiveness, mercy and compassion. Pope Francis called us to conversion in our own lives so that we could bring the face of God's mercy to the world by doing both Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

These Corporal Works of Mercy are based on the Scripture passage:

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Mt 25:34,36).



This year the staff at St Joseph the Worker have been involved in these works of mercy. We made hamper donations to the Sisters of Charity Outreach Centre, assisting a local refuge, as well as the elderly associated with the Centre. Last week I dropped off two Christmas hampers to the Outreach Centre at St Vincent's Hospital. Here's a photo of Lizzie (one of the workers at the Centre) with one of the hampers. Our school community also generously donated Christmas hampers to the St Vincent de Paul Society.



This week we also celebrated Christmas with our Christmas Carols Celebration. It was such a joyful occasion with the children singing both modern and traditional carols with great enthusiasm! They also enacted the Nativity story, reminding us that Christmas is a time when we recall how God came to be with us and show us how life should be lived.





Our Lady of the Rosary

Catholic Primary School, Fairfield

20 Vine Street, Fairfield NSW 2165
Website: <http://www.olfairfield.catholic.edu.au>
Email: info@olfairfield.catholic.edu.au

Telephone: 9727 9064
Facsimile: 9724 9229
Canteen: 9754 2738

Reverend Father Thomas Kurunthanam
Parish Priest
Parish of St Peter Chanel and St Joseph's Berala
60 Kingsland Road
BERALA NSW 2141

December 1 2016

Dear Father Thomas

On behalf of the Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School Community, Fairfield, may I thank you, the Parish Pastoral Council and your parishioners for the very generous donations of food and drink items you collected to make up Christmas food hampers for the refugee families in our school community.

We have been overwhelmed by your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity. Your donations will go such a long way in helping these families new to Australia to have a happy Christmas. I am sure the families, as well as our school, will remember you and your generosity in their Christmas prayers.

This week we enrolled our fourteenth refugee student from Iraq. The children who have joined this school over the last two terms have all arrived in Australia from Iraq after journeying through Lebanon or Jordan on the way. The children and their families have endured much strife and heartache. Fortunately, the students are now very settled and happy in our school community where they find a safe, secure, caring Christian environment.

I am very grateful to Phil Townsend for his initiative in bringing the refugee situation in Fairfield to your attention and I am similarly grateful to Jenny Michael for her conversations with me about this idea and also transporting the donated items to the school.

Over the next week I shall ensure the food hampers are delivered to our refugee families and other needy families in the school community. They will be very surprised but most thankful, grateful and appreciative of your kindness.

May God bless the good work that is happening in the Berala Parish where you are certainly building the Kingdom of God.

Advent and Christmas blessings.

Yours sincerely

Brother Nicholas Harsas, fsp
PRINCIPAL

POSITION VACANT: CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH, BERALA PART-TIME PASTORAL CO-ORDINATOR

The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph, Berala, invites applications from suitably qualified persons interested in taking on the role of Pastoral Co-ordinator. This is a part time position working 24 hours per week with flexible schedule per mutually agreed times.

The primary purpose of this role is to co-ordinate and manage the pastoral activities of the parish, in conjunction and collaboration with the parish priest and various groups of the parish. This role is responsible for assisting the Parish Priest to provide leadership within the parish and support him in the pastoral care of the Parish.

The Pastoral Co-ordinator will be a person of faith and commitment to the mission of Catholic Church, with a solid understanding of Liturgy and Sacraments, possessing superior communication skills, and demonstrated capability to work in an organised and systematic way, in collaboration with the leadership team.

A demonstrated level of computer literacy, including Microsoft Office, and administrative skills are essential requirements for this position.

An understanding of and commitment to Catholic values and teachings is required.

Remuneration negotiable. Please indicate your expected remuneration when applying.

For a copy of the position description contact the parish office by email at info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au or by telephone on 02 9644 7787

To apply for this position please forward your application and resume to:

Parish Priest
St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Parish
60 Kingsland Road
BERALA NSW 2141
or
email: pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Applications close on Thursday 22 December 2016

Other Notices

Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria – Annual Christmas Remembrance Service. Sunday, 18 December commencing at 7.30pm, St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. You and your family are warmly invited to a service to remember family and friends who are no longer with us with music by Artes Christi. For Further information please contact 1300 114 997 or events@catholiccemeteries.com.au.

Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria – Family Twilight Carols. Thursday, 15 December from 7.00 – 8.00pm. Mausoleum of the Resurrection Chapel, Barnet Ave, Rookwood Catholic Cemetery. All welcome and invited to bring a plate to share after the service. A 'special guest' will also make an appearance for the children. For further information please contact 1300 114 997 or events@catholiccemeteries.com.au.



Lights of Christmas 8 Dec-25 Dec. Once again, St Mary's Cathedral will light up this Christmas with inspiring and reflective projections of the Christmas season. **FREE EVENT!** St Mary's Cathedral Forecourt 8-25 Dec each night from 7.30pm-12.00am
www.lightsofchristmas.com.au

Feasts of the Week



13 December - St Lucy Died at Syracuse in Sicily, probably in the persecution of the emperor Diocletian in 304. Widely venerated from the earliest times, her memorial has long been kept on this day. Probably because her name is suggestive of light, her intercession has been sought for eyesight problems. Named in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon) and remembered as a youth, radiant with Christian faith and courage.

14 December - St John of the Cross Born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain). Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the disalced Carmelites. Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.



Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, come and save us .

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Next Week's Readings:

Is 7:10-14
Rom 1:1-7
Mt 1:18-24



Holy Mass at Berala

Monday to Friday 6.45am
Wednesday to Friday 9.15am
Saturday 8.00am
Saturday 9.00am Adoration & Novena.

Holy Mass at Auburn South

Tuesday 9.00am
(during school term only)

Lord's Day Mass Berala

Saturday 5.00PM (Vigil)
Sunday 10.00AM

Lord's Day Mass Auburn South

Sunday 8.00AM

Reconciliation at Berala

Saturday 9.00AM - 10.00AM.
Or contact Parish Office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the Parish Office

St Peter Chanel & St Joseph the Worker Rosters - Next Week

18 DECEMBER 2016		FOURTH SUNDAY ADVENT	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Robert JAKSIC
ORGANIST	Renee SALAR		SAMOAN
CANTOR	Renee & YOUTH CHOIR		CHOIR
LECTOR/S	John DONNELLAN	Ken HARTMAN	Maureen HYNES
	Noelene DONNELLAN	Jenny MICHAEL	Hoa NGUYEN
COMMENTATOR	Jann ROCKLIFF	Joe MOSES	Hilary NGUYEN
GIFTS			CHILDRENS LITURGY
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Pam SNELL
SP. MINISTER	Janet RYAN		Karen NGUYEN
CHURCH SHOP	Adele MELER		Mervin VICTORINO
GREETER		Loutoa OLIE	E LUI, V NAZARETH
HOSPITALITY			Micheline BOTHAM
HOSPITAL VISITATION SAT : C Parish		ALTAR: Group 1 G DeAlkstrand, M Lewis, A Manganaro	
HOSPITAL COMMUNION SUN: J Skerritt & R Javier		COUNTERS: Group 3 K Hartman; A Tham; R Cheema	
CLEANERS - SPC: L & P Lopez SJW: Maronite Group		CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sharon Iacono	

Planned Giving Program Request Form

Your contribution to the Planned Giving Program of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the Financial Year you will receive a Receipt for your contributions which will enable you to claim Tax deduction. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate

Your Name:.....

Telephone No Email

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes. YES/NO Tax deduction (please circle)

Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent for completion)