



Second Sunday Ordinary Time—Year A

15 January 2017

First Reading *Is 49:3. 5-6*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified';
I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord,
my God was my strength.
And now the Lord has spoken,
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
to gather Israel to him:
'It is not enough for you to be my servant,
to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;
I will make you the light of the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Second Reading *1 Cor 1:1-3*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace..

Gospel *Jn 1:29-34*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

SCRIPTURAL

CONTEXT

Baptism of Jesus

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

GOSPEL FOCUS

Ranking

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.



*Australia Day
Mass at 9.15 am
Morning tea to follow*

Parish Diary This Week!

Monday	6.45am Mass
Tuesday	Feast St Anthony the Great 6.45am Mass
Wednesday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass
Thursday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass 6.00pm Legion of Mary (SJW Hall)
Friday	6.45am Mass & 9.15am Mass
Saturday	Feast St Agnes 8.00am Mass 9.00am - 10.00am Adoration, Novena & Reconciliation 5.00pm Mass
Sunday	8.00am Mass at SJW Church Auburn Sth 10.00am Mass

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

Lea Baldoria
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

Mass Intentions

Sick: Maria Cicuto, Sr Carol Pedersen RSC, Sr Aileen Thomas RSC
Recently Deceased: Teodulfa Estrada
Deceased members and friends of : Ross & Mitchell Families, Erwin
& O'Dwyer Families,



"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel
at the Amores home, 35 Fourth Ave, 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.



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Sean James Deehan
Daniel Patrick Bickford
Finn Patrick Deehan

May they always know the love of God and
feel His guiding hand throughout their lives



Before performing a baptism, the priest approached the
young father and said solemnly, "Baptism is a serious
step. Are you prepared for it?"

"I think so," the man replied. "My wife has made
appetizers and we have a caterer coming to provide
plenty of cookies and cakes for all of our guests."

"I don't mean that," the priest responded. "I mean, are you prepared
spiritually?"

"Oh, sure," came the reply. "I've got a keg of beer and a case of
whiskey."

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

Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats Ph: 4236 0533

Carmelites Varroville - www.carmeliteretreats.com.au Ph: 8795 3400

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby - www.divineretreatcentre.org.au Ph: 4372 1598

Sara's place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 9699 8190

Saints of the Parish

I, Thomas, a priest of Christ, greets the Church of God in Berala, Regents Park, and Auburn South, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to Our Lord Jesus Christ.



Does my greeting sound a bit strange to you? When you read the first two verses of the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, you will know where I am coming from. Saint Paul called the members of the Church in Corinth saints. By the same logic, you my parishioners also are saints. Who is a saint? Do you have to be totally free of moral corruption to be a saint? Human limitations make it impossible to be free of moral imperfections. It is our nearness to Christ that makes us holy. For Paul, those who pray to Jesus Christ in spirit and truth are the saints. The best way to pray to Christ is in the Eucharist, just as the Apostles and the early Church has shown us. We can get close to God is through Holy Communion in the Eucharist.

Once we are very close to Jesus Christ through the Eucharist, we too can introduce Christ to others as the saviour to follow as John the Baptist did. John was very close to Jesus. Therefore he could confidently say that He is greater than any prophets and fathers of faith including Abraham. Similarly our nearness to Christ will enable us to direct people to Christ and find joy in it, just as John did. Therefore, my dear saints of this parish, let us be active in inviting people to meet and experience Christ.

Marisa Moving on

Marisa has been our parish secretary since June 2014. She has been an efficient secretary. Now she has left Berala Parish to assume duties as Family Educator at All Hallows Five Dock. In addition to being Parish Secretary, she had been coordinating the Sacramental team and making sure there has been a smooth transition of the Program from School based to Parish based. The parish and I particularly will miss her. I wish her best wishes with her new appointment.

Lea Baldoria will take over the position of Secretary on Tuesday. Lea comes with great experience and expertise in secretarial position. The parish welcomes her and wishes her all the best.

Fr Thomas



Lea Baldoria

Thank you



As I move on to a new challenge I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your warmth and friendship in my role as Parish Secretary at Berala. I thank Fr Thomas for giving me the opportunity to be part of this lovely community and I will keep the parish of St Peter Chanel and St Joseph always in my prayers.

Marisa Squadrito

Lectors Training

Lectors (Readers of the Word of God at Mass) give voice to God's healing, strengthening the promise-filled Word, aiding all of us to be moved closer to Him and bring greater glory to His name. This ministry requires a strong belief in and devotion to the truth proclaimed in the Scripture. Lectors should be comfortable speaking in front of people. New lectors will be trained and commissioned for this Liturgical Ministry. A program of training will be organised in the parish soon. Ideally Lectors serve once a month at the liturgy of their choice but are encouraged to serve whenever there is an opening. Now the parish is inviting interested parishioners to register their interest with the Parish Office. Email is the preferred way of registration. For further inquiries contact Fr Thomas

Feasts of the Week

17 January - St Anthony the Great As a young man, Saint Anthony sold all his land and possessions and gave the proceeds to the poor. He lived by himself in the Egyptian desert for 20 years, before being sought out by admirers. He encouraged his followers to base their lives on the Gospel and in the early fourth century he established a monastery



21 January - St Agnes was a young girl who lived at the time of Christian persecution in fourth century Rome. One tradition suggests that at the age of twelve, she refused to consider marriage because of her dedication to Christ, and instead offered herself as a martyr for Christ. Her name means "lamb" in Latin, and every year on her feast day two lambs are blessed, and their wool is used to weave the pallium, which is presented by the Pope to all newly appointed Archbishops

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R)

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. (R)

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R)

4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. (R)

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst

Next Week's Readings:

Is 8-23-9:3

1 Cor 1:10-13, 17

Mt 4:12-23



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 the parish office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office.

Liturgy Roster

The next Liturgy and Ministry Roster is currently being organised. If your availabilities have changed or you wish to be included in the next roster, please contact the parish office.

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

22 JANUARY 2017		3RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	William ANDREWS	Robert JAKSIC
ORGAN	Kate PARISH		SAMOAN
CANTOR	S EAMIGUEL & PARISH CHOIR		YOUTH
LECTOR/S	John DONNELLAN	William ANDREWS	Pam SNELL
	Noelene DONNELLAN	Michael CHOW	Sharon IACONO
COMMENTATOR	Katrina YIP	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Rhia VICTORINO
GIFTS	Carol MABON Family		VICTORINO Family
SP. MINISTER	Christine KENSEY		Hilary NGUYEN
SP. MINISTER	Phirum DUCH		Karen NGUYEN
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY		Margaret THAM
GREETERS	J ROCKLIFF & J ZHANG	Loutoa OLIE	E LUI, V NAZARETH
HOSPITALITY		Alicia MOORE	Anna FACER
HOSPITAL VISITATION SAT: C Parish		ALTAR: Group 5 M Heys; C Mabon; M Wood	
HOSPITAL COMMUNION SUN: K Hartman & J Michael		COUNTERS: Group 4 C & K Scully, J Michael	
CLEANERS - SPC: R & A Javier SJW: T Langi & I Kula & Friends		CHILDREN'S LITURGY: None	

Planned Giving Request Form

Your financial contribution to the Planned Giving of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the financial year you will receive a receipt for your contributions. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate

Your Name:.....

Telephone NoEmail

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.

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