



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141, **Ph:** 96447787 **E:** info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Parish Website: www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, **facebook:** stpeterstjoseph

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 5.00am (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 on 9644 7787.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

17 September 2017

First Reading

Sir 27:30 – 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.'

Second Reading

Rom 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for

the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel

Mt 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.

Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'



Antiphons, Readings & Reflections

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Sir 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Week's Readings:

Is 55:6-9

Phil 1:20-24, 27

Mt 20:1-16

Reflections

Have you Thought?

The parable sees the unforgiving servant putting his fellow servant in prison 'until he paid back the debt'. This is almost exclusively what prisons were used for until only a few hundred years ago. When a person could not repay a debt, they were held in prison until the debt was paid. Of course, being in prison, they had little opportunity to repay the debt themselves and relied on friends and relatives to repay the debt on their behalf. To pay someone's debt was to 'redeem' them. The earliest ideas of Christ as a 'Redeemer' were based on the idea of Christ paying a debt on behalf of humankind.

Living the Gospel: Just like Peter

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes

it up with his next breath. His question in this week's gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what's right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that relationship.

Gospel Focus: How many times?

Peter says, 'How many times should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Peter probably thought that he was being pretty generous. The religious law of his time required people to forgive three times, so by suggesting seven times, Peter would have thought that he was really going the extra mile. To forgive someone seven times is a pretty big call. But the number seven has great significance in scripture; it is regarded as a number of perfection. Peter is suggesting that there is an ideal number of times that one should forgive. Jesus blows this out of the water by saying, take that perfect number of times and multiply it by seventy. There is no perfect number of times to forgive.

Parish Priest

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M. 0418 459 431

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Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

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Pastoral Relations Officer

Mariana Tannous T. (02) 9644 7787

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair) T. 0402 071 849
Karim Kassis (Vice Chair) T. 0402 071 849
Maureen Hynes (Secretary)
Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),
Micheline Botham (Social Committee)
T. 0422 939 342
Jenny Michael (Liturgy Committee)
Pat Kavanagh (Social Justice),
Jann Rockliff (Hospital Visit),
Rhia Victorino, Arthur Doumit (SVDP) and
Principals of the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T. (02) 9644 8859
Micheline Botham (Secretary) 0422 939 342
Joe Moses, Ingrid Scharenguivel, Brendon
Nazareth (Finance Controller)

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
T. (02) 9644 9083
Principal - Phil Townsend
Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South
T. (02) 9646 1434
Principal - Gai Melville
Family Educator - Angela Finnane

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

CatholicCare: Ph:13 18 19

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

Carmelites Varroville -

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
Ph: 8795 3400

Healing After Abortion: 0400 092 555

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

Parish Diary This Week

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Monday | 6.45am | Mass |
| Tuesday | 6.45am 9.00am 7.00pm | Mass Mass (SJW) First Reconciliation Parents Meeting (Jubilee Hall) |
| Wednesday | 6.45am 9.15am | Mass Mass |
| Thursday | 6.45am 9.15am 1.30pm 7.30pm | Mass Mass Starting Afresh this Winter (St Joseph's House) Parish Pastoral Council Meeting (St Joseph's House) |
| Friday | 6.45am 9.15am 12.30pm | Mass Mass Pastoral Care of Sick Meeting |
| Saturday | 8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 5.00pm | Mass Rosary Novena Adoration Confession Sunday Vigil Mass (SPC) |
| Sunday | 8.00am 10.00am | Mass (SJW) Mass (SPC) |

Family that pray together stay together"
PILGRIM STATUE



FROM ST PETER CHANEL
at the Williams Home
15 London Rd, Lidcombe

Please join them any evening at
7.30pm for the Rosary.

To host the Pilgrim Statue and Rosary
prayer please contact Mona
on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

FROM ST JOSEPH THE WORKER
at the Olie Home

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

Roster Next Week

| 24 SEPTEMBER 2017 | | 25 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Mass | VIGIL (SPC) | 8AM (SJW) | 10AM (SPC) |
| ACOLYTE | Bob KENSEY | William ANDREWS | Robert JAKSIC |
| ORGANIST | Kate PARISH | | SAMOAN |
| CANTOR | S EAMIGUEL & PARISH CHOIR | | YOUTH |
| LECTOR/S | John DONELLAN | Joe MOSES | Micheline BOTHAM |
| | Noelene DONELLAN | Ken HARTMAN | Margaret NGUYEN |
| COMMENTATOR | Christine KENSEY | Karim KASSIS | Rhia VICTORINO |
| GIFTS | Dorothy BOYD | | Alan & Margaret THAM |
| SP. MINISTER | Kay SCULLY | | Jenny MICHAEL |
| SP. MINISTER | Joy SKERRITT | | Anna MANGANARO |
| CHURCH SHOP | Charlie SCULLY | | Micheline BOTHAM |
| GREETERS | J ROCKLIFF & J ZHANG | Loutoa OLIE | A FACER P KAVANAGH |
| HOSPITALITY | | | Antoinette BOUDAHER |

| | |
|---|--|
| Hospital Visitation Sat: Amato Hehea & Bernadette Hawthorn | Altar: Group 2 Bolonia Family |
| Hospital Communion Sun: Joyce McDonald & William Andrews | |
| Cleaners SPC : Vietnamese Group | Children's liturgy: SCHOOL HOLIDAYS |

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Saturday | 23 SEPTEMBER |
| LECTOR FOR MASS | Christine KENSEY |

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased: Pat McManus, Ilija Latinovic, Des Ryan, Mary Ellen McKeon
Deceased: Joseph Nguyen Van Ngan, Joseph Nguyen & Joseph Mai
Anniversary: Josef Starc, Ruth-Maria Amores, Mariano Somera. Sr, Lapaz Somera
Maria Marigmen, Ignacio Amarille Sr, Mark Man Wah Chiu, Antonio D. Amores,
Antonio Florendo Festejo
Deceased members and friends of : Erwin & O'Dwyer Families,
Ross & Mitchell Families, Duong Family, Amores & Florendo Families
Sick: Rosa Maria Santos, Matasic Marija



Forgiveness—Homily by Fr Michael Tate (from *LiturgyHelp*)

The Jews were fascinated by the number seven. It reminded them of the seven days of creation and suggested perfection. So, when Peter queried whether he would be a great hero if he forgave someone seven times, he was speaking in a very Jewish way. Seven times would be perfect. No, says Jesus. You have to be prepared to forgive seventy times seven, an 'over the top', totally extravagant proposition which was meant to jolt Peter to see that there are no limits to the need to forgive.

But Jesus still keeps the sevens resonating in his answer because he wants to say that to forgive is like a new act of creation: it creates life where there was the deadly desire for revenge, and light where there was darkness. So, let's look at this sort of forgiveness more closely, at the macro and the micro levels.

I once had the great privilege of shaking hands with Nelson Mandela at a Parliament House reception. Why was the crowd pressing up to this man, hoping to touch him? Partly because of his great victory over apartheid in South Africa. (Doesn't that word sound so apt in English: apart-hate.) Mostly, I think, because when he came to power he did not set out 'to get even', making sure that the 'punishment fits the crime', to exact revenge on those who had killed and tortured the blacks and coloureds of his beloved country. Rather, he offered forgiveness to the offenders. Through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, confession and admission of complicity in apartheid would lead to the closing of the books and a new beginning.

It is that sort of forgiveness – the closing of the books and a new beginning – which we dare to ask of God for ourselves. But here's the catch: it is that sort of forgiveness which we must practise towards others. When we don't, we are like the principal debtor in Jesus' story. In harshly dealing with a disproportionately minor debtor, he refused to share his king's quality of forgiveness. If we don't pass on this aspect of God's life to others, then we are warned that we will end up in a hellish situation unable to share in divine life. After all, don't we pray daily: '... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' Let us keep going at the micro level.

I don't like the phrase: 'Forgive and forget'. It is impossible to forget some terrible hurts or injustices done to one. In fact, it could be dangerous to forget because one could put oneself in a vulnerable situation again. Remembering can be an important part of healing. So, forgiving is not forgetting. It is about giving up the desire 'to get even'. It is to give up the all-consuming passion to make sure the wrongdoer 'pays the full price' for the wrongdoing. And it is good for us. As the Chinese proverb says: 'If you desire revenge, dig two graves. One for the wrongdoer, one for yourself.'

It is easy to talk 'big picture' such as Mandela in South Africa. I know it is much harder within the family and within our circle of acquaintances. Here we can carry resentfulness for weeks or months or years. Forgiveness is to give up the cold shoulder and the wounding silences when you know the other person is desperate for one gesture, one word. In my experience, when deeply wounded by someone, it may take years to forgive them. It seems impossible to simply will it. But we have to ask for the grace to do it. After all, a lot is at stake: 'Our Father who art in Heaven forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

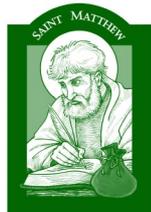
Feasts & Memorials of the Week

Wednesday—Sts Andrew Kim Taegon & Paul Chong Ha-sang



Andrew Kim Taegon was the first Korean presbyter and Paul Chong Hasang a catechist and lay apostle. After more than two centuries of lay leadership, the Church in Korea was subject to fierce persecutions between 1839 and 1867. This feast commemorates 103 of the numerous Korean martyrs, representatives from all walks of life: men and women, married and unmarried, the elderly, teenagers and children, missionary bishops and presbyters. Remembered for their fearless witness in the face of torture and death.

Thursday—St Matthew



St Matthew was originally a tax collector for the Roman Government at Capernaum, before Jesus called him to become an apostle. Jesus' contemporaries were surprised to see him associating with someone like Matthew, but Jesus explained that he had come "not to call the just, but the sinners". In the Gospels of Mark and Luke, Matthew is called Levi, and so it is thought that he may have had both names. The first Gospel was believed to have been written by Matthew. His account of Christ's life was written for his fellow Jews; to convince them that their anticipated Messiah had indeed come in the person of Jesus.

Saturday—St Pius of Pietrelcina



St Pius Pietrelcina Born on 25 May 1887 in Pietrelcina (Italy). Died on this day in 1968 at San Giovanni Rotondo (Italy). Raised in a deeply religious rural home, Francesco Forgione became Padre Pio when he was ordained in the Capuchin order in 1910. A mystic who received the marks of the stigmata in 1918, a renowned holy man, and a charity worker who founded a hospital (the House for the Relief of Suffering). His ascetic life of pain led to special compassion for the suffering. Remembered as an extraordinary confessor and spiritual director.

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)

Special Mary Mackillop Spirituality Day

Walk in the footsteps of Mary Mackillop and visit the Mary Mackillop Museum to learn more about her inspiring life and visit the Chapel on Friday 20th October. (Special Dooleys bus leaving school at 9am and returning at 2:45pm). Free excursion but limited spots! Please contact to find out more: angela.finnane@syd.catholic.edu.au.

Fr George is promised help for School at Chima Impel



Fr George has sent a few pictures of St Xavier's School, Chima Impel, including the above ones. He is happy to hear about our fundraising for his school. So far 36 bricks are sold. The target is to sell 300 bricks by 7 October.

You can sponsor bricks for the school. One Hundred dollars will sponsor a brick. You are welcome to buy a few of them according to your capacity. You will get a personalised certificate for your sponsorship and your name will be inscribed on plaque and displayed permanently at St Xavier's School Chima Impel India.

Arthur Doumit (0417270923), Charlie Scully (0402 071 849), Evelyn Safadi (0416 140 378), Tony Draybi (0403 367 789), Jenny Michael (0413 679 931), and Ivica Kovac (0407 467 692) are coordinating the fund raising activities. Both SPC & SJW Schools and Trinity College are also helping by selling raffle tickets with attractive prizes.

You are welcome to contact one of coordinators or me to discuss how you could also help with this overseas mission as thanksgiving to God for his goodness to us.

~Fr Thomas

MenALIVE Weekend

23rd/24th September St Joachim's Parish Hall. Like thousands of other Catholic men who have already been on a menALIVE weekends across Australia, you will be inspired and encouraged to renew your faith and rediscover God's purpose in your life. Experienced leaders from menALIVE will be running the weekend, including Author, and co-founder of menALIVE Robert Falzon. For registrations and inquires contact Steven Lia 0412 667657.

Festival Mass

St Vincent de Paul Liberty Plains, Rozelle, Macquarie and Western Suburbs Regional Councils invite all Society members and their families to join us at Festival Mass concelebrated by Fr Thomas & Fr Ray on Friday, 20th of October at 6.30pm (SPC Church). A light supper will be served in the Jubilee Hall after mass. Please RSVP by Friday, 29 September by phone 02 9643 7794 or email annew@sydneyvinnies.org.

The CFC Handmaids of the Lord

The CFC Handmaids of the Lord, a family ministry of Couples for Christ invite women to a Christian Life Program, an integrated course intended to lead the program participants

into a renewed understanding of God's call to them as Christian women. It is open to all mature women such as single mothers, widows, separated women, unmarried mature women & married women whose husbands are working in another state or country or are not willing nor able to participate in any religious affiliation. It runs for 8 consecutive Sundays starting on 17 September 2017 at St Felix Valois Parish Church, Bankstown. For more information, please contact Joy Skerritt - 0401353826, Portia Mariano - 0421694078 or Josielyn Dunshea - 0431870733. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Rexband Live in Sydney

The Rexband is the musical wing of Jesus Youth, a missionary movement at the service of the church. Rexband is active for more than 25 years and have performed in more than 500 stages in more than 22 countries worldwide. Rexband is the invitee band for World Youth Day and since 2002 have attended and performed on all WYD venues. In Sydney Rexband concerts were organised by Catholic church during the 2008 WYD and in 2012 Jesus Youth Australia organised their tour of Australia. Besides the 3-hour stage shows, the band also considers its retreats for musicians, music skill development programmes for budding talents and life encounter programmes as vital elements of its call. Rexband strongly believes that music becomes relevant only when its quality and message brings about a genuine change of heart. The typical 3-hour Rexband show is an extravaganza integrating music, choreography and contemporary theatre performances by Living Vision, a premier Christian theatre initiative. It works in tandem with the band to present the message of Jesus in a powerful and attractive way. Rexband is touring Australia this year and will perform in 7 major cities. In Sydney they will perform live on 17th November at 6pm at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre. For ticketing information and enquiries and information contact Justin Innasi on 0432-050-821 or rexbandsydney@gmail.com



Playgroup

St Peter Chanel School, Berala runs a fun playgroup session every Thursday from 9.00am to 11.00am in the school Library (during school term). Children's ages range from 12 months to 5 years. Singing, dancing, story-time and craft are some of the activities offered. A great place for mum/carers to catch up with other adults too. Please let friends who do not speak English know about the playgroup.



St Joseph the Worker, Auburn

Come join us with your little ones for some music, singing, storytime, craft and painting. Just bring a piece of fruit to share. All welcome. Cost: Free! Playgroup resumes Thursday 20th July. When: Thursday

mornings 9-11am (during school term) Where: St Joseph the Worker, Auburn in the Fr Mark Spora Room.

Happy 100th Birthday, Dulcie Cullen



On 19 September, long-time parishioner and Berala resident Dulcie Cullen will turn 100 years old!

But while that may sound like a milestone to most, Dulcie refuses to make a big deal of it stating that, "If Father Thomas just mentions that I'm turning 100 in September, that'll be enough."

When asked about her life, what's she done, achieved and seen over the past century, Dulcie continues this modesty, saying "there's nothing much to tell, except that I was a teacher."



(image from <http://www.graphicsbuzz.com>)

More than a teacher however, she is a historical reference and a tireless beacon of faith and devotion to our Lord. Having lived a life longer than our parish, she's seen its grow and change from a tiny church on Third Avenue to the St Peter Chanel and St Joseph church that we know of today.

"I lived in Berala from the time I was eight," she recalls, having moved up from Leeton in the Riverina Region of New South Wales where her parents lived as farmers and grazers.

In 1925, she and her family, including her five sisters, moved to Berala into a house on Fifth Avenue, which her father built. "We moved to Berala and we saw the whole place grow up," she reminisces. "We went to school in Berala in a little church hall on Third Avenue which was later moved to Kingsland Road where it is now."

Over the years, Dulcie attended Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta, studied education in Sydney University, worked as a teacher and became a heritage researcher. She has witnessed Father Donovan, Father Kings and Father Thomas take lead of the St Peter Chanel parish, built long-standing relationships across numerous generations within the community and shared her faith by participating in a local rosary cenacle.

While her hearing and eyesight might today be limited, her mind remains sharp and she never fails to remember friends, family and parishioners by name.

She can recall previous conversations, remarks on which saint's feast day it is and can conjure memories of her childhood and upbringing at the drop of a hat. "I remember everything that's happened there regarding the church," she says. "We were always interested in everything that was going there." Her smile is welcoming and her farewells are heart-warming as she reminds you to "be good" and to visit her again soon.

She currently resides in the St Joseph wing of Holy Spirit Aged Care Unit in Concord, where all are welcome to visit her and wish her a happy turn of the century.

Happy 100th birthday, Dulcie Cullen from all of us here at St Peter Chanel and St Joseph church!



St Peter Chanel's Golden Jubilee, 3 May 2009. L-R: Fr Graham Kings, Dulcie Cullen, Father Chris Higgins

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In a few weeks, all Australians will be asked to cast their vote on whether to change the Marriage Act to include same-sex marriage. The postal vote will run from the 12th of September to the 27th of October 2017.

Many people believe that redefining marriage won't affect them. Redefining marriage has far reaching consequences and will affect everybody. It is therefore important that you have your say by voting 'NO'.

It is unfortunate that the suggested laws will not protect schools, teachers, church agencies or employees, business owners, and social service organisations from prosecution before the courts. A redefinition of marriage will have a major impact on freedom of speech and religion, and a radical change on sex-education in schools.

We strongly believe that every human being is created in the image of God and loved by Him. Because of this, every man, woman and child has great dignity and worth which can never be taken away. They must be treated with respect, sensitivity, and love.

The Catholic Church teaches and believes that God is the author of marriage. Christ raised the matrimonial covenant between man and woman to a sacrament "in which God helps the spouses live out the dignity and duties of their state" and so work out their salvation with Him. For these reasons the Church can say that marriage is not only a natural institution but also 'holy'.

It is our Catholic duty over the coming weeks to inform our friends and family about the consequences of redefining marriage, and letting them know that a vote against changing the definition of marriage is not a vote against people with same-sex attraction. It is a vote to protect marriage as a unique and sacred union between one man and one woman and to preserve our religious freedom and protect our rights to free speech.

Few know about the 85 laws already changed in 2008 giving same-sex couples equality under the Australian law with heterosexual couples. Inequality is a myth.

Vote 'NO' and protect the sanctity of Marriage & Family

In Christ's Love, Family Life International

5 REASONS I WILL BE VOTING NO TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE
Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

Redefining marriage will affect every Australian. Overseas experience suggests that legalising same-sex marriage may well result in a loss of freedom in five key areas:

- 1 Freedom of RELIGION**
No protections have been offered to allow individuals to hold, teach and practise their faith about marriage, nor to other faith-based institutions.
- 2 Freedom of SPEECH**
People's right to speak freely is endangered if they can be dragged before anti-discrimination tribunals, fined or fired for speaking in favour of real marriage.
- 3 Freedom of EDUCATION**
Faith-based schools may no longer be free to teach what their church teaches regarding marriage and sex; parents in state schools may not be able to remove their children from radical gender programmes.
- 4 Freedom of ASSOCIATION**
People's rights to associate freely are endangered if they can be sacked or persecuted in the workplace, meeting venues denied to them, or their businesses boycotted or fined, for being pro-marriage.
- 5 Freedom of EMPLOYMENT**
No protections have been offered to employees from being harassed at work into supporting same-sex marriages.

"Things will be much worse if same-sex marriage becomes the law of the land. You can join with me to stop this happening by voting no in the postal plebiscite."

On Tuesday, survey forms will begin to be posted to homes around Australia. This survey is a referendum on whether we want radical LGBTIQ sex and gender education programs in our schools, it is about free speech, and – importantly – freedom of religion. Watch former Prime Minister John Howard speak about the direct threat to the Christian presence in the public sphere in this brief video (<https://youtu.be/PD5KvFwbHt4>). *"Changing the definition of marriage...is not an exercise in human rights and equality, it is an exercise in de-authorising the Judaeo-Christian influence in our society"* ~The Honourable John Howard OM, AC. Please take the time to watch this important video. The consequences of redefining marriage are real. For more information on the impact a change in marriage law will have on every Australian family, please visit 3 Reason to Vote NO (http://www.acl.org.au/3_reasons_to_vote_no?). I encourage you and your church to keep praying, know the consequences, and volunteer for the campaign today. God bless! ~Lyle Shelton, Managing Director, ACL (9/9/2017)

Sacrament News



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Sally Marie Leonila Amos

Eseta Uliana Taua'a Loi-on

Pemerika Fa'anana

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

First Reconciliation Program

Information night for parents of First Reconciliation candidates will be held on Tuesday 19 September in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00pm. At this meeting the First Reconciliation program will be explained. The outline of the Reconciliation Program will be announced at the parents meeting.

Catechist News

Romaine, My Mentor and Friend

I have been given the honour of writing a few words about Romaine Cheema who has been a Catechist in our Parish for over 40 years.

Romaine and I grew to be friends when I became a Catechist 34 years ago at Regents Park Public School. In that time, Romaine was our Coordinator and ran our Catechist meetings. She ran those meetings to a strict timetable and always was fair and firm when necessary. Romaine was not just my Coordinator but my leader, mentor and friend. I always knew that no matter what happened, whatever problems we would encounter, she would have our best interests at heart.

Over the years, there have been many changes to our syllabus and rules and I like to thank Romaine for helping to make this possible. In her position, she had to liaise with the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) and it took a lot of her time which saved the rest of us from having to do it. Together I like to think we helped change a lot of things for the better, as today, we have a really wonderful program for all classes.

Romaine has been a wonderful role model for all the Catechists of our Parish. Without her staying in that position, I doubt we would have kept going. It's because of her, that we are still here doing our best, and we will continue to do so. I am sure that the children of Regents Park and Berala schools are all the richer for having had her as their teacher and I know she has enriched the lives of all the Catechists who had the privilege of working alongside her. I wish Romaine all the best in the future and know that she will always be my mentor and my friend.



May God bless her now and always.

~Maria Wood, Catechist, Regents Park Public

Catechists Needed

Our Parish has been responsible for providing Catechists to three public schools in our area for many years. We would like to recruit at least two more Catechists for classes on Wednesdays at Regents Park Public School between 1.50pm and 2.20pm and Fridays at Berala Public between 11.20am to 11.50am.

This invitation is for anybody who is able to volunteer a small amount of time for training and participation in this spiritually rewarding work. Free courses are available. We encourage parents and grandparents as well as part-time or full-time University students and TAFE students to volunteer. All would be welcomed by the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

If anyone is interested in becoming a Catechist teacher or helper, please contact Brenda on 0402 051 365.

~Brenda, Catechist Co-ordinator

Jubilee Hall

The Jubilee Hall, adjacent to St Peter Chanel Church is available for hire. The fee for hiring is \$400. Members of the Planned Giving Program of the parish receive a 25% discount. For more info contact the parish office.



Piety Stall

Drop by our Piety Stall and grab a gift for that special someone. The stall is filled with a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The stall is open on Sundays before and after the 10.00am mass. If you have any product enquiry, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email.

Daily Prayers and Scripture on the Parish Web

Our Parish Website now includes a new section called "Liturgy Today" on our home page. This is a great resource to explore the liturgy of the day including Readings of the Mass of the day, morning, noon and evening prayers, and Office of Readings. Please visit <http://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/> and click on the link under "Liturgy Today".

Other Notices

St Joseph's Hospital Coffee Shop are looking for volunteers and they can contact Margaret on 9649 1905.

Marriage Plebiscite: As survey forms begin arriving in letterboxes across Australia, it is important that we are fully equipped with information about the consequences of changing the definition of marriage and the impacts this will have on individuals, families, education and churches. The Coalition for Marriage has released a comprehensive guide to some of the key consequences and questions around this important conversation. Download your free copy at www.coalitionformarriage.com.au/handbook.

Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill NSW. This assisted suicide bill will be tabled in the NSW Legislative Council on September 14. Please act now to inform MPs in both the Upper house (Legislative Council) and the Lower House (Legislative Assembly) of your views. Please write letters to your local MLA and to some of the MLCs. For MP contact details and points to use in letters go to: www.no euthanasia.org.au.

Month of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage and Families: In October, Catholic parishes around Australia will participate in a month of prayer and fasting for marriage and families. There is a theme for each week of October and prayers of intercession for each Sunday. Posters and prayers will be sent to your parish. A video explaining this initiative featuring Bishop Michael Kennedy, delegate of the Australian Catholic Marriage and Family Council and materials to use in your parish can be found at: www.acmfc.org.au

Australian Catholic Youth Festival: Group registrations and Under 18 registrations close on Friday 22 September. Our Deanery Coordinator {insert name and contact details} will assist to get last minute registrations into our group. Individual registration will remain open. Parents and grandparents consider buying registration for the Festival as an early Christmas Gift to your kids. One Day registrations are also open, if you purchase a registration for Thursday (7 December) or Friday (8 December) for \$125 this will include registration for Saturday (9 December). A program of main attractions will be published shortly. Please contact Tommy Francisco, Youth Co-ordinator via email tommy.bolin.francisco@gmail.com if you wish to join. Visit www.acyf.org.au for all the information of the Festival.

CatholicCare. Supporting the people of Sydney to live and thrive. "Fostering has brought us more hugs, more laughter; we've found the board games again and we've found them so much fun." To celebrate Foster Care Week, we acknowledge the wonderful carers we support who bring safety and love to children. If you could care for a child please call CatholicCare's CCareline Team on 13 18 19 or email connect@catholiccare.org.

Direct Employment: Having a job builds a person's dignity and wellbeing. It is empowering being in the workforce and contributing to society but for some people there are barriers. Direct Employment is a fee-free recruitment agency, helping people with disabilities overcome these barriers to find meaningful and sustainable work. It is the not-for-profit disability employment agency of the Archdiocese. Employers are only introduced to candidates who have the right availability, skills and ambitions. Candidates like Direct Employment because employment opportunities are tailored to each person's skills, individual goals and the needs of employers. Call us on 13 18 19 for more information.

Calling all University students! Are you a student (or do you know a student) studying at University? Each University has a Catholic Society that offers daily Mass, social gatherings and avenues to deepen your faith on campus.

Visit: www.unicatholics.org.au to find out what is happening on your campus.

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftograceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griefftograce.org

The Archdiocese of Sydney App. The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney had released a Smartphone App (for iPhones and Androids only) for parishioners in the Archdiocese. The App is available to download for free – search for "Archdiocese of Sydney" in the Google Play and App stores.

Bereavement Support Reflections Mornings. Third Wednesday of Every Month 10.00am – 1.00pm. For family and friends who grieve and their companions. Understanding and managing life's changes in Loss, Grief & Bereavement. Morning tea provided. Contact Bereavement Support (02) **9646 6908** or bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au.

Natural Fertility Services is looking for suitable applicants in the Greater Sydney area to train as Fertility Educators. Thorough, in-depth training over a 12-month period is provided to successful applicants and sessional work is available to those who complete the training and become accredited educators. For more information and application forms please contact The Manager NFS (02) 9509 1222.

Tell Your Story in The Catholic Weekly. Do you have a local parish news story which would be of interest to the many readers of the Catholic Weekly? The Catholic Weekly is always looking for human interest, inspirational and faith-based stories for our weekly publication. If you have a story please send it to: cweditor@catholicweekly.com.au or call (02) 9390 5407. We'd love to hear your story!

The Benedict XVI Retreat Centre now offers a series of fun, innovative facilitated activity programs to complement and enrich any group retreat. Whether you are looking for adventure, team building, opportunities for reflection or simply to have fun with your group, our specially trained facilitators can tailor a program to meet your needs and budget. Activities include flying fox, archery, bushwalking, leadership challenge, communications challenge, camp craft, environmental programs and more. Contact Reception on (02) 4572 2899 / email bxvi@sydneycatholic.org to find out more or visit www.benedictxvicentre.org.au.

Fundraising Volunteers Needed. The Archdiocese value the contribution that our volunteers make but more are needed to assist us from time to time. For info phone Amanda on 1800 753 959 or email fundraising@sydneycatholic.org.

Catholic Youth Services. City Silence is a Holy Hour hosted by Catholic Youth Services for young adults every Tuesday at St Mary's Cathedral from 6.30-7.30pm. City Silence is not restricted to only youth. We invite people of all ages over 18 and backgrounds to City Silence. We find it is a great time to worship and adore Our Lord in the heart of Sydney.

Visiting Rome? Domus Australia is a 32 room guest house established by the Australian Catholic Church, welcoming travellers to Rome seeking comfortable accommodation and an ideal base from which to explore historical and cultural sites of the Eternal City. Centrally located with a magnificently restored Chapel featuring daily Mass in English, Domus Australia is the perfect oasis in the heart of Rome for Aussie pilgrims. Enquiries: reservations@domusaustralia.org.

'This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.' ~Psalm 118:24

Directions

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, "Son, can you tell me where the post office is?" The little boy replied, "Sure, just go straight down the street a couple of blocks and turn to your right." The man thanked the boy kindly and said, "I'm the new pastor in town, and I'd like for you to come to church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to Heaven." The little boy replied with a chuckle, "Awww, come on; you don't even know the way to the post office."

