



## 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](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

Parish Website: [www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](http://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au), facebook: [stpeterstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/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 5.00pm (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 on 9644 7787.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

23 DECEMBER 2018

#### First Reading

Mi 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

#### Second Reading

Heb 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ

#### Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

### ANTIPHONS & READINGS

#### Entrance Antiphon Cf Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

**(R) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.  
**(R.)**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

#### Gospel Acclamation (Lk 1:38)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

**Alleluia!**

#### Communion Antiphon Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

#### Next Week's Readings

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Col 3:15. 16

### The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office

If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on phone 02 9390 5812.



### Parish Priest

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

### Priest in Residence

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

### Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria  
info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au  
Tues to Fri 9am -3pm  
T. (02) 9644 7787

### Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

### Pastoral Council

Karim Kassis (Chair)  
T. 0408 404 130  
Charlie Scully (Vice Chair, Project Manager)  
T. 0402 071 849  
Maureen Hynes (Secretary, Parish Choir)  
Jennifer Rush (Asst Secretary, Safeguarding)  
Anthony Kasule, Arthur Doumit (SVDP, Retreats), Brenda Wendt-Hussein (Catechists), Jenny Michael, Joji Salar, Micheline Botham (Sacramental Program), Rani Sebastian, Renee Salar, Rhia Victorino, Vinita Nazareth (Pilgrimages), and Principals of the Parish Schools.

### Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)  
T. (02) 9644 8859  
Joe Moses, Brendon Nazareth (Finance Controller)

### Plenary 2020

Alicia Moore

### 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

**CatholicCare.** CCareline team provides caring advice and advocacy to help families navigate their way through the social service sector.  
CCareline 13 18 19 | CatholicCare.org

### Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

**Spiritual Retreats:** Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - www.jamberoobbbey.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 Ph: 9699 8190

## PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon 24/12	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass (SPC) 12.00am Christmas Midnight Mass (SPC)
Tue 25/12	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 8.00am Mass (SJW) 10.00am Mass (SPC) 11.00am Christmas Lunch (Jubilee Hall)
Wed 26/12	9.00am Mass
Thu 27/12	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass
Fri 28/12	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass
Sat 29/12	8.00am Mass 8.30pm Rosary 9.00am Novena, Adoration, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 30/12	8.00am Mass (SPC) 10.00am Mass (SPC)



*"Family that pray together stay together"*  
**PILGRIM STATUE**

FROM ST PETER CHANEL  
at Azzi Family  
41 Amy Street, Regents Park

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 S J W Church  
at the Langi Home

To host the Rosary Statue from SJW contact  
Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.

### 30 DECEMBER 2018 THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SPC)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Mert BOLONIA
MUSIC & SINGING	Maureen HYNES & PARISH CHOIR		Sergio EAMIGUEL
LECTOR/S	Rohan SEBASTIAN	Ken HARTMAN	Anna FACER
	Sharon SEBASTIAN	Maris MARSH	Micheline BOTHAM
COMMENTATOR	Katrina YIP	Joe MOSES	Rhia VICTORINO
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN Phirum DUC		Hoa NGUYEN Mai VU
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP		John SHANLEY
GREETERS	Dante & Lynda AMORES	Loutoa OLIE	Anna FACER & Pat KAVANAGH

**Hospital Visitation Sat:** Jann Rockliff & Phil Lopez

**Altar & Sacristy:** Group 6 Korina Kinda, Antoinette Boudaher

**Hospital Communion Sun:** Joyce McDonald & Anna Manganaro

**Cleaners SPC:** Malia & Mefiposeta Pei

**Children's liturgy:** N/A

**Saturday 8AM**

**29 DECEMBER**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Jann ROCKLIFF

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Sick:** Marie Williams, Fr Graham Kings, Tony Draybi

**Recently Deceased:** Frank Debrincat, George Guanzon, Domingo Que, Eduardo Quines

**Anniversary:** Helen Ugarkovic, Josip & Jamilija Zivkovic, Vu Thi Yen, Sandy Amores, Lucila C. Amores, Jovito Amores II, Felicisimo C. Amores, Fe Amores - Allarde, Tarcila Amores - Figueras, Pacita Allarde, Raymond Amores, Fernando Domingo, Eddie Leonardi

**Deceased:** Carmen Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Bert Portelli, Carmen Spiteri, Anthony Spiteri, George Spiteri, Ted Duffy, Gloria Bolonia Consuelo Ibardolaza, John Rockliff

**Deceased Members and Friends of:** Ross & Mitchell Families, O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Amores & Florendo Families

**Special Intentions:** Gomeis Family, Taouk Family, Tony & Joseph Abouassaf, Mullins Family, Willoughby Family, O'Connor Family



### Funeral Service for Frank Debrincat

Service will be held on Friday, 28 December at 11.30am | St John of God Catholic Church | 2 Alice St, Auburn NSW 2144

Burial to follow at Pine Grove Cemetery.

## MOTHERS CLUB



There is a joke about mothers bragging about their children. Very proudly said a mother, “my son is a priest and when he enters everyone gets up and says good morning Father”. Another mother said, “That is nothing. You know what people say when they see my son? He is a bishop and people call him ‘My Lord’. Then the third mum said, “That is nothing. My son is seven foot two and when he enters a room everyone says, ‘Oh My God’.

Mary went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. She hurried to meet Elizabeth because of their pregnancies. They both got reasons to boast. Elizabeth could boast of bearing a special child in her advanced age. She who was experiencing humiliation so far is to become a proud mother of a prophet. But Mary could boast of even greater favour from God; she is bearing the Son of God. What greater divine gift a woman can get! Yet this gathering of mothers is different to other mothers club. While the thrust of conversation in most mothers club would be their children alone, Elizabeth was keen to praise Mary, her cousin, for the favour she has received from God. Mary in turn praises God, not herself.

It is the humility of Elizabeth and Mary that are remarkable. Humility is not thinking less of oneself, but it is less thinking of oneself. That is what we see in Mary especially. This quality is divine and with such divine quality Mary could bear Jesus Christ, Son of God.

Mary is a model and example for all Christians. By the name Christian, we are Christ bearers. Like Mary we too need to be humble, thinking not less of ourselves, but by less thinking of ourselves. Like Mary we too should be praising God and his plan in our lives. Like Mary we too need to be at the service of others. Like Mary we too need to be open to God’s call.

## REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 1:39-45

**Gospel Focus.. Blessed are you.**  
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of they womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.

Elizabeth’s greeting to Mary forms the second portion of the traditional prayer the Hail Mary. The first portion of the prayer also comes from Luke’s gospel and is the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. The final portion was framed by the Church. Use of the Hail Mary dates to about the 11th Century.

**Scriptural Context. John the Baptist.**

The gospel of Luke pays greater attention to John the Baptist than any of the other three gospels. In this gospel the foretelling of John’s birth precedes the foretelling of the birth of Jesus and then the birth of John immediately precedes the birth of Jesus. In the gospel of Luke, John is the forerunning of Jesus. The story of his miraculous birth is paralleled with that of Jesus but always comes first. Luke makes it abundantly clear that John came first and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus.

**Living the Gospel. Looking for signs.**

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God’s will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn’t wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

## Have a Blessed Christmas

I wish you all a very blessed Christmas. Some of you may be travelling or joining some other parish for Christmas due to family celebrations. My special wishes and prayers for them too.

There were a lot of people working on making this Christmas a true and meaningful celebration. The Liturgy Planners, Altar Decorators and Florists who have been helping all through Advent and Christmas time, the Musicians and singers, Liturgical Ministers, and Altar Servers, they all have been instrumental in making the Church celebrations beautiful. Then there were people helping with Parish Carols and other carols, Organisers and helpers of Christmas Lunch. The credit list is too long to mention any names. Therefore I just want to say thank you for all your faith commitment, donation of time, talent, and your treasure.

~Fr Thomas

## 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 No ..... Email .....

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.  Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent)

## The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

*St Ambrose's commentary on St Luke's Gospel*

The angel Gabriel had announced the news of something that was as yet hidden and so, to buttress the Virgin Mary's faith by means of a real example, he told her also that an old and sterile woman had conceived, showing that everything that God willed was possible to God.

When Mary heard this she did not disbelieve the prophecy, she was not uncertain of the message, she did not doubt the example: but happy because of the promise that had been given, eager to fulfil her duty as a cousin, hurried by her joy, she went up into the hill country.

Where could she hurry to except to the hills, filled with God as she was? The grace of the Holy Spirit does not admit of delays. And Mary's arrival and the presence of her Son quickly show their effects: As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting her child leapt in her womb and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

See the careful distinction in the choice of words. Elizabeth was the first to hear the voice but her son John was the first to feel the effects of grace. She heard as one hears in the natural course of things; he leapt because of the mystery that was there. She sensed the coming of Mary, he the coming of the Lord - the woman knew the woman, the child knew the child. The women speak of grace while inside them grace works on their babies. And by a double miracle the women prophesy under the inspiration of their unborn children.

The infant leapt and the mother was filled with the Spirit. The mother was not filled before her son: her son was filled with the Holy Spirit and in turn filled his mother. John leapt and so did Mary's spirit. John leapt and filled Elizabeth with the Spirit; but we know that Mary was not filled but her spirit rejoiced. For the Incomprehensible was working incomprehensibly within his mother. Elizabeth had been filled with the Spirit after she conceived, but Mary before, at the moment the angel had come. "Blessed are you," said Elizabeth, "who believed".

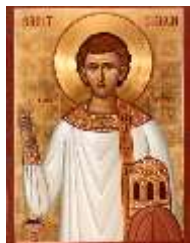
You too, my people, are blessed, you who have heard and who believe. Every soul that believes - that soul both conceives and gives birth to the Word of God and recognises his works. Let the soul of Mary be in each one of you, to proclaim the greatness of the Lord. Let the spirit of Mary be in each one of you, to rejoice in God. According to the flesh only one woman can be the mother of Christ but in the world of faith Christ is the fruit of all of us. For every soul can receive the Word of God if only it is pure and preserves itself in chastity and modesty.

The soul that has been able to reach this state proclaims the greatness of the Lord just as Mary did and rejoices in God its saviour just like her.

The Lord's greatness is proclaimed, as you have read elsewhere, where it says Join me in magnifying the Lord. This does not mean that anything can be added to the Lord's greatness by human words, but that he is magnified in us. Christ is the image of God and so any good or religious act that a soul performs magnifies that image of God in that soul, the God in whose likeness the soul itself was made. And thus the soul itself has some share in his greatness and is ennobled.

## FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

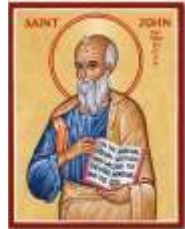
**Wednesday, 26 December - St Stephen (Feast)**



Died in Jerusalem about 35. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by

the apostles for special service (diakonia). Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).

**Thursday, 27 December - St John, apostle (Feast)**



First-century Galilean fisherman, son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James, left their nets to follow Jesus. With Peter, these "sons of thunder" form an

inner group among the twelve. Probably the "disciple whom Jesus loved" of the Fourth Gospel and, according to ancient tradition, the author of this Gospel and also of three letters and the book of Revelation. Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis on Christian love.

**Friday, 28 December - The Holy Innocents (Feast)**



In an attempt to kill the child Jesus, Herod ordered the massacre of all male children, two years old and under, in and around Bethlehem. The Holy Innocents

have been honoured as martyrs for Christ since the fourth century and their feast has been celebrated on this day since the sixth century. In remembering them, the Church laments the suffering and death of children everywhere and honours all who die in innocence.

## PARISH NEWS

### St. Peter Chanel & St. Joseph Berala

*invite all who wish  
to share the joy of Christmas with others  
to a Christmas Day Lunch.  
Food, drink and entertainment provided!*

Date: 25 December 2018

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

Time: 11am to 3pm

RSVP for transport: Please phone Barbara or Georgette 02 9643 7794 by Tuesday 18 December 2018

For further details please contact Evelene on 0416 140 378

### Christmas Services

#### Monday 24 December

7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass  
at SPC Berala

12.00am Solemn Midnight  
Mass at SPC Berala

#### Tuesday 25 December

8.00am Christmas Mass at  
SJW Auburn South

10.00am Christmas Mass at  
SPC Berala

11.00am - 3.00pm Christmas  
Lunch in the Jubilee Hall



### Family Mass on 24 December

Christmas Vigil will be a Family Mass starting at 7 PM All children who received First Communion are welcome to come in their First Communion dress and process with the main celebrant.

All children are welcome to dress up as Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherd, and kings. There will be a live Crib around which they will be able to gather.

### The Day After Christmas

The day after Christmas has a few attributes:

- In our secular calendar it is a public Holiday called Boxing Day. It is also a day to relax after all the hectic celebrations of Christmas
- In the Liturgical Calendar it is the Feast of St Stephen, the First Martyr.
- In Father Thomas' personal calendar it is the 34th anniversary of his priestly ordination.
- There will be only one Mass on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December, and it will be at 9 AM. All parishioners are invited to this special Mass

### First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the 30 candidates who received their First Reconciliation last Saturday, 15 December. May you all be blessed with new and meaningful experiences of God's mercy and forgiveness.

**Christmas Day 8 AM is the Last Parish Mass at St Joseph the Worker Church Auburn South. Thereafter all parish Masses will be at Berala.**



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

#### Losimani Paea Kata

May she always know the love of God  
and feel His guiding hand throughout her life.

## OTHER NOTICES

### EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

**Pro-Life Training Day with Brendan Malone:** Workshops on how to effectively participate in campaigns to defeat anti-life parliamentary bills and how to spread the pro-life message with clarity and compassion. \$30 per head includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Saturday **February 16**, 9am to 5pm at St Paul of the Cross Parish, 532 New Canterbury Rd. Dulwich Hill. RSVP essential: [www.trybooking.com/ZZAZ](http://www.trybooking.com/ZZAZ)

### MISCELLANEOUS

**An Advent App for Christmas! – Meet Me in the Silence.** Walk the journey to Advent on your mobile device. The Advent Calendar App is free and available on your iPhone, iPad and Android devices. Search for "Xt3 Advent" in the Google Play store or the App store, or visit [www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3advent)

**Volunteering with CatholicCare.** Interested in volunteering to help seniors? Based at our Liverpool office, we need callers to phone people waiting for government funded home care to check on their wellbeing. Interested in volunteering to help children? Based at our Lewisham office, we need people to help at playgroups for young, vulnerable mothers and their babies. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more.

### SUPPORT & SERVICES

**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. For further information contact Bereavement Support Ph: (02) 9646 6908 / [bereavementsupport@catholicceteries.com.au](mailto:bereavementsupport@catholicceteries.com.au)

## Do you need help connecting with professional care services?

CCareline helps Sydneysiders navigate the maze of social services and makes referrals to counsellors, therapists and case managers across Sydney.

Call CCareline to find out more

**CCareline 13 18 19**

CatholicCare.org

connect@catholiccare.org

8am – 8pm Monday – Friday

### KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS!

The Church Store has been stocked with beautiful Nativity scenes, Christmas cards, Columbian calendars, Daily devotionals, Bibles, coloured glass Rosary beads and a host of other gift ideas.

Drop by, have a browse and give someone you love a gift with meaning this Christmas. After all, JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!



### The Meaning of '12 Days of Christmas'

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
4. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
6. The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
8. The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
10. The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
11. The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
12. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

**10 ATTITUDES FOR ADVENT**

- Search** (Magnifying glass icon): God in others and in your day to day life.
- Be generous** (Hands icon): Share your time and your joy.
- Reconcile** (Two people icon): with God and others.
- Be coherent** (Bandage icon): Match your actions to your beliefs.
- Love** (Heart icon): others through simple and kind gestures.
- Be grateful** (Thumbs up icon): with God for all your blessings.
- Speak** (Head with sound waves icon): about God. Don't be ashamed of Him.
- Illuminate** (Lightbulb icon): others with joy. Be a light in the world.
- Pray** (Praying hands icon): Dedicate some special time to God.

CatholicLink