

ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH BERALA



Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141;

Tel: 96447787; info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

f Stpeter Stjoseph t Fr Thomas@TKurunthanam

The Nativity of the
Lord -Year B
25 December 2014

Parish Priest

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

Priests in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari
Cor Bishop
T (02)9738 1491
M 0418 459 431

Fr Mark Spora
Pastor Emeritus SJW
T (02) 9649 9089

Secretary

Marie Caldarerri
T (02) 9644 7787
info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)
T. 0402071849
Karim Kassis (Vice Chair)
T. 0408404130
Joji Salar (Secretary)
Pat Kavanagh (Asst
Secretary), Jenny Michael,
Kay Scully, Joseph Vu, Joe
Moses, William Andrews,
Arthur Doumit and
Principals of the Parish
Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T (02) 9644 8859
Micheline Botham
(Secretary) 0422939342,
Joe Moses, Edward Duffy

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel
Regents Park
Principal—Jo Fox
T. 96449083

St Joseph the Worker
Auburn South
Principal—John Kennedy
T. 96461434

Glory to God and Peace to People

I wish you the peace and joy of Christmas. The peace of Christmas surpasses all the atrocities and hatred that evil people try to perpetuate. The joy of Christmas is much more profound than any pleasure prosperity offers. Christmas is a celebration of peace and joy by the people of good will. Our charity and good will can conquer hate ideologies and evil doings that menace the world and interrupt normal life. We know that by shouting “God is great”, in whatever language it may be, we do not bring any glory to God or any dignity to the beloved creations of God. It is the active participation in acts of charity that will bring glory to God. We need to put the welfare of our neighbours in front of any selfish motives. The angel of God, when he came to announce the birth of Jesus Christ, deliberately avoided the power of crazy people and self-centred leaders. Instead the angel went down to the valley of Beit Sahur where the shepherds were sleeping with their sheep. Because the message was meant for the people of good will and not for anyone else.



Our love and care for others is based on the love of God for us. God so loved the world that he sent his only son to be born among us. The birth of Jesus is not just a nice story for us to get inspiration from; it is the revelation that the Word of God became human with flesh, bone, skin, and blood. He became one of us. There is no other event in history as great as God becoming man. Many have tried to dispute this, but the history of two millennia has proven that nothing can stand against the Christmas message, that our God is with us.

It is the fire of love and power of the Holy Spirit that helps Christians to withstand hate and evil against them. No amount of Islamic fundamentalism will be able to conquer the fire of love and the Power of the Holy Spirit. If the persecutors of the church in the Middle Eastern region think that they can destroy the people of God, they will be proven wrong by history. No totalitarian government can ultimately win over the fire of love and power of the Holy Spirit the Christians have. China may not acknowledge the fire of love and the Power of the Holy Spirit is active within their country. But things will change. No amount of corruption within or without church can stop the fire of love and power of the Holy Spirit the people of God have. Recently the newly elected government of India allowed Christian churches to be torched and squashing of Christmas holidays. This will not extinguish the fire of love Christians live by or deprive the Christians of the Power of the Holy Spirit.

In a relatively trouble free, welfare minded and humanitarian society of our country Australia, many fail to realise the greatness of their Christian identity and God’s gift to them. As God offers the gift of peace and joy, he empowers us with the fire of love and the power of the Holy Spirit. But it requires a self-realisation to grasp the greatness of this empowering. Should anyone aspire towards such a self-realisation, I am very happy to help. Once again I wish you all the peace and joy of Christmas. May the fire of love in your lives and the Power of the Holy Spirit in you help realise the peace and joy to its fullest. May your lives give greater glory to God and realise God given dignity of human life.

The History of Christmas Carols:

Carols were first sung in Europe thousands of years ago, but they were pagan songs, sung at Winter Solstice celebrations. The word Carol actually means dance or a song of praise and joy!

Early Christians took over the pagan solstice celebrations for Christmas and gave people Christian songs to sing instead of pagan ones. In AD 129, a Roman Bishop said that a song called "Angel's Hymn" should be sung at a Christmas service in Rome. Soon after this many composers all over Europe started to write 'Christmas carols'. However, not many people liked them as they were all written and sung in Latin, a language that the normal people couldn't understand. By the time of the Middle Ages (the 1200s), most people had lost interest in celebrating Christmas altogether.

This was changed by St. Francis of Assisi when, in 1223, he started his Nativity Plays in Italy. The people in the plays sang songs or 'canticles' that told the story during the plays. Sometimes, the choruses of these new carols were in Latin; but normally they were all in a language that the people watching the play could understand and join in! The new carols spread to France, Spain, Germany and other European countries.



House made of chocolate prepared by Joyce McDonald for Christmas Lunch in the Jubilee Hall

Because the Carols were not strictly Scriptural, and not written in Latin, there were those who considered them inappropriate and in 1647, the celebration of Christmas and the singing of Carols disappeared from church services

During the Victorian era (1837-1901), two men by the names of William Sandys and Davis Gilbert published a collection of Christmas songs, old and new from various villages in England. Thus, the singing of Christmas Carols was revived. People began singing on the streets, in homes, in churches, for money and for free.

No matter what style of music a person may choose to enjoy the rest of the year, the traditional Christmas Carol breaks through the musical preferences and barriers, to be universally recognized as the most beloved music of all people; of all times.

Thank you!

To the singers, musicians, to the people who cleaned and decorated the church, to those who prepared the cribs (4 in total), to those who helped with Christmas pageant, to those who assisted with liturgy, and to the volunteers who helped with Christmas Luncheon.

30th Anniversary of Fr Thomas' Ordination

Tomorrow, 26 December 2014, on the Feast of St Stephen it is the 30th anniversary of Fr Thomas' Ordination. All are invited to a very special Mass which will be celebrated at 10.00am - Congratulations Fr Thomas!

Mass Intentions - May They Rest In Peace

Anniversaries: Albino & Caterina Bertuzzi,

Deceased: Nora Blake, Ada Mary Cullen, Sr Frances Rita Cullen, Joe Cicuto, Giovanni & Amabile Cicuto, Ted Duffy, Boey Kong Wah, Vincent Boyd, Leonard Gabrielle, Tony, Claire & Walter Phillips, Jean & Ted Hulston

Deceased members and friends of the following families: Ross & Mitchell Family, Cullen Family, Barrett Family; Willoughby Family, Mullins Family, O'Connor Family .