

## ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH BERALA



### Parish Priest

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

### Priests in Residence

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

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

### Parish Secretary

Marisa Squadrito  
Tues to Fri 9am -3pm

### 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) Sam Duch,  
Joe Moses, Rhia Victorino,  
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.

### Parish Schools

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

St Joseph the Worker  
Auburn South  
Principal - Gai Melville  
T. 96461434

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141  
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 Berala Catholic Parish

4th Sunday Ordinary

Time Year C

31 January 2016

## Be Open

There are many homeless people in Sydney, sleeping rough each night. It is an anomaly in a country which has one of the best social welfare systems and public housing provisions. Once I told a man sleeping by the side of the church that I do not want him to sleep there; but that I could organise housing for him. He did not want me to do it for him. He simply disappeared. Sometimes it is not lack of benefactors and good provisions that is the problem, but the lack of openness and preparedness from the part of the recipient. Forcing welfare on to them until they really feel the need for help and seek it, will prove futile.

Speaking about the Kingdom of God, Jesus also told the people in his home town, that their problem was that they were not prepared to receive it. They were still not open to the Kingdom. To make his point he enumerated some stories from the Bible. Elijah was sent in a time of terrible famine to a Sidonian widow in Zephath. No one else was open enough or prepared enough for the prophets. Therefore that simple Sidonian widow was the first to hear of providential care of God. Similar is the case with the Syrian leper Naaman. He was not the only leper in need of healing, but he was the one with openness to God and prepared for God's mercy. Therefore Elisha, the prophet of God, healed him. The people of Nazareth took offence at the teaching of Jesus. No one likes to be criticised. Since the truth about the Kingdom was too much for them, they tried to kill the giver of the truth.

In this year of mercy, the hindrance we come across to receive God's mercy is our lack of will to open our mind and heart to God and his Word. We need to show courage to be open to the truth and welcome the one who gives us the truth about life. That is our saviour Jesus. Trying to kill his Church is no remedy to our problem. Trying to deny the truth also is also not helping us. So let us be open to Jesus and his message about the Kingdom of God.



## Change of Mass times at SPC

Monsignor Barbari is on holidays this week. Therefore there will be only one Mass each day as per following schedule.

Monday: 6.45 AM Mass

Tuesday 6.45 AM Mass

Wednesday: 6.45 AM Mass

Thursday: 6.45 AM Mass.

Friday: 9.15 AM MASS,

Saturday: 8.00 am Mass, 9.AM-10 AM: Confession & Adoration.

## Pilgrim Statue Roster

The contact details for many who are on the roster to host the Pilgrim Statue have changed. Please contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603 to update your details as soon as possible.



## New Liturgy and Ministry Rosters

The new rosters which begin on 7 February are now complete. Copies are available in the foyer of the church

## Thanks Romaine and Brenda

Romaine Cheema has been a catechist in Public Schools for over 40 years. It is a great achievement. For the last 15 year or so, she has been the leader of the Catechist team of Berala parish. This year she is stepping down as the leader but she will continue to teach in public schools. The parish thanks Romaine for the great ministry she has been doing for many decades.



*Romaine Cheema*



*Brenda Wendt-Hussein*

Brenda Wendt-Hussein has graciously accepted my invitation to lead the Catechist team of the parish. She has recently celebrated a special 'O' birthday. We, the parish community, wish Brenda all the best and pray God's blessings on her ministry.

There are three public schools – Berala, Regents Park, Auburn West - ministered by our team. The Team would like to recruit a few more volunteers to help them. The parish office will be pleased to hear from new volunteers. We are also trying to organise CCD Accreditation Course this year on our premises to make it easy for any new volunteers.

## Ministers Gathering



Our Parish Hosted a gathering of the Pastors and Ministers from different denominations in our presbytery. Charlie (President, Pastoral Council), Sharon McBride (Auburn Hospital Chaplain/Group Secretary), Joshua Ng (Auburn Christian Assemblies), Captain David Delaney (Auburn Salvation Army), Mr Albert Yau (Lutheran Church 'Joyful Hub') John Ackad (MECO/Auburn Presbyterian), Phil Grebert (Auburn Baptist), attended the gathering. Fr Thomas led a Biblical reflection and prayer with the group. Then all prayed for our needs. There was also sharing about ministries in each of the pastoral communities. Next meeting is scheduled to meet after Easter.

## Pastoral Council

There will be a Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Thursday 4th February at 7.30pm in the Donovan Room.



## Sacraments of Initiation

First Holy Communion and Confirmation are two Sacraments of Initiation to follow after infant baptism. Catholic Schools, through the school curricula help the students understand the meaning of these sacraments in depth. The parents and siblings in the family help the little ones to experience the joy and place of these sacraments by taking them to Church and worship with the Parish Community. Our parish always works on improving the Sacramental program to prepare the children to celebrate these Sacraments of Initiation well. This Year of Mercy, we give greater emphasis on making the preparation more parish based. There will be three different programs for Confirmation, First Communion, and First Reconciliation.

### Confirmation

The Confirmation Program will start with enrolling the names of the Candidates with the parish on 20/21 February at SPC Church. The Candidates come with their parents to church 30 minutes before the start of the Mass (Vigil or 10 AM Mass). The Sacramental team will collect a \$15 enrolment fee and provide the registration form. Parents help the candidates to fill the forms and present it during the Mass to the priest. Then on Tuesday, 23 February at 7 PM parents are invited to SPC Church at which resource material will be provided and detailed information on the program will be explained. We will be using resources provided by Gracia Publication of CCD. On March 6 & 13, two Sundays, Parents and candidates will gather in the Parish Hall after 10 AM Mass for the catechetical and group sessions. It will be an hour each. Then the families are expected to participate in the Holy week Liturgies and activities with enthusiasm. After Holy Week, there will be two more catechetical meetings for the parents and candidates on Sundays, 1 & 8 May in the Jubilee Hall. On Tuesday 10 May, the candidates will have their reflection day and in the same evening the parents are invited to another meeting in the Church at 7PM to finalise the preparation. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be at 7 PM on Wednesday 25 May. We are still waiting hear from Chancery the name of the bishop Confirming.



### Communion



Parents can enrol their children for First Holy Communion on 27/28 February. They need to arrive SJW or SPC Church half an hour before the start of the Mass. The Sacramental team will collect \$15 as registration fee and provide the families with forms to fill in. The children are to present these forms during the Mass to the priest. Then the parents are invited to a meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday 1 May at SPC Church. Details of the program will be explained at this meeting and resource materials will be distributed to the parents. Using the material the parents will be able to explain Holy Eucharist to the Children and enthuse them to participate in Sunday Liturgies. Each family can make an appointment to meet with Fr Thomas in this time. This meeting has to be done before the middle of August. At this meeting Fr Thomas will check the preparedness of the child for the reception of the Sacrament. The children and their parents are to meet for one hour catechetical sessions on Sundays of June after 10 AM Mass in the Jubilee Hall. Alternatively the parents can prepare the children at home. Thursday 18 August is the retreat day for the children. First Holy Communion will be celebrated at SJW at 8 AM on Sunday 21 August and at SPC on Saturday 27 August at 5pm or at 10am On Sunday 28 August.

### Reconciliation

The First Reconciliation Program will start this year with enrolment at Mass on the first weekend of September. You will be able to do the registration in any one of the three weekend Masses. The parents meeting will be held on the following Tuesday evening and the catechetical classes will be held in the Jubilee hall four consecutive Sundays starting on 16 October. The First Reconciliation will be celebrated on 15 and 16 November.

Any further inquiry could be directed Marisa in the parish Office or Maureen Hynes, Sr Karen Nguyen, Josie Pangalanan, or Fr Thomas.



# LENTEN PRAYER GATHERING AT BERALA

## Lenten Prayer Groups

It is time to start organising Lenten Prayer Groups.

Lent Starts on Wednesday 10 February. Already 2 groups are scheduled.

Jenny Michael's group will meet at 7.30 PM on Tuesdays, starting on 9 February, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Fr Thomas will be leading a group on Thursdays at 7.30 PM starting on 11 February.

You are welcome to sign up for one of these groups or form your own. Let the parish office know how many are in your group so that we can organise the materials for you.

**Sign up sheets are available in the foyer of the church.**

## Lent 2016

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 10 February.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. Fasting is obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. Abstinence from meat is to be observed from age 14 onwards.

There will be 3 Masses with Ash ceremony on 10 February – 6.45 AM, 9.15 AM, & 7.00 PM. All these Masses will be at St Peter Chanel Church.

The normal confession time is during the Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament (exposed) from 9AM-10AM on Saturdays. There will be an additional confession time offered especially for High School Students and any other person wishing to have the sacrament 1.30 PM – 2.00 PM on Fridays.

Stations of the Cross will be held at SPC church on Fridays of Lent at 7.00 PM

Later in Lent Fr John Sullivan will be offering Spiritual Direction for those wishing to have it. He will also be leading reflection days in Holy Week before the Easter Triduum. Details will be announced later.

As it is customary, we shall participate in Project Compassion during Lent. Envelopes and boxes will be made available from the first week of Lent.

This year it is the Holy Year of Mercy. Therefore Lent should be special for everyone. We shall enter into the mercy of God through our Sacramental participations and acts of charity. Thus we shall make ourselves worthy of God's blessings.



## Other Notices

**Ladies, Improve your Reading, Writing & Conversation skills :** If English is your second language, Sr Elaine Walker is holding classes to improve communication skills from 1.00pm - 2.30pm Monday to Friday or 4.00pm - 5.30pm Tuesday to Friday at 25 Helena St Auburn

**Knitting and Crochet Group:** This Group, also run by Sr Elaine, meets on Monday mornings at 9.30am to knit for the Sydney Night Patrol Van and children with cancer.

Please contact Sr Elaine Walker on 9649 9635 to enrol or for more information on these programs..

**Preparing for the Vocation of Marriage?** Of Life and Love Marriage Preparation Weekend at the Catholic Adult Education Centre. Places available for 14/15 May and 27/28 Aug, \$250 per couple. For more info, call 9646 9010 or go to [www.caec.com.au](http://www.caec.com.au) - \*A wedding is a day, but a marriage is a lifetime\*

**Walk through Lent 2016 with The Catholic Guy** - Lent can be Life Changing. Go to [TheCatholicGuy.tv/Lent2016](http://TheCatholicGuy.tv/Lent2016) to view a short 3 minute video that will help make Lent a more meaningful and powerful time for you. Join thousands around the world in focusing on the real meaning of Lent in preparation for Easter. Should you want more information call 1300 734 880.

# Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45 AM Mass	
Tuesday	6.45 AM Mass	7.00 PM Legion of Mary (SJW Hall)
Wednesday	6.45 AM Mass	
Thursday	6.45 AM Mass 7.30 PM Pastoral Council Meeting	
Friday	9.15 AM Mass	
Saturday	8.00 AM Mass 9.00 - 10.00 AM Adoration, Novena, Reconciliation 5.00 PM Mass	
Sunday	10.00 AM Mass	8.00 AM Mass

## Mass Intentions

**Sick:** Archbishop Anthony Fisher

**Recently Deceased:** Kevin Azzi

**Anniversaries:** M O Varghese, Mary Varghese, Francesca Brancatisano

**Deceased:** Mary Gabrielle,

**Deceased members and friends of :** Ross & Mitchell Family, Irwin & O'Dwyer Families,  
**May their Souls Rest in Peace**

**Rachel's Vineyard Ministries** offers a confidential voicemail number: 0400 092 555. There are healing retreats regularly in the Sydney area that offer women and men a spiritual way through grief and loss. Contact them for a non judgemental listening ear through one on one support or a referral to a trained counsellor or a trained, compassionate priest. Visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org.au](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.au)

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

**Spiritual Retreats:** Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo T/F: (02) 4236 0533 E: [cottageretreats@bigpond.com](mailto:cottageretreats@bigpond.com)

Carmelites Varroville E: [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com);

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby E: [clary.antaog@gmail.com](mailto:clary.antaog@gmail.com)

**Sara's place:** For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit [www.sarasplace.org.au](http://www.sarasplace.org.au) Ph: 96998190

## Feast of the Week.

**2 February - The Presentation of the Lord** Feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century and was adopted in Rome during the seventh century. Celebrated forty days after Christmas, commemorating the prescribed Mosaic ritual following the birth of a child, and recalling the encounter of Jesus with Simeon and Anna in the temple. Christ is "the light to enlighten all nations", and so candles are blessed during the introductory rites and carried in the entrance procession.



**5 February - St Agatha** Died in Sicily, perhaps during the persecutions of the third century. Venerated in Rome as a virgin martyr on this day since the sixth century and included by name in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). Remembered in legend for her faith and for remaining resolute under torture.

**6 February - St Paul Miki & Companions** Died on 5 February 1597, a group of twenty-six martyrs crucified at Nagasaki (Japan). Most were Japanese and most were laypeople, some still youths. The first of many martyrs in a young Church. Paul Miki, aged thirty-five years at his death, was a Jesuit scholastic from an aristocratic Japanese family. Remembered as a notable preacher who inspired the local Church in his own time and in the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution and isolation.





## Antiphons & Readings

### Entrance Antiphon:

Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

### Responsorial Psalm:

**R.** I will sing of your salvation.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.  
In your justice rescue me, free me:  
pay heed to me and save me **R.**

Be a rock where I can take refuge,  
a mighty stronghold to save me;  
for you are my rock, my stronghold.  
Free me from the hand of the wicked **R.**

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,  
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.  
On you I have leaned from my birth,  
from my mother's womb you have been my help **R.**

My lips will tell of your justice  
and day by day of your help.  
O God, you have taught me from my youth  
and I proclaim your wonders still **R**

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor  
and freedom to prisoners.

**Alleluia!**

### Communion Antiphon:

Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on  
you.

### Today's Readings

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19  
1 Cor 12:31-13:13  
Lk 4:21-30

### Next Sunday Readings

Is 6:1-8  
1 Cor 15:1-11  
Lk 5:1-11

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

**7 FEBRUARY 2016**

**5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Joseph MARMAN	William ANDREWS	Mario CAPRA
ORGANIST	Maureen HYNES		SAMOAN
CANTOR	Group 2		CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Karim KASSIS	Hoa NGUYEN
	Lawrence LOPEZ	Michael CHOW	Sharon IACONO
COMMENTOR	Joy SKERRITT	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Hilary NGUYEN
GIFTS	Graham TOBY Family		Robert JAKSIC Family
PIETY STALL	Adele MELER		Anna MANGANARO
SP. MINISTER	Kay SCULLY		Mai VU
SP. MINISTER	Joy SKERRITT		Anna MANGANARO
<b>HOSPITAL:</b> Ken Hartman & Jenny Michael		<b>ALTAR:</b> Group 4 A Yip; M Botham; A Tumapon	
<b>SPC CLEANERS:</b> Samoan Youth Group		<b>COUNTERS:</b> Group 2 Christine Kensey; Julie Toby	
<b>SJW CLEANERS:</b> Maronite Group		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY:</b> Joji Salar	
<b>HOSPITALITY SPC:</b> Sharon Iacono		<b>SJW:</b> Karim & Gloria Kassis	



***"Family that pray together stay together"***

**PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel** at the Benisano home,  
27 Regent St, Berala. Please join 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.

**Holy Mass at Berala:** Monday to Thursday 6.45AM & Friday 9.15 AM

Saturday 8.00AM, 9.00AM Adoration & Novena. **Lord's Day Mass:** Saturday 5.00PM (Vigil), Sunday 10.00AM.

**Holy Mass at Auburn South:** Tues 9.00 AM (During school term only) **Lord's Day Mass:** Sunday 8.00 AM

**Reconciliation at Berala:** Saturday 9.00AM - 10.00AM.

### 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*)