



## ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH BERALA

### Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

18 December 2016

#### First Reading Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The virgin will conceive.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:  
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men  
without trying the patience of my God, too?  
The Lord himself, therefore,  
will give you a sign.  
It is this: the maiden is with child  
and will soon give birth to a son  
whom she will call Immanuel,  
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

#### Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

#### Gospel Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son  
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

**DON'T FORGET!**

## Carols Festival 21 December 7.30pm

### Parish Priest

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

### Priests in Residence

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

Fr Mark Spora  
Pastor Emeritus SJW

### Parish Secretary

Marisa Squadrito  
Tues to Fri 9am -3pm  
T (02) 9644 7787

### Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)  
T. 0402071849  
Karim Kassis (Vice Chair)  
T. 0408404130  
Maureen Hynes (Secretary)  
Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),  
Micheline Botham (Social Committee)  
Jenny Michael (Liturgy Committee)  
Pat Kavanagh (Social Justice),  
Jann Rockliff (Hospital Visit),  
Joe Moses, Rhia Victorino, Danny Pavicic, Arthur Doumit and  
Principals of the Parish Schools.

### Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)  
T (02) 9644 8859  
Micheline Botham (Secretary)  
0422939342,  
Joe Moses, Ingrid Scharenguivel &  
Brendon Nazareth

### Parish Schools

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

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South  
T. 96461434  
Principal - Gai Melville  
Family Educator - Angela Finnane

## Parish Diary This Week!

Monday	6.45am Mass
Tuesday	6.45am Mass
Wednesday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass 7.30pm Carols Festival SPC Church Lawn
Thursday	6.45am & 9.15am - Mass 6.00pm Legion of Mary (SJW Hall) 7.00pm Psalmists practice at 8 Wallace St Sefton 7.30pm Parish Choir Practice for Xmas & Anniversary Masses
Friday	6.45am Mass & 9.15am Mass 7.30pm 2nd Rite Reconciliation at SPC Church
Saturday	7.00pm Christmas Vigil Children's Mass 12.00 Midnight Christmas Mass
Sunday	8.00am Christmas Mass at SJW Church Auburn Sth 10.00am Mass Christmas Day 11.00am Christmas Luncheon in the Jubilee Hall

### Please Note

There will be no Mass at 8.00am next Saturday (Christmas Eve)  
and no Novena, Adoration and Confession.  
Confession is available on Friday evening at 7.30pm.

### Mass Intentions

**Anniversaries:** Maria Thi Yen Vu, Felicisimo C Amores

**Recently Deceased:** Clare Fleeton

**Deceased members and friends of :** Ross & Mitchell Families, Erwin & O'Dwyer Families, Amores & Domingo Families

### Clare Fleeton Funeral

Clare Fleeton, one of our parishioners for many years passed away at 2.30am Wednesday, 14 December at the age of 85. She had been in St Joseph Nursing Home, Auburn lately. Her funeral will be at 1.30 pm on Monday, 19 December, at St Pauls Church, 24 Garrett St, Moss Vale. May God grant her soul eternal rest.



### "Family that pray together stay together"

#### PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel

at the Jarczewski home,  
10 Dempster Cr, Berala

Please join them any evening at 3.00pm  
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.

### The Nativity Scene

A 7-year old child was drawing a picture of the Nativity. The picture was very good, including Mary, Joseph and, of course, baby Jesus. However, there was also a fat man standing in the corner of the stable. When the child was asked about it, she replied, "Oh, That's Round John Virgin."



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

**Spiritual Retreats:** Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - [www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats](http://www.jamberooabbey.org.au/retreats)

Carmelites Varroville - [www.carmeliteretreats.com.au](http://www.carmeliteretreats.com.au)

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby - [www.divineretreatcentre.org.au](http://www.divineretreatcentre.org.au)

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

## A Just Man and the Saviour

When the news of disgraced former minister Eddie Obeid being jailed was heard, most people agreed that justice was done. But his wife and family who left the court in tears would have been thinking of Eddie as a just man who loyal to the family and kept up its honour. It is the context and framework of each judgement that gives meaning to it. Most people do not intend to do evil or the wrong thing.



Joseph in the Gospel of Matthew was a 'just man'. Why was he a 'just man'? According to Jewish tradition, a just man would follow the 'Torah', the rules from the first five books of the Bible. Accordingly he decided to divorce his betrothed bride to be, when he learned that she was pregnant before they cohabited. His sense of compassion made him do it in private, without much publicity, to spare the honour for him and his family. Then came the revelation from God's angel that what Mary had conceived was from the Holy Spirit and the child will be 'Jesus' meaning 'God's salvation'. Now Joseph had to decide between the Torah and the revelation of God.

It was like the decision Ahaz, the father of David, had to make for his kingdom (Israel) in a critical situation. According to the prophet Isaiah (Ref. chapter 7) Ahaz was torn between the advices of his military leaders and the message of God pronounced by the prophet Isaiah. Though the prophet told him that God will show that 'He is with them' through a son, Ahaz preferred more pragmatic alliances with kingly powers. This brought disaster to him and his people. Unlike Ahaz, when Joseph had to decide between the security of the Torah and the revelation of God, he decided to be obedient to God's message. He accepted Mary as his wife. He knew that the Spirit of God who gave life to the 'dry bones' (Ref Prophet Ezekiel 37:1-14), and the Spirit of God who was active at the very creation of the world (Ref Gen 1:2) was active in Mary with a new creation. The child in Mary's womb would be the revelation that Our God is with Us (Emmanuel) and his name would be Jesus (God saves). It will provide a new life for the people of God.

The question you and I should ask is whether we are like Ahaz or Joseph in our decision making. If financial advisors and celebrity status outdo our obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we are like Ahaz. But to realise the salvation through the experience of God being with us (Emmanuel) we shall be obedient to the revelations of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Let us make our Christmas a celebration of God being with us - Emmanuel.



### Parish Carol Festival

**7.30pm Wednesday, 21 December**

**On the lawn beside St Peter Chanel Church**

(In the event of rain, Carols will be moved to the Jubilee Hall)

Bring along rugs and picnic baskets if you wish.

Electronic candles can be purchased for \$2 on the night.

*All welcome!*

### Holiday Break for Parish Choir

The final 2016 practice for Parish Choir will be Thurs 22 Dec, 2016 to prepare for Christmas Masses, Father's Anniversary Mass, Mary the Mother of God and the Epiphany. Regular practices will resume Thurs 9 February. There will however be one special practice on Tue 24 Jan at 7.30pm at 8 Wallace St Sefton for those attending Australia Day Mass. A sincere thank you for your dedication and support throughout 2016. *Maureen.*

### Christmas Schedule 2016

**Wednesday 21 December**

7.30pm Carols Festival at SPC Berala

**Friday 23 December**

7.30pm Second Rite Reconciliation at SPC Berala

**Saturday 24 December**

7.00pm Mass at SPC Berala with children & families.

Children are invited to dress up as shepherds,

Magi (kings), angels.

12.00am Solemn Midnight Mass at SPC Berala

**Sunday 25 December**

8.00am Mass at SJW Auburn South

10.00am Mass at SPC Berala

11.00am - 3.00pm Christmas Lunch in the Jubilee Hall

**Monday 26 December**

10.30am Mass (Anniversary of Ordination for Fr Thomas)





## Fr Mark Spora Honoured

His Holiness Pope Francis has granted special honours, Croce pro Ecclesia et Pontifice, to Fr Mark Spora and his friend Fr Pat McAuliffe marking the 60th anniversary of their Ordinations. The Honour for Fr Mark Spora especially recognises his commitment to assisting the studies of future priests at St. Columba's College, Springwood.

He was born in Sydney but undertook studies for the Priesthood at Propaganda Fide College in Rome where he completed a Licentiate in Theology and was ordained by His Eminence Clemente Cardinal Micara on 21st December 1955.

After returning to Australia in 1959, he was first appointed as Assistant Priest at Lewisham and later at Cabramatta, Neutral Bay and St Mary's Cathedral.

Fr Mark then spent nine years sharing the knowledge he had gained from his overseas theological training and his parish experience with Seminary students.

A return to parish work followed when he became Administrator at Dover Heights in 1979 before beginning his longest appointment as Parish Priest of Auburn South, which he served for 33 years until his retirement in February 2012.

Fr Mark proved to be a fine shepherd to another of the growing and ethnically diverse areas of Western Sydney where he has continued to provide supply to the Parish of Berala which now incorporates South Auburn.

Congratulations to Fr Mark who has devoted virtually all of his life to spreading the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Fr Mark, whose birthday we celebrated last Sunday at SJW Church, is now in respite care at St Joseph Village Auburn.



## The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Invite all who wish  
to share the joy of Christmas with others  
to a Christmas Lunch  
Food and drink provided

**Date: 25 December 2016**  
**Place: Jubilee Hall, 64 Kingsland Rd Berala**  
**(next to church)**  
**Time: 11am to 3pm**

RSVP for lunch and transport: Please phone Anne or Christine no later than Friday 16 December on 96437794

For further details please contact  
Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378 or Arthur Doumit on 0417 270 923

## Christmas Lunch Donations

Donations are needed for our luncheon on Christmas day to ensure it is a success. We require salads, desserts, meat, hot food and alcoholic drinks. If you can help please fill in the Christmas Lunch Donation Sheet located at the rear of the church. Together we can bring some joy to many.

## Envelope Contributions

Due to recent NSW State Government legislative changes that take effect from 1 January 2017 **it will not be possible to provide tax deductibility on Planned Giving donations made after 31 December 2016.** A tax deductible receipt will however be provided **at the end of the current financial year** for any contributions made for the period 1 July to 31 December 2016.

The Parish Finance Committee will be writing to each parishioner who is currently contributing to the Parish Planned Giving and who is seeking tax deductibility to provide them with further information. Tax deductibility will still be available for contributions to the Charitable Works Fund and Priests Retirement Fund appeals.

## **POSITION VACANT: CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH, BERALA PART-TIME PASTORAL CO-ORDINATOR**

The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph, Berala, invites applications from suitably qualified persons interested in taking on the role of Pastoral Co-ordinator. This is a part time position working 24 hours per week with flexible schedule per mutually agreed times.

The primary purpose of this role is to co-ordinate and manage the pastoral activities of the parish, in conjunction and collaboration with the parish priest and various groups of the parish. This role is responsible for assisting the Parish Priest to provide leadership within the parish and support him in the pastoral care of the Parish.

The Pastoral Co-ordinator will be a person of faith and commitment to the mission of Catholic Church, with a solid understanding of Liturgy and Sacraments, possessing superior communication skills, and demonstrated capability to work in an organised and systematic way, in collaboration with the leadership team.

A demonstrated level of computer literacy, including Microsoft Office, and administrative skills are essential requirements for this position.

An understanding of and commitment to Catholic values and teachings is required.

Remuneration negotiable. Please indicate your expected remuneration when applying.

For a copy of the position description contact the parish office by email at [info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au) or by telephone on 02 9644 7787

To apply for this position please forward your application and resume to:

Parish Priest

St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Parish

60 Kingsland Road

BERALA NSW 2141

or

email: [pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

**Applications close on Thursday 22 December 2016**

### **A new beginning with St Joseph the Worker Primary**

A new beginning was initiated in the Archdiocese with St Joseph the Worker Primary School. A memorandum of Understanding (MOU) re SJW School was signed on Tuesday 13 December. The signatories are Dr. Dan White, Executive Director of Sydney Catholic Schools; Bishop Antoine Tarabay, Maronite Eparchy of Australia; Fr Sam Wehbe, Parish Priest of St Raymond's Auburn; Fr Michael Mclean, Episcopal Vicar for Education in the Sydney Archdiocese and I. As per the MOU, SJW Primary will continue to be a Berala Parish School. 'But the Berala Parish Priest will from time to time delegate to the St Raymond's Parish Priest that would ordinarily be undertaken by Berala Parish Priest, being on the selection panel for appointment of leadership team; and negotiating arrangements for use of school facilities. Any such undertakings will be according to the Code of Canon Law'. (ref MOU3.1e). Though I am still the principal chaplain, I will invite Fr Sam Wehbe, the Parish Priest of St Raymond's to be an assistant Chaplain to SJW School. The seed for such this MOU was sown when I met with the Archbishop late 2015. Then the Archbishop expressed his desire to allow Maronites and other Eastern Rite Catholics greater participation in the pastoral life of our school system, and I agreed with him. Since then, there has been consultation with all relevant parties for a year and now we have come to the Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU will greatly benefit our parish school especially in pastoral care.

## **Other Notices**

**Catholiccare: Supporting the people of Sydney for 75 Years** CatholicCare services assist people to live and thrive at every age. We provide disability services, counselling and support for children, young people and families and deliver ageing services in the home. We can assist you to navigate the new world of the NDIS and My Aged Care. Info Ph: 13 18 19 E: [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org) or [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org).

**Youth Summer Schools of Evangelisation** – A Great Summer Retreat! What are you doing this summer? Come on a week-long retreat for young people wanting to encounter Jesus in a new way and share the Christian challenge with others. Theme: "River of Grace" Ezekiel 47:9. Includes lectures and seminars, prayer, music, loads of fun and new friends. Held at Bathurst NSW (8-15 January 2017). Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community for over 25 years. For ages 16-35. For more info [www.summerschool.org.au](http://www.summerschool.org.au).

## Antiphons & Readings

### Entrance Antiphon:

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.) Let the Lord enter;  
he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
A virgin will give birth to a son;  
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.  
Alleluia!

### Communion Antiphon:

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

### Next Week's Readings:

*Vigil*  
Is 62:1-5  
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25  
Mt 1:1-25

*Night*  
Is 9:1-7  
Titus 2:11-14  
Lk 2:1-14

*Day*  
Is 52:7-10  
Heb 1:1-6  
Jn 1:1-18



### 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 Parish Office for any other time.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the Parish Office

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

25 DECEMBER 2016				CHRISTMAS
MASS	7PM VIGIL (SPC)	MIDNIGHT (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Charlie SCULLY William ANDREWS	William ANDREWS	Robert JAKSIC
ORGANIST	Paul	Kate PARISH		Kate PARISH
CANTOR	SAMOAN CHOIR	PARISH CHOIR		PARISH CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Noelene Donnellan	Joy SKERRITT	Joe MOSES	Margaret NGUYEN
	John DONNELLAN	Lawrence LOPEZ	Ken HARTMAN	Micheline BOTHAM
COMMENTATOR	Christine KENSEY	Maria SIMEONE	Karim KASSIS	Monica SMITH
GIFTS	FACER FAMILY	Kay SCULLY Sheila CANTWELL		Alan & Margaret THAM
SP. MINISTER	Anna MANGANARO	Jenny MICHAEL		Hoa NGUYEN
SP. MINISTER	Pam SNELL			Mai VU
CHURCH SHOP	Anna FACER	Jenny MICHAEL		Micheline BOTHAM
GREETERS		Kay SCULLY Sheila CANTWELL		
<b>HOSPITAL VISITATION SAT:</b> J Le Mottee & D Gooch			<b>ALTAR:</b> Group 2 Bolonia family	
<b>HOSPITAL COMMUNION SUN:</b> W Andrews & R Jaksic			<b>COUNTERS:</b> J Le Mottee	
<b>CLEANERS - SPC:</b> Vietnamese Group			<b>SJW:</b> I Kula, T Langi & Friends	<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY:</b> None

## Planned Giving Request Form

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

Your Name: .....

Telephone No .....Email .....

☐ Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.

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