



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](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 5.00am (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.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

30 July 2017

First Reading

1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise

and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Second Reading

Rom 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel

Mt 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'"

Antiphons, Readings & Reflections

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) Lord, I love your commands .

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. (R.)

2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. (R.)

3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. (R.)

4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Ps 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Next Week's Readings:

Dn 7:9-10. 13-14.

2 Pt 1:16-19

Mt 17:1-9

Reflections

Have You Thought?

In today's passage the gospel writer appears to describe himself: 'every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.' It is a fantastic description of what it means to be an

interpreter of the gospel. To interpret scripture, one must draw on what is old; applying understandings of the text in its original context and its original audience. But one must also draw on what is new; making connections between that original setting and the context in which it is being read today.

Scriptural Context

Over the last few weeks we have now heard Matthew Chapter 13 almost in its entirety. We heard first the parable of the sower then last week three short parables about weeds amongst the wheat, the mustard seed growing into a great tree and leaven in the flour. Finally, today we have had these additional pithy parables. The entire chapter seeks to paint metaphoric images of the kingdom. Woven through these images is a suggestion that the kingdom is open to all—all are presented with the invitation—but not everyone will accept that invitation or respond to it in the same way.

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

Pastoral Co-ordinator

Andrew Kozah
pastoral@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Tommy Francisco
tommy.bolin.francisco@gmail.com

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 Mass 7.00pm Music Planning Meeting with Maureen Hynes
Wednesday	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass
Thursday	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass 1.30pm Starting Afresh this Winter (St Joseph's House) 7.00pm Psalmist then Parish Choir Practice (8 Wallace St, Sefton, 9644 5818)
Friday	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass
Saturday	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary 9.00am Novena Adoration Confession 5.00pm Sunday Vigil Mass
Sunday	8.00am Mass (SJW) 10.00am Mass



Family that pray together stay together"
PILGRIM STATUE

FROM ST PETER CHANEL

at the Jaksic Home
2 Dempster Crescent, Berala
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 Kassis Home
14 New Street, Auburn
Please join them any evening at 7.30pm for
the Rosary.

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

Roster Next Week

6 AUGUST 2017		TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
ACCOMPANIST	Maureen HYNES	LEWISHAM TONGAN	SAMOAN
CANTOR	Chris HYNES & PARISH CHOIR	COMMUNITY CHOIR	CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Jann ROCKLIFF	Ken HARTMAN	Micheline BOTHAM
	John DONNELLAN	Joe MOSES	
COMMENTATOR	Christine KENSEY	Maris MARSH	Monica SMITH
GIFTS	Dorothy BOYD		Children's Liturgy
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Angela TANG
SP. MINISTER	Janet Ryan		Mai VU
CHURCH SHOP	Margaret HEYS		Jenny MICHAEL
GREETERS	Roshan SEBASTIAN Sharon SEBASTIAN	Joe MOSES	Merv & Rhia VICTORINO
HOSPITALITY		Jennifer & Tony KASULE	Phil LOPEZ
Hospital Visitation Sat : Jann Rockliff & Phil Lopez		Altar: Group 1 Gloria De Alkstrand; Moya Lewis; Anna Manganaro	
Hospital Communion Sun: Bob & Christine Kensey			
Cleaners SPC Samoan Choir		Children's liturgy: Anna FACER	
Saturday		5 AUGUST	
LECTOR FOR MASS		Jann ROCKLIFF	

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased: Des Ryan, Vince Cribb, Peter Nguyen, Joseph Nguyen, Maria Camua
Martin, Kenneth Fleeton
Deceased: Nguyen Thi Cuc, Joseph Portelli, Sylvia Portelli, Girgis Aboumelhem, Enmaza
Aboumelhem, Peter Michael, Karime Michael, Joan Buefari, Josie Bittar
Anniversary: Ellen Masterson, Nemesio Tejero Jr, Glenn Ford, Paul Ford, Vengela D., Peter
Oh
Deceased members and friends of : Erwin & O'Dwyer Families, Ross & Mitchell Families,
Duong Family, Michael Family, Beaini Family, Aboumelhem Family
Other Intentions: Maree Khater & Khater Family



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith
Jordan Bak and Kouli Joshua Bak
May they always know the love of God
and feel His guiding hand throughout their lives.

Trash and Treasure, Kingdom of God can Surprise You



There are people who won jackpot in lotteries and there are business people would plan towards a fortune for themselves. When they see opportunities they are prepared to risk everything for the fortune they hope is awaiting for them. Suppose their dreams are realised, what an euphoria it will cause. Jesus says the Kingdom of God is like that.

Jesus was all about the Kingdom of God, yet he never defined the Kingdom of God. Whenever he was asked about the Kingdom of God, he spoke in parables. For the last few weeks we heard how Jesus spoke about the Kingdom of God in parables like the sower, the seed and weed, the mustard seed, the yeast, and so on. Each of these stories spoke about at least one aspect of the Kingdom of God. But none of them actually defined the Kingdom of God. Because the Kingdom of God cannot be defined, it has to be experienced. It is like friendship and love. No amount of explanation adequately explains a friendship, or a mother's bonding with her child. It has to be experienced. Couples 'fall in love'. So is the Kingdom of God.

Be open to fall in love with the Kingdom of God. When it happens, it's a bonanza surprise, like finding a huge treasure or winning a lotto.

Even when we think we are deprived of all good luck in life, the jackpot of the Kingdom of God can surprise us. One such story is that of Blessed Augustine of Ramapuram, the parish where I was baptised. As a newly ordained priest at the age of 30 Augustine longed for parish ministry, but in vain. The bishop and his consultants thought of Fr Augustine as too sick and too naive to undertake any proper ministry in the Church. He was allowed to confine to the local presbytery. But he started to do pastoral visits and offer sacraments to the people whom the other priests were too happy to ignore. They were the 'Dalits' (downtrodden) in and around Ramapuram. Having led a simple life but powerful witness to the Kingdom, he died at the age of 82 in 1973. Saint John Paul II beatified him in 2004. Now thousands of people flock each day to his tomb seeking inspiration and his intercession before the Lord. He had the jackpot of the Kingdom while other able bodied and efficient priests and church leaders were still grappling with the Kingdom of God.

Saint Alphonsa of Kerala whose feast is celebrated by Syro Malabar Church on 28 July is another example of apparently useless life being lifted by God to be the best realisation of the Kingdom of God. If God can surprise Blessed Augustine of Ramapuram, and St Alphonsa of Bharanganam, he can do it for you too! Therefore in your vulnerability be prepared for God's surprise in you with his Kingdom.

Feasts & Memorials of the Week



Monday—St Ignatius of Loyola

St Ignatius of Loyola was born the youngest son of a Basque noble family. As a young soldier he fought against the French army and eventually sustained a

crippling leg injury. During his long recovery, he read books about the life of Christ and the saints and was duly converted. After a pilgrimage to Jerusalem he went to study in France, where he also did evangelical work as a layman. Together with a small group of followers, Ignatius offered his services to the Pope. They were ordained as priests and in 1540 the Pope gave formal approval to their religious order known as the Society of Jesus. Ignatius remained in Rome as the head of the Jesuits which grew to over one thousand members at the time of his death in 1556.



Tuesday—St Alphonsus

St Alphonsus Liguori was born near Naples in 1696, and was the son of a nobleman. He was a successful lawyer before being ordained a priest at the age of 29.

In 1731, Alphonsus refounded a community of nuns and a year later he founded the Congregation of the Holy Redeemer; a community of priests dedicated to preaching to the poor in rural towns. He was bishop of Sant Agatha dei Goti for thirteen years before retiring due to ill health. He published more than thirty theological and devotional works and as a result was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871.



Thursday—St Dominic

St Dominic de Guzman was born in Calaruega, Spain, in c.1170. One legend suggests that at his baptism, his mother saw a shining star appear in front of him.

Dominic became a priest at the age of twenty six, and several years later was made the unofficial leader of a papal mission to the Albigensian heretics in the French province of Languedoc. For this work he trained a group of religious women and established a nunnery at Prouille. Soon the idea of an order of preachers began to grow, and in 1216 the order of Friars Preachers was formally approved by Rome. With a strong emphasis on the vow of poverty, the Friars Preachers became popular missionaries in Western Europe, Asia and the Americas.

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)

Catholic Mission Appeal



In Bujuni, a remote parish deep in the heart of Uganda, bringing life into the world is often fraught with danger. Many women take great risks to get to the nearest affordable maternity ward at St Luke Bujuni Health Centre. Despite the tireless work of Sister Mary Goretti and her small staff, the health centre does not have the capacity to deal with the influx of high-risk pregnancies amongst the many expectant mothers. Sadly, the potential consequences can be tragic. With your support through Catholic Mission, Sister Goretti is hoping to expand St Luke's and provide essential services for women and children. Please give generously to support women and children's health through Jesus' life-giving mission today.

Freecall: 1800 257 296. catholicmission.org.au/uganda

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to bring life to "the poorest and most neglected parts of God's vineyard."

Your donation to Mary MacKillop International will support thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru and Papua New Guinea in education, health and livelihoods opportunities, bringing hope to communities for generations to come. To make a donation please use the envelope provided - no postage is required—or you may go to our website: www.mmi.org.au, Mary MacKillop International, PO Box 1646 North Sydney NSW 2059 Ph: [02 8912 7777](tel:0289127777) E: info@mmi.org.au. "Let us show love in our acts." Mary MacKillop 1890



Parish Notices

Fr Thomas Away

Fr Thomas will be taking two weeks off to visit his family. He will be away from 31 July until 16 August. In his absence Mgr Michael Berbari and Fr Ken Sargent will be helping the parish with liturgies. Contact Andrew Kozah, pastoral@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, regarding any pastoral needs or queries.

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, story time, 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.

Men's Ministry

St Peter Chanel and St Joseph Parish Berala is starting a new men's ministry for single or married men over the age of 25 and upwards. The idea of this ministry would be to build friendships and foster a brotherhood, where men of all ages catch up on a monthly basis. Ultimately, the primary purpose would be to grow spiritually in Christ! Contact Andrew Kozah (Pastoral Coordinator) at pastoral@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. Or via the parish office on 02 9644 7787 to provide your details.

Starting Afresh in Christ Bible Study

You are invited to come for a Bible Study on the Gospel of St. Matthew. This will be an opportunity to read the scriptures prayerfully and to gain some spiritual insights. We will meet each Thursday (up to 21st of September) from 1.30 to 2.30pm at St. Joseph's House (next to the St. Peter Chanel Church Car Park). Contact Sr. Elena Marie, O.P. (sydney@op-tn.org).

Buy a Brick for Chima Impel School



Fr George Kallumkal supplied for us with Masses and Pastoral Care during my Annual Leave last two years. He has been telling us of the challenges he has in maintaining his parish school in the face of natural disasters. It needs

rebuilding to make it safe. Our Parish has initiated a fundraising for this cause. 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 (9644 7340), and Ivica Kovac (0407 467 692) are coordinating the fund raising activities. There will also be raffle tickets with attractive prizes made available soon. 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

Thinking about volunteering?

The St Vincent de Paul Society, Sydney Night Patrol is a homelessness food service operating every night of the year in the city. For those who visit the Sydney Night Patrol service, these winter nights can be a particularly difficult time. While they offer soup on Night Patrol as much as possible, they don't always have volunteers available to help out during the day. Sydney Night Patrol would love to be able to offer soup every day, and are looking for volunteer teams of 2-4 people to go into their kitchen in Lewisham to prepare a batch of soup. If you are interested please contact the Family Educator, Angela Finnane, St Joseph the Worker on 9646 1434.

Liturgy Roster—August to October 2017

The Liturgy Roster is now available for collection at the back of the church.

If you stay closely united, you are like a tree standing in the middle of a bushfire sweeping through the timber. The leaves are scorched and the tough bark is scarred and burned; but inside the tree sap is still flowing, and under the ground the roots are still strong. Like that tree you have endured the flames, and you still have the power to be reborn.

*(Pope John Paul II address to the
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; 1986)*

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Sunday

During the holidays on July 2, Catholics from all over Australia came together to celebrate and acknowledge the gifts that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people bring to the Catholic Church in Australia. It was also a time to reflect on our own relationships with Australia's first peoples, with the theme being *"Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me."* We hope that our nation will be inspired by those Indigenous people, who in the depths of their family life, stand together as one. May our families here at St Joseph the Worker continue to grow to be like Christ so 'that all might have life and have it to the full.'. (John 10:10).

NAIDOC Week



Last Wednesday, Kindergarten and Year 5/6 led a beautiful Prayer Assembly to celebrate NAIDOC Week, which occurred in the school holidays. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the theme this year was *Our Languages Matter*, which aims to emphasise and celebrate the unique and essential role that Indigenous languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water and in the passing on of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and rites, through story and song.

Mary Aikenhead Prayer Assembly

On Friday last week, we celebrated the Feast Day of Mary Aikenhead, the founder of the Religious Sisters of Charity, which was on July 22. Mrs Finnane organised a most thoughtful and reflective prayer assembly which focussed on Mary Aikenhead and included students from all classes as well as a special visitor Sister Elena Marie from the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia in Berala. The Sisters of Charity have developed an app for both the iPhone and iPad, called *'In The Footsteps of Mary Aikenhead'*. You may like to download it to learn more about Mary as it follows in the footsteps of her life and time in Cork and Dublin, Ireland.

Staff Spirituality Day

On the last day of Term 2, our staff participated in a Staff Spirituality Day with the focus, *Unity in Diversity*, at St Maroun's at Dulwich Hill. The purpose of the day was to deepen our awareness of the Eastern rites of the Catholic Church as well as celebrate our diversity as a parish and school community. We were most fortunate to have three wonderful speakers, Sr Rose Therese Tannous, a Maronite Sister of the Holy Family and subdeacon Nehme Khattar (who spoke to us about the Maronite rite) and Fr Thomas, who shared his experiences as a Syro-Malabar priest. This comment from one of our staff members encapsulates the day: *"I loved the staff spirituality day. The venue was so beautiful; with such a peaceful serenity and the pace of the day was great, with quiet time to reflect and hear God's message"*.



Visit to Fr Mark Spora by SRC

Last Wednesday our Student Representative Council (SRC) visited our retired Parish Priest Fr Mark Spora at Rosary Retirement Village. Fr Mark was delighted to have guests and the students were keen to fill him in on what has been happening at school. Ella and Simon (Year 6) made a video where students and staff sent messages to Fr Mark which he loved.

Therese Levins

Religious Education Coordinator/ Stage 3 Classroom Teacher
St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School
2 New St Auburn NSW 2144 | Phone: (02) 96461434

Church Humour: Be Like Jesus. A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus!'



Other Notices

POSITION VACANT : 2018– Family Educators

Applications are invited for the position of Family Educator based in 24 systemic Catholic primary schools across the Archdiocese of Sydney. To see locations please go to <https://sydcatholicsschools.nsw.edu.au> Click on Employment , Positions Vacant. Applications close August 4, 2017. For further information contact meredith.lemos@syd.catholic.edu.au

Australian Catholic Youth Festival Update. There are little over 130 days until Sydney welcomes the young people of Australia to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Next week our Parish will launch our call to invite young people of the area to join our Western Deanery Group. If you or your children or grandchildren are aged between Year 9 and 30 years please consider becoming part of our group. Earlybird registration closes on 18 August, and we are hoping to have our group registered by then. We want to make sure all our young people have the opportunity to attend and participate in this Festival. See The Catholic Weekly for your Deanery.

Theology on Tap. Monday, 7 August 2017, The Rose Hotel, 52-54 Cleveland Street. Follow us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/Theology-on-Tap-127369587336998/>

The Bishop's Blend: Looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? Then join the Most Reverend Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on **Monday, 7 August at 7:00am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney** for the launch of The Bishop's Blend, a quarterly breakfast series for young professionals. Online booking is essential. For more information and to purchase tickets go to <https://thebishopsblend.eventbrite.com> or contact bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org

Mount St Benedict Centre. Contemplation with Thomas Merton. A Retreat Facilitated by Carmel Posa sgs. Thomas Merton gave us a unique view of contemplation in a world of action. His teaching can unite us in our deepest desire for communion with God, each other and our world. This retreat provides the opportunity for participants to immerse themselves in silence and in Merton's way of prayer. Date: **Friday 11 August** (arrival before 6pm) to 2pm Sunday 13 August. Cost: \$300 (Includes all meals, program materials and accommodation for 2 nights). Bookings by: Friday August 4, email: mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au Phone: 9484 6208, Where: 449D Pennant Hills Road. Entrance off Hull Road

Christianity across the Ages. A Journey of Faith and a Journey through the Evolution of Western Music. A Powerpoint presentation combined with story-telling by Marie Therese Levey rsj Music teacher, author, collector of digital copies of ancient manuscripts. Regional Centre 5 Alexandra Ave, Croydon 2132. **Sunday 20 August** at 1.30pm-4pm. Bookings essential. RSVP Aug 14 marie.levey@sosj.org.au. Entry by voluntary donation.

Mass for Pregnant Mothers: Are you expecting a baby or know someone who is? You are warmly invited to attend the annual Mass for Pregnant Mothers to be celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at St Mary's Cathedral on **Sunday, 20 August** at 10.30am. Morning tea will follow in St Mary's Cathedral Chapter Hall. RSVP and enquiries can be directed to LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org or call 9307 8404.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a *Marriage Enrichment* experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset ... your Marriage! Weekend date: **18th to 20th August** at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on **0490 774 419** or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com.

Place at the Table. 23 August 6.30pm-8.30pm. The Justice and Peace Office would like to invite you to your 'Place at the Table' at our Annual Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Twilight Reflection Evening and Dinner. This is an evening of celebration and thanks that brings to a close the social justice year as we prepare for the new Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement in September. It is a chance for Catholics from Broken Bay and Parramatta Dioceses and Sydney Archdiocese who have worked in, or are interested in learning more about, social justice ministries in our parishes and across the Church to come together to build community, be encouraged and most of all to be celebrated for all you have done, do and hope to do. It will be a beautiful evening of prayer, reflection, sharing stories, good food and good conversation! Sydney's Bishop Anthony Randazzo will join us, as will social justice staff from the three dioceses. So it will be a great opportunity to meet your diocesan representative, if you haven't already, and find out about all the ways they can support you in your efforts. It is free and open to all and we would love you to come! For more information and to RSVP visit <http://justiceandpeace.org.au/> or call **02 9307 8465** or email Kimberley.doyle@sydneycatholic.org.

James Course on Discerning – Catholic School of Evangelisation ("CSOE") The James Course on Discerning to be conducted by the Catholic School of Evangelisation ("CSOE") on **26th and 27th of August 2017** at the St Joseph's Parish Hall, Rozelle NSW. CSOE courses are supported and encouraged by the CCR at Rozelle. For more info contact Lucy Grasso on 0423 931 881.

Memorial Mass for the Unborn: Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will celebrate the annual Memorial Mass for the Unborn on Wednesday, **30 August** at 7.00pm at St Mary's Cathedral. The Mass will be offered in commemoration of the lives lost to abortion and in solidarity with the women and men who grieve this profound loss. During the Mass 77 candles will be brought forward to represent the 77 lives lost to abortion each day in NSW. All are invited to attend. Enquiries: LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org or call **9307 8404**.

Social Justice Sunday

We celebrate Social Justice **Sunday on 24 September**. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: *"Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy"*. The statement calls for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person. For further details about the Social Justice Statement, visit the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council website: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or call **02 8306 3499**.

Catholic Cemeteries. For further information please contact Bereavement Support on **(02) 9646 6908** or email: Bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au.