



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.

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

27 August 2017

First Reading

Is 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Second Reading

Rom 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel

Mt 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Antiphons, Readings & Reflections

Entrance Antiphon **Ps 85:1-3**

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you
all the day long.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 16:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon **Cf. Ps 103:13-15**

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Next Week's Readings:

Jer 20:7-9
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27

Reflections

Have You Thought? What's in a name?

On many occasions in the Bible a character is given, or takes on, a new name when they take on a new role or move to a new level in their faith and relationship with God. Abram became Abraham; Sarai became Sarah; Jacob became Israel; and Saul became Paul. In all of these circumstances the person took on a new name to reflect their new relationship with God. This tradition has continued right to this day. Men and women entering religious life have traditionally taken on a new name to indicate the new life they are entering. When Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger became pope he took on the name Benedict to indicate the new role and the new life he was beginning.

Living the Gospel - Who do you say I am?

The question that Jesus asks the disciples is a question he asks of all of us. How we answer that question reflects our relationship with Jesus. But more importantly, how we answer that question reflects the way we live in our life in response to who we believe Jesus to be. If we truly say that we believe in Jesus as the son of God, then how do we live our lives in such a way that we act on that belief? The gospel shows us that an inadequate answer to that question leads to missing the point of all that Jesus is.

Gospel Focus

Jesus' words to Peter, 'on this rock I will build my church,' are obviously the gospel writers' words and not the words of Jesus himself. (Jesus did not set out to build a church community; that did not emerge until later.) In fact they appear only in this particular gospel. The other synoptic gospels have Peter's confession of faith but not these words attributed to Jesus. The words are sometimes understood as asserting that Peter himself is the rock on whom the church will be built, rather than his declaration of faith being the rock. This has then sometimes become confused with the line of popes beginning with Peter.

Parish Priest

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pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
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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

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
	9.00am	Mass (SJW)
Wednesday	6.45am	Mass
	9.15am	Mass
Thursday	6.45am	Mass
	9.15am	Mass
	1.30pm	Starting Afresh this Winter (St Joseph's House) Psalmists followed by Parish Choir for 1st Communion (8 Wallace St Sefton. To join Parish Choir call Maureen on 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—First Communion Celebration (SPC)
Sunday	8.00am	Mass (SJW)
	10.00am	Mass—First Holy Communion Celebration (SPC)

Family that pray together stay together"
PILGRIM STATUE

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL**

at the Bergstedt Home
50 St Johns Road, 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 Lopez Home

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

*"The holy Rosary is a powerful weapon.
Use it with confidence and you'll be
amazed at the results."
-St. Josemaria Escriva*

Roster Next Week

3 SEPTEMBER 2017		22 nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
MASS	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Robert JAKSIC
ORGANIST	Maureen HYNES	LEWISHAM TONGAN	SAMOAN
CANTOR	C HYNES & PARISH CHOIR	COMMUNITY CHOIR	CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Rita ANDARY	Ken HARTMAN	Eliane GHATTAS
	Mai Vu	Joe MOSES	Marija BROZ
COMMENTATOR	Christine KENSEY	Maris MARSH	Rhia VICTORINO
GIFTS	Anita YIP Family		CHILDRENS LITURGY
SP. MINISTER	Kay SCULLY		Angela TANG
SP. MINISTER	Sam DUCH		Mai VU
CHURCH SHOP	Margaret HEYS		Micheline BOTHAM
GREETERS	Kate PARISH	Joe MOSES	Merv & Rhia VICTORINO
HOSPITALITY		Frank ATTARD & William ANDREWS	Evelina LUI

Hospital Visitation Sat: Jann Rockliff & Phil Lopez	Altar: Group 5 Margaret Heys, Carol Mabon, Maria Wood
Hospital Communion Sun: Joy Skerrett & Roland Javier	
Cleaners SPC : Samoan Choir	Children's liturgy: Anna Facer

Saturday	2 SEPTEMBER
LECTOR FOR MASS	Jann ROCKLIFF

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased: Des Ryan

Anniversary: Louise, Constantin, Seabellone Giovanni

Deceased members and friends of : Erwin & O'Dwyer
Families, Ross & Mitchell Families, Duong Family

Sick: Matasic Marija

Other Intentions: Simone Raspante, Concetta Raspante, Teresa Raspante, Maree Khater &
Khater Family



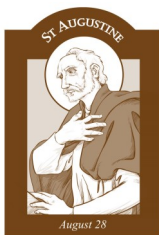
Christ Is Mightier Than Caesar



Greg Craven wrote in last Saturday's Weekend Australian about the recent challenges Catholic Church is facing from Media, Royal Commission and interested lobby. Whilst there had been horrible incidents of child abuse in the church, presenting Catholic Church as the worst offender in this area is not factual. A lot of journalists and the Royal Commission seem to be obsessed with the Catholic Church and its downfall. Greg wrote, "It would not be fair to say such critics have no interest in child abuse. No one can stomach the victimisation of children, by Catholics or others". Greg continues to say that it is not the first time in the history Catholic Church has come across apparently destructive situations. The scandals of selling indulgence, corrupt popes, rise of communist powers, and such other negatives forces are survived by the Church. Therefore the trials and difficulties of this time too will be survived by the Catholic Church in Australia. Do not think the might and power of journalistic world and other apparatus of the legal and political institutions of Australia will destroy the Church. Church is established by Jesus and it is a divine will.

Going up to Caesarea Philippi Jesus indicated to the disciples that no might and power of the secular world will prevail against the Church. According to the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus interviewed Peter for the position of leading the Church at Caesarea Philippi. (Ref Mt 16: 13-20) This is a place where Herod's son had built a temple honouring Caesar Philip. Standing in front of the magnificent temple representing mighty Roman Imperial power, Jesus asked the disciples "who do people say the Son of Man is" (Mt16:13) virtually Jesus was asking them what is the relevance of Jesus against the mighty power of Roman Caesar. They responded "Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and some others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." (Mt 16:14) That means the people see Jesus as someone with religious significance and importance. It is like saying the Catholic Church is a force to reckon with. It does a lot of good things like Schools, Hospitals, refugee assistance, welfare of the poor and so on. Jesus was not satisfied with this response. Therefore he asked Peter "Who do you say I am?" (Mt16:15) At this point Peter makes a profession of faith, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Mt 16:16). Virtually Peter was stating that it is not the might of the Roman emperor or any such powers that will be the saviour of the humanity. Only Jesus Christ is the saviour for the humanity. The equivalent for it today is this: mighty journalist, some of the law firms, and powerful anti-church proponents are like the powerful Caesar of Rome represented by the temple of Caesarea Philippi. In the face of such intimidating powers, we are not to falter and affirm our faith Jesus Christ as our saviour. The Church is the Body of Christ continuing to be the sacrament of God's presence to the World. Only the Holy Spirit of God can make us profess this faith just as Peter's profession of faith also was made possible only by the Spirit of God.

Feasts & Memorials of the Week



Monday—St Augustine

St Augustine was born in 354 in Thagaste (now known as Algeria) to a pagan father and a Christian mother – St Monica. In a search for truth he explored many philosophies and theologies, though he rejected Christianity. In Milan, he heard Bishop Ambrose preach and in 387 he and his son were baptised by him. He returned to Northern Africa and established a monastic community and in 391 was ordained a priest. Five years later, Ambrose was chosen bishop of Hippo and for thirty-four years he served his diocese with authority and compassion.

His vast writings (more than one-hundred books and five-hundred sermons) earned him the title, doctor of the church.

Tuesday - The Passion of St John the Baptist

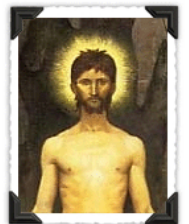
(img Source & Text: <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/>)

St. John the Baptist was a cousin of Jesus. His mother was St. Elizabeth and his father was Zechariah. The first chapter of Luke's Gospel tells of the wonderful event of John's birth. John preached a baptism of repentance, preparing people for the Messiah. He baptized Jesus in the Jordan River and watched with quiet joy as the Lord's public ministry began. John encouraged his own disciples to follow Jesus. He knew

that Jesus' fame would grow, while his would fade away. In the first chapter of the Gospel of John, St. John the Baptist calls himself a voice crying in the desert to make straight the path of the Lord. He invited people to get ready, to prepare themselves to recognize the Messiah. His message is the same to each of us today.

King Herod and his wife refused to obey God. They wanted to make their own rules for their lives. So St. John the Baptist told them what they were doing was wrong. Because he was honest and would not agree to do wrong, it made Herod's wife angry and she asked her husband for the head of John the Baptist. Yet John would have had it no other way. He would not remain silent while sin and injustice were happening. He asked people to be sorry for their sins, obey God and be His friend as true happiness comes only from God.

Mark's Gospel, chapter 6:14-29, tells of the cruel death of John the Baptist. What suffering John agreed to bear for teaching the truth.



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)

Parish Notices

Act Now to Defend Marriage. A change in the marriage law has consequences for all Australians, and particularly for people of faith. It is crucial that you have your say. Visit www.coalitionformarriage.com.au for more information, to volunteer or to donate. Vote NO, to keep marriage a unique relationship between a woman and a man.

Fathers' Day Collection for Retired Priests

The Priests Retirement Foundation is financial set up to help retired priests. Even in retirement most priests, while their health allows, will continue to serve the community, in



particular, by the celebration of weekend masses in parishes and assisting as chaplains in aged care facilities. The Priests' Retirement Foundation covers needs such as: Convalescence care, nursing home and hostel care for frail priests, assistance in transitioning to retirement, health insurance, medical and dental expenses, assistance with board and lodging expenses. Next Weekend, on Fathers Day, an appeal will be made. Special envelopes will be distributed next weekend for you to make your donation. You will also be able to claim tax deduction on your donations.

Charitable Works Fund Appeal



CHARITABLE WORKS FUND

This month we have collected a total of \$760 in cash donations for CWF. Many thanks to those who have already donated. **Our Parish contribution to this collection is**

\$5400. Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. Your generous donation would be of great benefit and much appreciated.

Fr George is promised help for School at Chima Impel



This time when I went home, I met with Fr George Kallumkal. He is recovering from a car accident which broke one of his ribs. He asked me to convey his regards to all his friends and

parishioners. I told him of our fund raising plans for his school and he was very thankful for the good will the parish is showing. He also showed me pictures of his school which is badly in need of rebuilding.

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 (0413 679 931), and Ivica Kovac (0407 467 692) are coordinating the fund raising activities. Both SPC & SJW Schools and Trinity College are also helping by selling raffle tickets with attractive prices. 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

The CFC Handmaids of the Lord

The CFC Handmaids of the Lord, a family ministry of Couples for Christ invite women to a Christian Life Program, an integrated course intended to lead the program participants into a renewed understanding of God's call to them as Christian women. It is open to all mature women such as single mothers, widows, separated women, unmarried mature women & married women whose husbands are working in another state or country or are not willing nor able to participate in any religious affiliation. It runs for 8 consecutive Sundays starting on 17 September 2017 at St Felix Valois Parish Church, Bankstown. For more information, please contact Joy Skerritt - 0401353826, Portia Mariano - 0421694078 or Josielyn Dunshea - 0431870733. Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

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, storytime, 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.

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.

Jubilee Hall

The Jubilee Hall, adjacent to St Peter Chanel Church is available for hire. The fee for hiring is \$400. Members of the Planned Giving Program of the parish receive a 25% discount. For more info contact the parish office.

Sacrament News

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the following children who will receive their First Holy Communion at the 8.00am Mass on Sunday, 27 August at St Joseph the Worker Church. As they welcome Christ into their hearts, we pray that Jesus may guide them all the days of their lives.

Ralph Dacanay
Ezra Frimpong
James Gambacciani



Siobhan McGinn
Nicholas Abouchedid
Paul Israel

Next week, 24 children from our parish will receive their First Holy Communion at St Peter Chanel Church. We pray that they may constantly feel the presence of the Lord and grow continually under the grace of God.

First Reconciliation Enrolments

Enrolments for the Sacrament of first Reconciliation will be accepted before all Masses on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th of September. The cost of the program is \$15 and we ask all parents to supply a copy of the child's baptism certificate if they were not baptised in our parish. There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday 12 September in the Jubilee Hall. At this meeting the First Reconciliation program will be explained. The outline of the Reconciliation Program will be announced at the parents meeting.

DRAW Youth Group

What's happened? We have recently started a youth choir! It's open for everyone even if you are not the best singer!

What's coming? The World Youth Day of Australia! The Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)! 15000 young people are coming together in Sydney and the parish is sending a delegation! I strongly encourage the youth to support this awesome initiative of the Australian Bishops by registering your interest. Please contact me at tommy.bolin.francisco@gmail.com /facebook: tommy francisco if you would like to join the Youth Group and/or attend the ACYF!



~Tommy, Youth Co-ordinator

St Joseph the Worker School News

Project Compassion

Project Compassion 2017 proved to be yet another extraordinary demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic community and their caring supporters throughout Australia. Our school alone raised almost \$1000. Here is a note of thanks from Caritas Australia: "Caritas Australia extends our most heartfelt thanks to each and every person, school and parish who supported Project Compassion 2017. With your generosity and creativity, together we raised over \$11 million for the most vulnerable communities around the world. THANK YOU for making a difference." Thank you for your generosity".



Religious Education Test Results

Congratulations to our Year 6 students who received their Religious Education test results this year. These fifteen students have been preparing for this test since they started Kindergarten at the school as it tests their Religious Education knowledge about our Roman Catholic faith across all the years. A particular mention to Ella Elsamad and Mei Ru Xu who both received a Distinction Award.

Mufti Day Fundraiser - Friday 22 September 2017 (last day of Term 3)

The Parish of St Peter Chanel / St Joseph the Worker is currently involved in fundraising activities to raise money for St Xavier's School in North Eastern India, where Fr George Kallumkal is working as a missionary. Fr George has been seeking assistance to rebuild the primary school, which has recently been severely damaged by flood and wind. To help raise the \$30,000 that the parish has set as a target for their fundraising effort, the school is hoping to buy a brick for St Xavier's School for \$100. We ask that every child wears mufti clothes and brings in a gold coin donation to help raise funds for this very important mission activity.

God Bless!

~Mrs Therese Levins (Religious Education Coordinator)

Daily Prayers and Scripture on the Parish Web

Our Parish Website now includes a new section called "Liturgy Today" on our home page. This is a great resource to explore the liturgy of the day including Readings of the Mass of the day, morning, noon and evening prayers, and Office of Readings. Please visit <http://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/> and click on the link under "Liturgy Today".

Letter from Archbishop Fisher to Clergy RE Seal of Confession

15 August 2017

Dear brothers in the ministry of mercy

The Royal Commission's Report on *Criminal Justice* issued yesterday is more than 600 pages long, with 85 recommendations, and will take quite some time for Church leaders and their advisers to digest, let alone the rest of the community. But we understand it recommends that the civil law no longer privilege what Catholics and Orthodox Christians confess to God through their priest in the Sacrament of Confession.

Australia has always recognised the freedom of the Christian Churches and other serious faiths to practice their sacraments and other rituals unimpeded. I believe we should continue to give people of faith that space.

One in four Australians belongs to a church—Catholic or Orthodox—that believes in Confession. Some came to this country from Communist Vietnam or totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe, precisely to enjoy the freedom to practice that religion in Australia. What is now proposed would be a grave interference with the practice of their faith.

Child sexual abuse is a terrible crime. It is very, very rare for a perpetrator to confess it, as sadly perpetrators do not accept how evil their deeds are. If trust in the 'seal' or absolute confidentiality of Confession is diminished, then it is less likely that the rare perpetrator who does approach the priest will be encouraged to face the evil of their actions, to report to the authorities, and to take appropriate action to cease the offending.

Moreover, if a perpetrator or a victim of abuse tells a Confessor of this crime in Confession, the Confessor is free to ask the penitent to repeat this to him outside Confession so that they can resolve together what further action might be taken.

It is also noteworthy that the Royal Commission report does not propose removing the legal privilege currently recognised for confidential communications with lawyers or psychiatrists. Why should priests be the only ones targeted here?

I understand that some people purporting to speak for the Catholic Church have welcomed the proposed change in the law, or suggested that contrite penitents might be refused absolution until they self-incriminate, or claimed that what victims of abuse report in Confession need not be treated as confidential. I do not agree.

Like Archbishop Hart (whose statement I attach), I believe the spiritual encounter between a penitent and God must remain inviolable and that Catholic priests and penitents should not be threatened with a criminal offence for practising their religion. The proposal to abolish the confessional seal with help no child. We should focus on measures that really will protect children and I fully support every effort by the Royal Commission and others to do that. We should not interfere with a practice core to the religious belief of so many Australians.

In the meantime I exhort all priests to maintain an absolute seal on everything they learn from beginning to end of each Confession. And I thank you, dear brothers in the ministry of mercy, for persevering in generously offering your people opportunities to participate in this sacrament.

Yours fraternally in Christ

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anthony Fisher OP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Rev. Anthony Fisher OP, DD BA LIB BTheol DPhil

Archbishop of Sydney

Marriage Redefinition will Affect Every Australian: Archbishop Fisher

Catholic Communications, Sydney Archdiocese, 14 Aug 2017

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is one of four lead members of the Coalition for Marriage. The official campaign website provides information about the consequences of redefining marriage for all Australians, and opportunities to assist in ensuring the Marriage Act remains unchanged.

The Coalition for Marriage is comprised of more than 80 groups from across Australia, representing over 3 million people and which, along with the Archdiocese, is led by the Australian Christian Lobby, Marriage Alliance, and the Anglican Diocese of Sydney.

It will be the leading voice in the campaign opposing changes to the *Marriage Act*.

The Coalition for Marriage launches Official Campaign in light of the same-sex marriage postal plebiscite.



In addition to the four lead organisations, Coalition for Marriage includes the Australian Family Association, Australian Chinese for Families Association, Doctors for the Family, the National Civic Council, Christian Schools Australia, and more.

On the day of the launch, the Archbishop of Sydney, Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP, spoke about the concerns many Australians had about their ability to even express their views on marriage and the gender ideology which will come with a redefinition of marriage.

Speaking to [*The Australian*](#), the Archbishop said that the proposed protections for religious freedom only dealt with religious ministers and civil celebrants, a tiny proportion of the Australian people, rather than providing any source of comfort to ordinary Australians.

From *The Australian's* report:



Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP urges those concerned with free speech, to vote "no." in the same-sex marriage plebiscite. "What protections will be -offered to people who work for church-run institutions such as schools, hospitals and universities?" he said. "Will teachers be free to teach church teaching on marriage or will they be forced to teach a more politically correct curriculum? "Will employers of such church agencies be free to choose staff in sympathy with their church's teachings? Will Catholic welfare agencies be required to provide marriage preparation or marriage counselling for same-sex couples on pain of being dragged before anti-discrimination tribunals?" Archbishop Fisher also rejected arguments that the legalisation of same-sex marriage would not have broader consequences. "Many people believe that redefining marriage won't affect them," he said. "Respectfully, I would say they need to take another look - it will affect every Australian. "In other parts of the world that have legalised same-sex marriage, those who believe in traditional marriage have been harassed or coerced into complying with the new view of marriage. It would be extremely naive to think that won't happen here".

In relation to the formation of the broader Coalition for Marriage, Managing Director of the Australian Christian Lobby, Lyle Shelton, said that the formation of the Coalition was a significant step in the marriage debate.

"For too long, Australians who are uncomfortable with the redefinition of marriage, or are unsure about the consequences for education and free speech have been silenced. This campaign is the opportunity for Australians to be informed and have their say on the consequences of changing the Marriage Act - the impact on free speech, the impact on what our kids are taught at school."

"The coming together of family and community organisations, the partnering of faith-based communities with non-religious ones, and the diversity of the 3 million people they represent shows them that they are not alone."

Damian Wyld, CEO of another founding organisation, Marriage Alliance said: "Though we are many different groups, some of faith, some not, we all believe in the importance of freedom of speech, religion, and the total rejection of radical sex education programs in our schools. We now stand together and encourage the community to stand with us in our campaign."

The Archbishop has urged everyone to sign up for more information, to volunteer and to donate at the Coalition for Marriage website: <http://www.coalitionformarriage.com.au>.

Other Notices

Heart Women's Conference A time to come together as women to be refreshed and renewed in our busy lives. **19-21 October 2017**, Fairfield RSL, 14 Anzac Avenue, Fairfield, NSW, 2165. Register: Heart.TheCatholicGuy.com | Email: heart@TheCatholicGuy.com | Phone: 1300 734 880

Australian Catholic Youth Festival— ACYF. Early Bird registration to Australian Catholic Youth Festival has now closed but registrations are still open (\$280). Young people are encouraged to continue to register. University students can register with a group of uni students contact unicatholics@sydneycatholic.org. There are still some complimentary registrations available for State school students please contact our Deanery contact person for further details. Please contact Tommy Francisco, Youth Co-ordinator via email tommy.bolin.francisco@gmail.com if you wish to join.

The Healing Power of God. Come and experience the Healing Power of God on a day retreat & Healing Mass. Saturday 23 September 2017 9.00am-5.00pm with Mass at 2.30pm. Celebrant Rev. Fr Matthew Wuwu, St Joseph Parish Hall, Walz Street, Rockdale. Free registration. BYO lunch. Coffee, tea and biscuits provided. Contact: Ida Krisnadi: 0416 464 221 or Helen Aldana: 0433 455 114, 8964 7034. E: jlowpcom@gmail.com www.jlowcom.org

Grief to Grace. Healing the Wounds of Abuse – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. Email Anne for an application at info@griegtograceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539 www.griegtograce.org.

The Archdiocese of Sydney App. The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney had released a Smartphone App (for iPhones and Androids only) for parishioners in the Archdiocese, featuring parish Mass times, the latest news from the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Catholic Church in Australia, information about upcoming Archdiocese events, as well as announcements from the Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Archbishop of Sydney. The App is available to download for free – search for “Archdiocese of Sydney” in the Google Play and App stores.

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. Contact Bereavement Support (02) **9646 6908** or bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au.

Natural Fertility Services is looking for suitable applicants in the Greater Sydney area to train as Fertility Educators. Thorough, in-depth training over a 12-month period is provided to successful applicants and sessional work is available to those who complete the training and become accredited educators. For more information and application forms please contact The Manager NFS (02) 9509 1222.

Tell Your Story in The Catholic Weekly. Do you have a local parish news story which would be of interest to the many readers of the Catholic Weekly? The Catholic Weekly is always looking for human interest, inspirational and faith-based stories for our weekly publication. If you have a story please send it to: cweditor@catholicweekly.com.au or call (02) 9390 5407. We'd love to hear your story.

The Benedict XVI Retreat Centre now offers a series of fun, innovative facilitated activity programs to complement and enrich any group retreat. Whether you are looking for adventure, team building, opportunities for reflection or simply to have fun with your group, our specially trained facilitators can tailor a program to meet your needs and budget. Activities include flying fox, archery, bushwalking, leadership challenge, communications challenge, camp craft, environmental programs and more. Contact Reception on (02) 4572 2899 / email bxvi@sydneycatholic.org to find out more or visit www.benedictxvicentre.org.au.

Visiting Rome? Stay at Domus Australia. Domus Australia is a 32 room guest house established by the Australian Catholic Church, welcoming travellers to Rome seeking comfortable accommodation and an ideal base from which to explore historical and cultural sites of the Eternal City. Centrally located with a magnificently restored Chapel featuring daily Mass in English, Domus Australia is the perfect oasis in the heart of Rome for Aussie pilgrims. Enquiries: reservations@domusaustralia.org www.domusaustralia.org.

Fundraising Volunteers Needed. The Archdiocese value the contribution that our volunteers make but more are needed to assist us from time to time. Our volunteers help us with the mailing of appeals and notices about our pilgrimages and special events as well as other duties. Please phone Amanda on 1800 753 959 or email fundraising@sydneycatholic.org for more information.

CatholicCare..... Supporting the people of Sydney to live and thrive. We are seeking committed and caring people to train to become short-term foster carers. Our carers make a world of difference to the lives of children who cannot live safely at home. Call 13 18 19 or email us at connect@catholiccare.org

Important Dates

September 2/3—First Holy Communion Celebration
September 9/10—First Reconciliation Enrolment
September 12—First Reconciliation Parents Meeting
September 22—Pastoral Care of the Sick Meeting
October 15—First Reconciliation Program Commences (22 October, 29 October & 5 November)
October 27—Pastoral Care of the Sick Meeting
November 11—Mass of Anointing of the Sick
November 15—First Reconciliation Celebration
November 24—Pastoral Care of the Sick Meeting, Candle Light Mass
December 22—Pastoral Care of the Sick Meeting
December 25—Christmas Day, Christmas Luncheon

Just for Laughs

Four expectant fathers pace in a hospital waiting room while their wives are in labor. The nurse enters and tells the first man, "Congratulations, you're the father of twins."

"What a coincidence," the man says. "I work for the Minnesota Twins baseball team."

A little later, the nurse returns and tells the second man, "You are the father of triplets."

"That's really an incredible coincidence," he answers. "I work for the 3M Corporation."

An hour later, the nurse tells the third man that his wife has just given birth to quadruplets.

The man says, "I don't believe it! I work for the Four Seasons. What a coincidence."

After hearing this, everyone's attention turns to the fourth guy who has just fainted. He slowly regains consciousness and whispers, "I should have never taken that job at Millennium Computers."

