



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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

3 September 2017

First Reading

Jer 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Second Reading

Rom 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel

Mt 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Antiphons, Readings & Reflections

Entrance Antiphon **Cf. Ps 85:3,5**

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation **Eph 1:17-18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon **Ps 30:20**

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Next Week's Readings:

Col 1:9-14

Mt 4:19

Lk 5:1-11

Reflections

Historical Context

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel—'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it'—would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

Scriptural Context

This passage immediately follows the passage of last week's gospel which featured Peter's confession of faith—his inspired revelation that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' The

reader might think, 'Aha, the disciples have finally got it!' But in a very clever piece of writing, the author of Matthew's gospel follows this revelation of faith immediately with an example of the lack of clarity that the disciples, including Peter, still possess. This happens throughout the gospels. Whenever the disciples have a bit of an insight, they are almost immediately shown to only have a partial understanding of the truth. The full revelation of Jesus' mission and ministry is not easy to grasp and even the disciples were not quite there until they had seen the 'full story' played out before and within them.

Living the Gospel. Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option'—they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross—whatever our particular cross might be—and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden—our cross—and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

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Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Tommy Francisco
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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 9.00am	Mass Mass (SJW)
Wednesday	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Thursday	6.45am 9.15am 1.30pm 7.00pm	Mass Mass Starting Afresh this Winter (St Joseph's House) Psalmists followed by Parish Choir (8 Wallace St Sefton. To join Parish Choir call Maureen on 9644-5818)
Friday	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Saturday	Enrolment and Commitment for First Reconciliation before 5.00pm Mass (SPC)	
	8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 5.00pm	Mass Rosary Novena Adoration Confession Sunday Vigil Mass (SPC)
Sunday	Enrolment and Commitment for First Reconciliation before 8.00am Mass (SJW) and 10.00am Mass (SPC)	
	8.00am 10.00am	Mass (SJW) Mass (SPC)

Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE

FROM ST PETER CHANEL
at the Botham Home
353 Cumberland Avenue, Auburn

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 Dukich Home

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

"The Rosary is a long chain that links
heaven and earth. One end of it is in our
hands and the other end is in the hands
of the holy Virgin... The Rosary prayer
rises like incense to the feet of the
Almighty. Mary responds at once like a
beneficial dew, bringing new life to
human hearts." ~St Therese of Lisieux

Roster Next Week

10 SEPTEMBER 2017		23 rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
ACCOMPANIST	Kate PARISH		ELMER'S
CANTOR	J SALAR & PARISH CHOIR		GROUP
LECTOR/S	John DONNELLAN	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Hoa NGUYEN
	Noelene DONNELLAN	Maris MARSH	Mai VU
COMMENTATOR	Katrina YIP	Karim KASSIS	Margarette NGUYEN
GIFTS	Carol MABON Family		CHILDREN'S LITURGY
SP. MINISTER	Phirum DUCH		Hoa NGUYEN
SP. MINISTER	Sam DUCH		Hilary NGUYEN
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY		Jenny MICHAEL
GREETERS	Dante & Lynda AMORES	Loutoa OLIE	A THAM S TAN G KIM
HOSPITALITY			Anne MARIE

Hospital Visitation Sat: Christine Parish	Altar: Group 6 Korina Kinda, Antoinette Boudaher
Hospital Communion Sun: Bob Kensey & Christine Kensey	
Cleaners SPC : Howard Duff & Friends	Children's liturgy: Pam Snell

Saturday		9 SEPTEMBER
LECTOR FOR MASS		Christine KENSEY

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased: Ilija Latinovic, Des Ryan, Mary Ellen McKeon

Deceased: Joseph Nguyen & Joseph Mai

Anniversary: Maria Marigmen, Ignacio Amarille Sr

Mark Man Wah Chiu, Antonio D. Amores, Antonio Florendo Festejo,
Louise, Constantine, Seabellone Giovanni

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

Sick: Matasic Marija

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



Bear the Cross and do the Will of the Father

To some people being Christian is an easy option. Having children baptised into the church, one can easily get into Catholic Schools for a better education. Going to church whenever it pleases them, feeling good and making others feel good are the kind of commitments some people consider as Christian identity. But for Mary it was different.



Mary is a high achiever, practicing corporate law. She is also beautiful looking and many young men liked to court her. But she decided to join a convent and spent rest of her life for evangelisation. Her friends, hearing of her decision said, she got to be mad to throw away such a successful life and become a recluse. But Mary's decision to give up fame, money, and the prospect of a great husband and a family of her own, was a sacrifice God will reward. That is the only thing Mary wanted in her life. This is one scenario of sacrifice.

When Jesus told Peter that he is a rock when it comes to profession of faith and he is to be the foundation of the Church, it must have been very flattering. But when Jesus said he is on his way to Jerusalem for a self-sacrifice, the disciples found it very difficult to accept. But doing the will of the Father in heaven is the best thing you could do as a follower of Jesus. That involves sacrificing our own personal interests. Without the Cross there is no glory of the resurrection. The question is, 'are you prepared to carry the Cross with Jesus?'

Why do people like Mary take drastic steps in their lives? We may not be required to be that radical in our approach. There are enough challenges in our own lives to opt for the will of the Father in Heaven against the selfish motives of our human mind. While the Church's teaching on the Confidentiality of Confession, Sacrament of Marriage as heterosexual commitment, and Assisted killing (Euthanasia) are challenged in our times, as Christians we are called to show courage and stand up for the will of Our Father in Heaven. Jesus demands that his disciples be willing to bear such crosses for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

What is a Dad?

A Dad is a person who is loving and kind,
And often he knows What you have on your mind.
He's someone who listens, Suggests and defends
A dad can be one of your very best friends;
He's proud of your triumphs, but when things go wrong,
A dad can be patient and helpful and strong.
In all that you do, a dad's love plays a part
There's always a place for him deep in your heart.
And each year that passes, you're even more glad
More grateful and proud must to call him your dad!
Thank you Dad....for listening and caring, For giving and sharing.
But especially for just being you.
~Author Unknown



Feasts & Memorials of the Week

Friday—The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a feast that commemorates the birthday of Jesus' mother. Even though Mary's birth is not recorded in the scriptures, it is mentioned in the Apocryphal writings from the second century, the Protoevangelium of James and is even mentioned in Islamic scripture. Her parents are named as Saint Anne and Saint Joachim and tradition places Mary's birthplace in Jerusalem. The feast has been celebrated since the fifth century – on September 8 in the Roman Calendar.

Saturday—St Peter Claver



St Peter Claver was born in Spain in 1581 AD. After studying at the University of Barcelona, he became a Jesuit at the age of 20. St Peter was influenced by St Alphonsus Rodriguez to become a missionary in the Americas, where he ministered both physically and spiritually to the African slaves. He spent the next 40 years working for the humane treatment of slaves on plantations, and he reportedly converted some 300,000 African slaves to Christianity. Within the Spanish community living in America, St Peter organised charitable societies, similar to those organised by St Vincent de Paul across Europe. He said of the slaves, "We must speak to them with our hands by giving, before we try to speak to them with our lips."

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)

Petition-assisted Suicide Bill NSW

During Masses this weekend and next you will be asked to sign a petition against the NSW Voluntary assisted Dying Bill 2017. It allows persons to access physician assisted suicide. It is impossible to safeguard against abuses and coercion in such legislation. NSW should be working to provide better access to good end of life care instead. You will hear more about this during Mass and there will be volunteers facilitating petition signing afterwards. More Info: www.no euthanasia.org.au. Kindly take some time after mass to sign the petition available at the back of the church.

Act Now to Defend Marriage

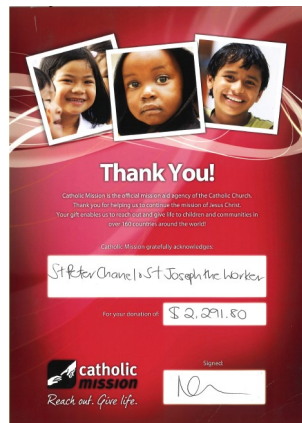
The postal plebiscite on marriage begins on 12 September. There are consequences for changing the law on marriage, including what it means for education. In countries where the law has changed, primary schools and high schools, including faith-based schools, have been required to teach LGBTIQ issues as part of their curriculum, with no opt-out for parents. If you want to have a say in what your kids and grandkids are taught, you need to make your voice heard! It's ok to say no. More Info: www.coalitionformarriage.com.au.

Catholic Mission

Catholic Mission would like to thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Bruce Sinclair enjoyed speaking at the parish and the thought the parishioners were lovely and welcoming.

All together \$2,291.80 was collected from St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Parish.



Fathers' Day Collection for Retired Priests

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

This weekend marks the start of the Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal – set up with the aim of looking after our sick and retired priests, it provides them with appropriate accommodation and assistance with transition into retirement, medical and dental care, pastoral and other practical support – to give them a life of relative comfort and dignity in retirement.

As a way of expressing your gratitude for the men who've nurtured your Catholic faith and provided guidance, friendship and mercy through the years, we hope that you'll consider giving back and donate to the Priests' Retirement Foundation. Thank you.

MenALIVE Weekend

23rd/24th September St Joachim's Parish Hall. Like thousands of other Catholic men who have already been on a menALIVE weekends across Australia, you will be inspired and encouraged to renew your faith and rediscover God's purpose in your life. Experienced leaders from menALIVE will be running the weekend, including Author, and co-founder of menALIVE Robert Falzon. For registrations and inquiries contact Steven Lia 0412 667657

Fr George is promised help for School at Chima Impel



Fr George has sent a few pictures of St Xavier's School, Chima Impel, including the above ones. He is happy to hear about our fundraising for his school. So far ... bricks are sold. The target is to sell 300 bricks by 7 October.

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.

Sacrament News

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the following children who will receive their First Holy Communion at the 5.00pm Mass on Saturday, 2 September and 10.00am Mass on Sunday, 3 September at St Peter Chanel Church. As they welcome Christ into their hearts, we pray that Jesus may guide them all the days of their lives.

Alanna Lu
Andrija Bubalo
Benjamin Hu
Daniel Ghattas
Danijela Susic
Ely Andari
Halle Stanislas
Isaac Ayoub
Isabella Nguyen
Ivan Orlovic
Joshua Lu
Joyce Ayat



Justin Montano
Lucas Blunt
Monique Broome
Nicholas Broz
Nikki Samia
Raymond Tang
Roselyn Joseph
Ryan Baker
Samuel Pascua
Shadrach Tholley
Simona Khattar
Stephanie Nguyen

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.

Legion of Mary at SJW



The Legion of Mary will host a special morning tea after the 8.00 am Mass next Sunday, 10th September, at St Joseph the Worker Church to celebrate the birthday of Our Blessed Virgin Mary (8th September). Do join us!

Sr Dorothy Reached South Sudan

I received the following email from Sister Dorothy on 29 August.

Dear Fr Thomas

Well I finally arrived at my destination on Friday PM after a 20hr flight time plus 3hours wait in Dubai. Then an hours flight to Yambio followed by a car trip for 2 to RIIMENZE my final destination Spent two nights in Juba desperately trying to buy medical supplies as here in RIIMENZE there is next to nothing.

On the road we passed a UN convoy with its guns on display and heavily armed soldiers. On arrival I was told that they had spent three night here looking for rebels not finding any they left. Yesterday I went out and walked through the newly established IDP camp where we are endeavouring to look after 6000 and while we were there we were told that 34 new families arrived and again more came early this morning. The little clinic I left is practically non functioning so I will have to start from scratch ,that's nothing compared to the thousands suffering.

As I went through I could see the pain on their faces behind their smiles and warm greetings of welcome. The children and elderly are the most vulnerable, so many children have most of the preventable childhood disease coupled with malnutrition anaemia and malaria. So much to be done with so little, but as I said to them today together and with the grace of God we will make a difference small as it may be.

I will include a few photos showing how's the 6+ thousand are living and trying to survive. In spite of all the singing at mass this morning nearly lifted the roof off.

At the offertory procession I was so humbled to see two large pumpkins being brought up for the priest. It always the same the poor are the most generous.

Please continue to pray for me/us I will email when I can to share with you and the parish the cry of the poor.

In Christ
Dorothy RSC





Speaking the truth in love

Eph 4:15

Does Pope Francis support same-sex marriage?

A number of commentators have recently suggested that loyalty to Catholic teaching, and especially to Pope Francis, would allow, even require, support for same-sex marriage; by implication, the Australian bishops misunderstand Catholic teaching and have been disloyal to Pope Francis by saying Catholics should vote NO. But what has Pope Francis actually said about this?

In April 2010, while still Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he issued a strongly worded pastoral letter on behalf of his fellow bishops against the redefinition of marriage in Argentine law. He reminded public authorities of their responsibility to protect marriage and its unique contribution to the common good. He pointed out that the state is not discriminating unjustly when it requires a man and a woman to make a marriage: "it merely recognises a natural reality". The future pope continued: "A marriage – made up of man and woman – is not the same as the union of two people of the same sex. To distinguish is not to discriminate but to respect differences... At a time when we place emphasis on the richness of pluralism and social and cultural diversity, it is a contradiction to minimise fundamental human differences. A father is not the same as a mother. We cannot teach future generations that preparing yourself for planning a family based on the stable relationship between a man and a woman is the same as living with a person of the same sex."

But has Cardinal Bergoglio changed his tune since becoming Pope Francis? He has famously emphasized the need for the Church to be close to people, accompanying them pastorally amidst the complexity of their lives, and helping to heal their wounds. He is acutely aware that many people with same-sex attraction feel alienated from the Church and society. He says that he will not judge homosexuals who are genuinely searching for God and seeking to do the good.

However, sensitive pastoral care towards gay and lesbian people, including same-sex couples, is consistent with upholding the truth of marriage as the lifelong union of man and woman open to procreation. Indeed, Pope Francis has been critical of the "narcissistic individualism" of contemporary culture, which promotes "a freedom disengaged from responsibility" and the common good – whether among heterosexual or homosexual persons. He has criticised "ideologies that attack the family project directly". These cultural forces, he thinks, undermine the natural and divinely-given plan for marriage and the family.¹ And he argues that upon the health of marriages and marriage-based families depend not only happiness and holiness for many individuals, but also the transmission of faith and ethics, the vigour of economies and polities, the care of life and the generations, and thus the very direction of peoples through history.²

In this context Pope Francis has repeatedly argued that the legalisation of same-sex marriage would be "a step backwards for humanity" (an 'anthropological regression')³ and gravely harm us all – homosexuals included – because the health of the 'human ecology' depends on a healthy marital culture.⁴ Such a culture draws the two sexes together in married life and ensures that, as far as

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possible, children receive the gift of the contributions of both male and female parents, committed to each other and to them.⁵ Quoting from the Australian Bishops' Pastoral, *Don't Mess With Marriage*, and making it his own in his celebrated exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis insists that each of the spouses "contributes in a distinct way to the upbringing of a child. Respecting a child's dignity means affirming his or her need and natural right to have a mother and a father."⁶ The 'ideological colonisation' resulting from confusing presentations of sexuality and marriage disfigures God's plan for creation, denies children their natural rights, harms individuals and communities, and must be resisted.⁷ Yet sadly "many countries are witnessing a legal deconstruction of the family, tending to adopt models based almost exclusively on the autonomy of the individual will."⁸

Far from revoking the Catholic Church's two-thousand-year-long insistence that (according to divine revelation and the natural law) marriage can only be between a man and a woman,⁹ Pope Francis has been a strong advocate of that very position. Those claiming his support in their campaign for a Yes vote in the forthcoming plebiscite have either not read him or are deliberately misrepresenting him. To vote with Pope Francis is to VOTE NO.

Yours fraternally,



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

Archbishop of Sydney

¹ Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family* (2016), 33-34, 39-40 etc.; *Address to the Faculty and Students of the John Paul II Institute for Studies of Marriage and the Family*, 27 October 2016.

² *Amoris Laetitia*, 52.

³ Edward Pentin, 'Pope repeats that same-sex 'marriage' is "anthropological regression' *National Catholic Register*, 3 January 2014.

⁴ Pope Francis, *General Audience*, 5 June 2013; *Address to the European Parliament*, Strasbourg, 25 November 2014; *Address to the Filipino Authorities and Diplomatic Corps*, Manila, 16 January 2015.

⁵ Pope Francis, *Address to the European Bishops Conference*, 3 October 2014; *Address to the European Parliament*, Strasbourg, 25 November 2014; *Address to the Filipino Authorities and Diplomatic Corps*, Manila, 16 January 2015; *Amoris Laetitia*, 81-83, 166ff, 172ff etc.

⁶ *Amoris Laetitia*, 172; cf. *Address to the International Colloquium on the Complementarity of Man and Woman*, Rome, 17 November 2014.

⁷ Likewise in Pope Francis, *Address to the International Colloquium on the Complementarity of Man and Woman*, Rome, 17 November 2014; *Address to Filipino Authorities and Diplomatic Corps*, Manila, 16 January 2015.

⁸ *Amoris Laetitia*, 53.

⁹ Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Considerations regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions between Homosexual Persons*, 3 June 2003.

Other Notices

40 hours of Adoration from 6th till 8th October to Protect God's plan for Marriage: The National Association of Catholic Families (NACF) is inviting the faithful to participate in 40 hours of Adoration, from Friday 6 October to Sunday 8 October 2017, covering the feast of the Holy Rosary. We believe these 40 hours will reinforce the spiritual efforts to save Marriage in these unprecedented times. History reminds us that prayer and fasting achieves miracles like the Feast of the Holy Rosary that was a major victory in Europe. In March, 2015, 2016 and 2017 our Holy Father Pope Francis called for worldwide (24 hours) Adoration in all churches. Info: David 0437679865, E: nacf.sydney@hotmail.com

Rosary Crusade: Our goal is to reach 1 million Rosaries dedicated for marriage. We currently have dedicated 645,803 rosaries. We need you to pray and dedicate a further 355,000 rosaries for marriage. It is very simple. Register your intention to pray at <http://rosarycrusade.org.au> People register the number of Rosaries they will pray for marriage each week. Included with this project is a palm sized prayer card that implores the intercession of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia which is prayed with each Rosary. We would like to distribute material for promotion in your parish at no cost. Info: David 0437 679 865, E: nacf.sydney@hotmail.com

Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Group registrations and Individual Registration are still open for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in December. There are still some complimentary registrations for students attending State schools. Please contact Tommy Francisco, Youth Co-ordinator via email tommy.bolin.francisco@gmail.com if you wish to join. Day registrations are now open. Visit www.acyf.org.au for all the information of the Festival. Encourage your young people to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity in Sydney 7 – 9 December 2017.

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

Christian - Muslim Relations - A Public Lecture by Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald. When: Saturday 9 September, 2017 from 7.00pm – 9.30pm. Where: Australian Catholic University, Gleeson Auditorium 25A Barker Road, Strathfield
Cost: Cost per ticket \$20. Registration essential as seating is limited. Refreshments will be available from 7.00pm prior to the lecture, which will start at 7.30pm.
Book at: <https://christianmuslimrelations21stcentury.eventbrite.com.au>.

The Sydney Male Choir. "Showtime" with special guest David Hobson. Sunday 10 September 2017, 2:00pm Sydney Town Hall Tickets: www.sydneymalechoir.com
Adults: \$45 Seniors: \$40 Children under 16 free
Groups of 10 or more \$35 each

Calling all University students! Are you a student (or do you know a student) studying at University? Each University has a Catholic Society that offers daily Mass, social gatherings and avenues to deepen your faith on campus. Visit: www.unicatholics.org.au to find out what is happening on your campus.

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. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griegtograceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit 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@domusaustalia.org www.domusaustalia.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.

Man & His Pet Centipede

A bored young man decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?" This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"

