



## 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](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

**Parish Website:** [www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](http://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-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

8 October 2017

#### First Reading

Is 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress

#### Second Reading

Phil 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can

be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

#### Gospel

Mt 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? 'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

### Antiphons, Readings & Reflections

#### Entrance Antiphon Cf. Est 4:17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

**(R) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.**

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **(R.)**
2. Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. **(R.)**
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**
4. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **(R.)**

#### Gospel Acclamation Mt 21:33-43

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I

have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

**Alleluia!**

#### Communion Antiphon Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

#### Next Week's Readings:

Is 25:6-10  
Phil 4:12-14. 19-20  
Mt 22:1-14

#### Reflections

##### Scriptural Context. Fulfilling Prophecy

Matthew's whole recount of this parable is dependant upon the reader/listener's familiarity with earlier writings within the Old Testament. We are fortunate that the designers of the lectionary have included the relevant passages as the first reading and psalm for this Sunday's readings. The original audience would have drawn on their own familiarity with the texts and recognised Jesus' words as echoing those of Isaiah and the psalmist. Matthew's gospel was particularly keen to cast Jesus in the image of fulfilling the prophecies of the Jewish tradition. Throughout Matthew's gospel we see the author placing the words of prophecy in Jesus' mouth or using the narration to confirm that Jesus performed actions to fulfil the words of the prophets.

#### Have You Thought?

One of the images from this gospel that would have been puzzling to the audience and may have tipped them off that Jesus was telling a parable with a particular message, is the image of the landowner being incredibly benevolent and tolerant of his rebellious tenants. Jesus' audience would have known that the law was always on the side of a landowner over his tenants. Any misdeed by a tenant farmer would have been dealt with swiftly and severely and yet the landowner in Jesus' story (God) is almost unbelievably patient and prepared to give the tenants every opportunity to do the right thing.

#### Living the Gospel. Different View—Using Scripture to Justify Hatred

This text is one that has been used by some Christians to justify their hatred and persecution of Jews. They point to the parable Jesus told as evidence that Jesus blamed the Jewish people for his death. It is a strange fact that some people believe that the only way to justify their own beliefs is to try to destroy the beliefs (and believers) of other faiths. For hundreds of years Christians abused and tormented Jews, driving them out of cities and even countries. The terrible treatment of Jews in World War II was drawing on a long history of Christians persecuting Jews.

**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

**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
Wednesday	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Thursday	6.45am 9.15am 7.00pm	Mass Mass Psalmists Practice & Choir Practice at 7.30pm. (8 Wallace St Sefton)
Friday	National 6.45am 9.15am	Rosary Day Mass Mass
Saturday	8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 5.00pm	Mass Rosary Novena Adoration Confession Sunday Vigil Mass (SPC)
Sunday	8.00am 10.00am 11.00am	Mass (SJW) Mass (SPC) First Reconciliation Program (Jubilee Hall)

*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 Langi Home

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

**Roster Next Week**

15 OCTOBER 2017		28 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Mario CAPRA
ORGANIST	Renee SALAR		SAMOAN
CANTOR	Renee & YOUTH CHOIR		CHOIR
LECTOR/S	SPC FAMILY MASS	Ken HARTMAN	Maureen HYNES
		Jenny MICHAEL	Hoa NGUYEN
COMMENTATOR		Joe MOSES	Hilary NGUYEN
GIFTS			CHILDRENS LITURGY
SP. MINISTER	Joy SKERRITT		Micheline BOTHAM
SP. MINISTER	Christine KENSEY		Anna MANGANARO
CHURCH SHOP	Margaret HEYS		Mervin VICTORINO
GREETER	SPC CHILDREN	Joe MOSES	E LUI, V NAZARETH
HOSPITALITY		Jenny MICHAEL	

<b>Hospital Visitation Sat:</b> John Le Mottee & Deb Gooch	<b>Altar:</b> Group 5 Margaret Heys, Carol Mabon, Maria Wood
<b>Hospital Communion Sun:</b> : Bob Kensey & Christine Kensey	
<b>Cleaners SPC :</b> Rey Quinoy, YFC & Friends	<b>Children's liturgy:</b> Sharon IACONO

Saturday	14 OCTOBER
LECTOR FOR MASS	Jann ROCKLIFF

**Mass Intentions**

**Recently Deceased:** Ken McManus, Wong Shueh Ping,  
SP Wong

**Deceased:** Colin Baudille, Neil Moore

**Anniversary:** Santina Baudille, Roque A Quinoy, Angel Enriquez Sr, Galicano Rojas

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

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*



## You are the Corner Stone



Last Thursday I hosted the Ministers Fraternity at Berala, with pastors from different denominations in Auburn Berala area. One of the major concerns raised at the meeting was 'what a mess our country Australia is in, because of the recent attacks on the institution of marriage, attack on the sacredness of life by pro Euthanasia lobby, and so on'. Looking at these developments one might ask whether we are heading towards some kind of devastation? A similar question was asked in the eighth century BC.

About seven centuries before Christ, prophet Isaiah spoke, to the people of God, using the allegories of vineyard which produced only sour grapes. The owner was so disappointed by the lack of proper fruit from the vineyard that he abandoned it to be ransacked by foreigners. (Ref. Is 5:1-7) The prophet was speaking of the punishment awaiting Israel for not producing the fruits God wanted of them. Losing the Land and vineyard was seen then as losing the foundation their religion and community by Israelites. Isaiah warned them of the punishment of the Lord coming on them.

When Jesus told the parable of the wicked tenants who ill-treated the servants of the landowner, and killed the son of the landowner, (Mt 21:33-46) the Jewish people were reminded of the punishment foretold by prophet Isaiah. But unlike the prophecy of Isaiah, Jesus had a good news for them. Though the trusted people betrayed their trust and invited devastation on themselves, Jesus Christ will be the foundation of the Church. "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and we marvel at it." (Mt21:42) The 'Son' of God who was neglected and killed by the trusted people has become the corner stone, the foundation of the Kingdom of God.

If Christ is the cornerstone, the foundation of the Kingdom of God, then you and I are part of it. Because you and I are joined with Christ's body at Holy Communion. Therefore, like Christ, we too are to be the corner stone for the Kingdom of God. Let the world marvel at how we stand firm as the foundation of the Kingdom face of rejection and violence. The secular society may challenge and attack our faith and religious practices. The builders of the secular society may consider you as irrelevant to community building. You may be the stone rejected by the builders, but God has made you the corner stone, the foundation of the Kingdom of Heaven.

### A WhatsApp Message

During the week I received a WhatsApp message from one of the parishioners. It should be of some amusement for you. Therefore here it is:

*A priest that I heard of, if and when he sees people leave Church early (especially after receiving Holy Communion), stops them and reminds them that only one person left the Last Supper early!*

*Well, I am not going to do that, but I am tempted to do what St. Philip Neri did: He saw someone leaving church right after Communion and he sent servers with candles and bells to accompany the man.*

*The guy stormed back into the church and confronted the priest. "What kind of joke is this?" he demanded. St. Philip Neri said, "It's no joke. The rules of the liturgy say the Blessed Sacrament should be treated with reverence. You left the Church immediately with no prayer of thanksgiving. You were carrying the Blessed Sacrament within you. So I asked the boys to accompany you to honor Him."*

*After Communion you and I are tabernacles - the physical presence of Jesus continues in us for a brief time. That's why we have the Communion hymn, a time of silence, the Communion Prayer - and even the announcements - to build up the Body of Christ in practical ways.*

*I encourage you to use well the time after Communion to say thanks, to express your gratitude.*

~Fr Thomas

### 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".



## Raffle Postponed

The draw of Fund raising Raffle for Fr George's School was scheduled for 14 October. But due to some unforeseen circumstances the draw has to be postponed to a date yet to be decided. As soon as it is determined, it will be announced. Sorry for any inconvenience it may have caused.

## Fr George's School: 87 bricks and 213 more to go



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 87 bricks have been 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. 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

## Rosary Month

The Month of October is rosary month. This year it is also the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparition. A number of people have joined together and doing an unbroken chain of Rosary for the month. Volunteers are rostered for 30 minute slots to recite rosary each day during this month. There are already enough people to cover 24/7 for the whole month. I would like to thank all volunteers. Should anyone also wishing to join the roster, let Fr Thomas know. On Sunday, 29th of October there will be a big celebration to conclude the month of Rosary. Details of the celebration will be announced later.

## Special Mary Mackillop Spirituality Day

Walk in the footsteps of Mary Mackillop and visit the Mary Mackillop Museum to learn more about her inspiring life and visit the Chapel on Friday 20th October.

(Special Dooleys bus leaving school at 9am and returning at 2:45pm). Free excursion but limited

spots! Please contact to find out more: [angela.finnane@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:angela.finnane@syd.catholic.edu.au).

## SPC SCHOOL

Our Year 6 students will be learning about the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick during Term 4. Apart from getting involved with the planning and preparation of the Healing Mass for our church, they would like to pray for the members of our parish who are sick. If you would like to submit a prayer intention for healing, please email them to [amanda.gahan@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:amanda.gahan@syd.catholic.edu.au).

~Amanda Gahan, Acting REC

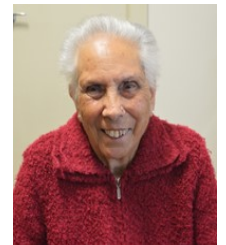
## The Catholic Weekly recognises Romaine – Berala in the News!



Pick up the latest edition of The Catholic Weekly. Romaine has made front page news!

A staff writer of The Catholic Weekly, Robert Hiini, said: "Romaine is obviously a real hero of the faith, and it is a delight to think of the number of children who have come to know Jesus because of her."

The CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) Director, Douglas Mawhinney, submitted Romaine's story to The Catholic Weekly. For more information about the CCD and its work supporting Catechists, visit: <http://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>



~Brenda, Catechist Coordinator



Our parish is blessed with singing and music for all Masses on the day of the Lord.

One who sings prays twice, says St Augustine. Ideally it is good to have everyone in the congregations should be singing. If you can, consider joining one of the singing groups or choirs of the parish.

## Other Notices

### Festival Mass

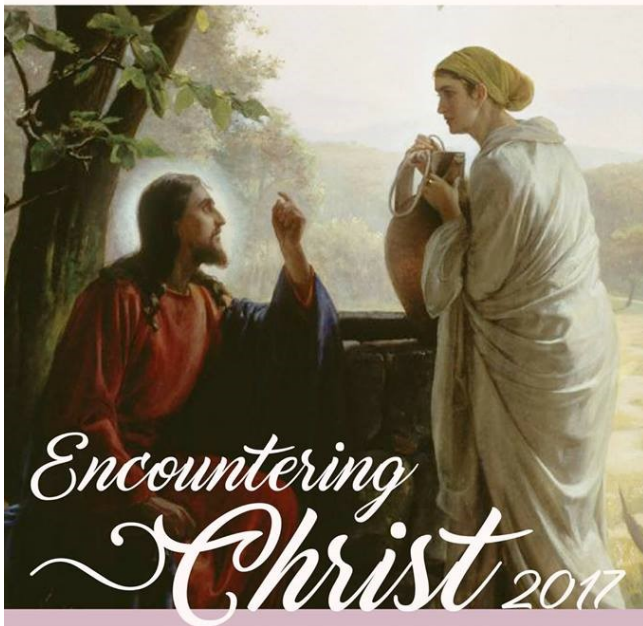
St Vincent de Paul Liberty Plains, Rozelle, Macquarie and Western Suburbs Regional Councils invite all Society members and their families to join us at Festival Mass concelebrated by Fr Thomas & Fr Ray on Friday, 20th of October at 6.30pm (SPC Church). A light supper will be served in the Jubilee Hall after mass. Please RSVP by Friday, 29 September by phone 02 9643 7794 or email [annew@sydneyvinnies.org](mailto:annew@sydneyvinnies.org).

### Mackillop Family Services Seeking Foster Carers

Mackillop Family Services is seeking two sets of foster carers to provide separate long-term homes for a 13 year old boy and a 14 year old girl. Luke and Dani\* are kind, fun, energetic teens who have intellectual development delays. They both need carers who can give them stability, who can spend time helping them learn new skills and reach their life goals. Carers who can provide one-on-one care with no other children in the home would be ideal. Carers receive a fortnightly carer allowance and 24/7 support from Mackillop. If you, or someone you know, is interested please contact Mackillop Family Services. 1300 791 677 [mackillop.org.au/fostercare](http://mackillop.org.au/fostercare)

\*\* Name changed and model used to protect privacy

WOMEN'S RETREAT WITH THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF ST CECILIA  
20 - 22 OCTOBER 2017 | MITTAGONG, SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS



+ MASS + RECONCILIATION + EUCHARISTIC ADORATION + PERSONAL PRAYER +  
+ SPIRITUAL TALKS + BEAUTIFUL SCENERY + DELICIOUS FOOD +

**When:** 20 - 22 October 2017  
**Where:** The Hermitage Retreat Centre, Mittagong NSW  
**Who:** Women 18+  
**Cost:** \$300 (flexible - ask for more details)  
**Rego:** [sydney@op-tn.org](mailto:sydney@op-tn.org) or [fb.com/dominicansistersaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/dominicansistersaustralia)

### 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 to 5 November at St Felix Valois Parish Church, Bankstown. For more information, please contact Joy Skeritt - 0401353826, Portia Mariano - 0421694078 or Josielyn Dunshea - 0431870733.

### Prayer Support Appeal, Mind Body Spirit Festival (26-29 Oct)

Encounter is hosting a "Catholic Spirituality" stall at the Mind Body Spirit Festival, on Thursday 26, Friday 27, Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 October. This important initiative, reaching out to the many who search for answers in New Age practices, requires strong prayer support.

This includes Adoration during the festival at the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master Chapel which is located at 55 Broughton Rd, Strathfield.

- Thurs 26 Oct 1:30-2:30pm, 6-7pm
- Fri 27 Oct : 1:30-2:30pm ; 6 -7 pm
- Sat 28 Oct: 12-1pm ; 5.30— 7 pm

I was in in the public restroom and I was barely sitting down when I heard a voice in the other stall:

"Hi, how are you?"

Me: (embarrassed) "Doin' fine!"

Stall: "So what are you up to?"

Me: "Uhhh, I'm like you, just sitting here."

Stall: "Can I come over?"

Me: (attitude) "No, I'm a little busy right now!!"

Stall: "Listen, I'll have to call you back. There's an idiot in the other stall who keeps answering all my questions!"



## 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)



## Other Notices

**Position Vacant -Senior Multi-Media Journalist.** Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Permanent full-time position. Sydney CBD-based. For more information please contact Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055. Applications close 9 October 2017.

**Pro-Life Pregnancy Help.** Do you have a phone? Do you want to help those worried by pregnancy issues? Can you work from home? Contact Pregnancy Help Sydney NOW to find out about their free training course you can do by mail from your own home and 2 inservice weekends in Sydney. You can make a difference. Phone Carmel Jeffreys on 9730 0258 for more information.

**Heart Women's Conference. 19-21 October 2017,** Fairfield RSL, 14 Anzac Ave, Fairfield. A time to come together as women to be refreshed and renewed in our busy lives. Spoil yourself. Dream again. Feel loved, honoured and cared for. Invite your daughters, mothers, sisters and friends! Men – What women in your life can you spoil by sending them to Heart 2017? Register: [Heart.TheCatholicGuy.com](http://Heart.TheCatholicGuy.com) Email: [heart@TheCatholicGuy.com](mailto:heart@TheCatholicGuy.com) Phone: 1300 734 880

**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, 6 November** at 7:00am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney for 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](mailto:bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org)

**CatholicCare.** Supporting the people of Sydney to live and thrive CatholicCare Foster Care Information evening, 18th October at 6pm. Would you like to know more about fostering a child? As an accredited foster care agency, we are passionate about supporting our foster carers. Come and meet our team and ask any questions you have about fostering a child on a short-term or a long-term basis. To register for our Information evening in Bankstown, call our team on 13 18 19 or email us at [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org).

**Month of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage and Families – Week 2.** This Sunday, October 8, is the second week of the Month of Prayer and Fasting. The prayer theme for this Sunday is: for the strengthening of marriages and families in distress. A range of resources are available for parishes to participate in this timely initiative. National Christian leaders have contributed reflections for a daily devotional during the month of October. Please register here to receive the daily devotional by email.

**Archdiocesan Social Justice Gathering – ‘Everyone's Business: Building an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy’.** Come and join us for our last Social Justice Gathering of the year! We will have speakers on a variety of topics related to the new Social Justice Statement, ‘Everyone's Business: Building an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy’. There will be a mix of practical and informative sessions and time to renew or begin relationships with social justice leaders from other parishes. We will also have copies of the Statement and practical resources to take home with you. Our full line-up of speakers will be announced shortly! There will be a delicious lunch and refreshments throughout the day. Plenty of street parking and easy accessibility. All most welcome! WHEN: October 14, 2017 10:30 for 11:00am-3:30pm, WHERE: St Columba's Parish Hall, 213 Elswick St, Leichhardt North, COST: Free | RSVP: Essential for catering: email [jpointo@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:jpointo@sydneycatholic.org) | or call us 9307 8465.

**Australian Catholic Youth Festival.** The Festival is now little over 60 days away!! The organisers have left the group registrations open until the final cut off date of 20 October. There is still time to register! Please contact our Tommy Francisco as soon as possible. Registrations are already over 14,000. This is an opportunity not to be missed and we are encouraging as many of our young people as possible to attend. There are 3 day registrations (\$250) and 1 day registrations available (\$125). The 1 day registration is for Thursday or Friday and includes Saturday. The Festival is a great opportunity for parents and Grandparents to give an early Christmas gift of a registration to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

**Catholic Clubs Rome Pilgrimage 7-14 December 2017.** Please be advised that the Rome Pilgrimage in December **has been postponed to next year.** Thanks to everyone who has expressed their interest. More information will be published as soon as it becomes available.

**Mount St Benedict Centre – Children's Meditation Workshop**  
This fun workshop is for children aged 5-12 years, and aims to build a healthy body and mind. By teaching a variety of simple meditation techniques using breath and visualisation, creating mandalas and moving the body in a conscious way, children are encouraged to find that centre of stillness inside. This can help with anxiety, building confidence and understanding emotions. Date: Saturday 28 October 1.30pm-4.30pm. Cost: \$30 BYO Afternoon Tea. Where: 449D Pennant Hills Road. Entrance off Hull Road. Reserve your place by phone 9484 6208 or email [mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au](mailto:mtstbenedict@goodsams.org.au).

**Rachel's Vineyard Healing Retreat:** 3-5 November  
This weekend retreat in Sydney is designed to bring psychological and spiritual healing to anyone who has been affected by an abortion experience including women, men, couples and grandparents. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries Australia is supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Confidential inquiries: Telephone or SMS 0400 092 555, [info@rachelvineyard.org.au](mailto:info@rachelvineyard.org.au). For more information visit: [www.rachelvineyard.org.au](http://www.rachelvineyard.org.au)

**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](http://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](mailto:info@griegtograceaus.org.au) or phone 0407704539. For more information visit [www.griegtograce.org](http://www.griegtograce.org)

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bxvi@sydneycatholic.org) to find out more or visit [www.benedictxvicentre.org.au](http://www.benedictxvicentre.org.au).

**Fundraising Volunteers Needed.** The Archdiocese value the contribution that our volunteers make but more are needed to assist us from time to time. For info phone Amanda on 1800 753 959 or email [fundraising@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:fundraising@sydneycatholic.org).