

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-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

22 October 2017

First Reading

Is 45:1,4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Second Reading

1 Thes 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered

through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel

Mt 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

Antiphons, Readings & Reflections

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 16:6,8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 32:18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those

who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Next Week's Readings:

Ex 22:20-26
1 Thes 1:5-10
Mt 22:34-40

Reflections

Historical Context: What's in a face?

The question of coinage was a problematic one for first century Jews. The tradition—grounded in the commandments given to Moses on Mt Sinai—forbade the use of 'graven' or carved images. The people of Israel took this prohibition very seriously and did not portray the human face in artwork of any kind. Roman coins were minted with the face of the emperor on them and it was compulsory that taxes be paid with Roman coin. This helps to explain the role of the Temple money-changes who converted the Roman coin into Temple coin that could be used for religious purposes.

Scriptural Context: Jesus & the Pharisees.

The gospel of Matthew tends to treat the Pharisees rather harshly. In fact they had more in common with Jesus' style of teaching than other religious groups of

the time and some have suggested that Jesus may even have been quite closely associated with the Pharisees. The role of the Pharisees was to interpret the Torah—the Law—for everyday people. They were teachers and preachers who often had a group of disciples who were their followers. The community in which the gospel of Matthew was written regarded the Pharisees harshly because they saw Jesus—not the Pharisees—as the rightful interpreter of the Law.

Different View: A Simple Question?

This gospel passage is sometimes interpreted as Jesus' endorsement of the Christian responsibility to state authorities. It has been interpreted as affirming the obligation to pay taxes and participate in the processes of government. In fact, Jesus neatly avoided the direct question put to him and never gave a response to the question of paying taxes. Rather he made the question a much broader one and reminded people that their first obligation was to God, not the state. It is an excellent example of the need for critical interpretation of scripture. A simple, literal reading of this text leads us to drawing simple, literal conclusions about whether or not we should be paying taxes.

Daily Prayers and Scripture on the Parish Web—Our Parish Website now includes a new section called "Liturgy Today" on our home page.

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".

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 9.30am	Mass Mass (SJW—Mark Spora Rm)
Wednesday	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Thursday	6.45am 9.15am 4.00pm 7.00pm	Mass Mass Legion of Mary (St Joseph's House) Psalmists Practice & Choir Practice at 7.30pm. (8 Wallace St Sefton)
Friday	6.45am 9.15am	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 Portelli Home
86 Graham Street, 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 Skerritt Home

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

Roster Next Week

29 OCTOBER 2017		30 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Mario CAPRA
ACCOMPANIST	Maureen HYNES		
CANTOR	C HYNES & PARISH CHOIR		S EAMIGUEL
LECTOR/S	Phirum DUCH	Karim KASSIS	Micheline BOTHAM
	Christine KENSEY	Jenny MICHAEL	Anna FACER
COMMENTATOR	Jann ROCKLIFF	Joe MOSES	Monica SMITH
GIFTS	Dorothy BOYD		THAM Family
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Mai VU
SP. MINISTER	Janet RYAN		Angela TANG
CHURCH SHOP	Margaret HEYS		Anna MANGANARO
GREETERS	Roshan SEBASTIAN Sharon SEBASTIAN	Loutoa OLIE	Alan THAM
HOSPITALITY		Monica NAZARETH	Vinita NAZARETH

Hospital Visitation Sat: Jann Rockliff & Phil Lopez

Altar: Group 1 Gloria De Alkstrand;
Moya Lewis; Anna Manganaro

Hospital Communion Sun: : Joyce McDonald & William Andrews

Cleaners SPC : Howard Duff & Friends

Children's liturgy: Pam Snell

Saturday**28 OCTOBER**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Jann ROCKLIFF

Mass Intentions

Sick: Anne Nguyen

Recently Deceased: Juliet Andino - Festejo, Patrick James
Michell, Ken McManus, Wong Shueh Ping, SP Wong

Deceased: Huu CA Nguyen, Colin Baudille, Neil Moore

Anniversary: Mary Moses, 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 and Florendo Families

Other Intentions: Denis Collins (80th Birthday)



For God or Caesar



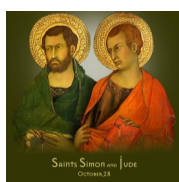
In July 1962 a revolt was initiated by the Catholic Diocese of Goulburn against then government who decided to withdraw funding to catholic schools. The underlying principle the government then operating was that it does not have any responsibility to support religious formation of the people. The Catholic Church argued that they are entitled to their share of the tax to educate and form their children in the religious values and faith life. The Catholic Church won that fight. Government support for religious schools continue in our country till today.

Last Tuesday, delivering the inaugural PM Glyn lecture in Adelaide, former High Court judge Dyson Heydon stated that religious freedom is under threat from modern elites. (Ref CathNews 20 Oct. 17) The debate on whether the government has a responsibility to protect religious freedom to promote religious values or not is still continuing. Should the religious faith has any share in the welfare plans of the government is still ongoing in new forms. The debate on same sex marriage, assisted legal killing (Euthanasia) which is currently debated in Victorian parliament, and the move to compel priests to reveal confession secrets in court are actually debates on whether the government is the supreme authority over the people or not. Whilst the government are elected to provide the material welfare of all people of the country, matters that relate to meaning of life and glory to God are not be subjected to secular government. Such debates are nothing new. At the time of Jesus there was a debate between the Roman Imperialists (Herodians) and the religious Israelites. The Gospel of Matthew 22:15-21 reveals Jesus' response to it.

The trick question Jesus was asked is whether giving tax to Roman Emperor is right or not. If Jesus was to answer yes, they wanted to accuse him of lack of patriotism to Jewish religion which upheld the superiority of religious faith over the Roman Imperialism. If Jesus were to say not to give tax, that would have been a criminal offence against their emperor. But Jesus seeing through their intention, asked for a coin and asked what they see on the coin. It was clearly marked for Caesar with his image on it. So give it to him and give to God what is due to God. Unlike the Pharisees and the Herodians who thought the choice was only between theocratic society and fully imperial rule of the Rome, Jesus had a new approach. Money and related things are for the material welfare of the people and that is the responsibility of the government. But the religious matters are far more important and it is important to give glory to God. Yet these two need not exclude each other. A true faithful will see the relevance of both government and Religion.

The Challenge we have in our time is not to let our material affluence blind us to the importance of giving glory to God in our life. Our faith life matters and in fact it matters most. Yet it does not exclude our civil responsibilities.

Feasts & Memorials of the Week



Saturday— Sts Simon & Jude (Feast)

Simon "the Less" is also called "the Canaanite" and "the Zealot". Jude "(son) of James" (Luke 6:16; Acts 1:13) was traditionally thought to be the same person as Jude, brother of James and author of the letter of Jude, but may also be the one called "Thaddeus" (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18). A tradition has Simon and Jude preaching and being martyred in Persia. Honoured among the twelve apostles, the first followers of Christ.

Parish Notices

Adult Confirmation

Those adults who have missed out on the Sacrament of Confirmation have a chance to receive the Sacrament this month. The Sacrament will be administered by bishop Terrence Brady at St Mary's cathedral on Sunday 29 October at 10.30 AM. Candidates wishing receive the sacrament should contact the parish office as soon as possible for preparation and registration.

Training For Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

There will be training program for training Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on Fridays, November 3 & 10. Time 4PM – 5.30 PM. Any practicing Catholic who is Baptised and Confirmed is welcome to join the program. Please contact Fr Thomas if you are interested.

CWF Collection

Charitable Works fund Appeal (CWF)

The parish will be holding the appeal next weekend – it will be the final for this year, and we ask you to kindly consider giving a donation. Funds raised will be used to support the Sydney Archdiocese' social, training and advocacy programs. Thank you!



Church Library

A new library of books and CDs now available in the Foyer of SPC Church. You are welcome to borrow them for personal faith formation. Should you have any comments let the parish office know what you think.

Companions Share the Bread

A Bible study program based on the Gospel of Matthew will be starting on 7 November Tuesday. It will run for 4 Tuesdays (7,14,21,28 of November) 7 PM – 8.30 PM at St Joseph House. You are welcome to enrol with the Parish Office.

The Marriage Law Postal Survey

The Marriage Law Postal Survey has 2 weeks to go. There are effectively 2 weeks to go in the Marriage Law Survey. The outcome of the vote will have a significant impact on our society. It is important for those who believe in traditional marriage to have their say without feeling intimidated. If you have not done so already please fill in your survey form and return it by post to the ABS by the end of October to be sure it is delivered before November 7. For more information: marriagesurvey.abs.gov.au

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.

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.

~Amanda Gahan, Acting REC

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

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.

Liturgy and Ministry Rosters

The new Liturgy and Ministry Rosters will begin on November 5. If you would like to be included or your availabilities have changed, please contact the Parish Office.

Our Fundraising Story—St Xavier's School—Bricks for Fr George

The Catholic Weekly featured our Fundraising story to raise money for St Xavier's School.

Don't forget to pick up the latest edition of The Catholic Weekly to read more!

Thanks to you for sponsoring **185** bricks so far Fr George's St Xavier's School, Chima Impel.

Another **115** more bricks to meet our target.

With your help we can do it. So please sponsor bricks, according to your capacity, for the school. One Hundred dollars will sponsor a brick.

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.

You are welcome to contact one of the following coordinators or me to discuss how you could help with this overseas mission: 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).

~Fr Thomas

catholicweekly.com.au

NEWS

Berala helps a community worth dying for

They live in one of the wettest, most culturally isolated regions on earth. Now a Sydney parish is helping them out, writes David Ryan

A SYDNEY parish is digging deep to help perhaps the remotest Catholic community in the world.

The parishioners of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph in Berala are on a mission to help build St Francis Xavier primary school in the village of Dainadubi, Meghalaya, India.

Dainadubi, nestled within torrential, mountainous jungle is a world away from the urban sprawl of Greater Sydney.

Berala parish priest, Father Thomas Kurnihannan, recalled the origins of the unlikely connection:

"When I was on holidays I invited my cousin, Father George, to maintain the parish in Berala."

Fr George, a priest in the Tura diocese, where Dainadubi is located, ministers to the Garo people.

The Diocese of Tura was formed in 1973 and has been growing exponentially ever since.

Today, the Garo are 90 per cent Christian.

During his stay in Australia, Father George inspired the Berala parish to help the Garo.

Father Thomas remarked: "Father George is a great missionary. He is very adventurous and always relies on God's providence."

The parish aims to raise \$30,000 towards a school which will house three classrooms, a computer room, a library, a science lab and fountains for drinking.

Father Thomas noted: "Schools are always destroyed with the monsoon ... It is a very remote area ... but when he heard certain missionaries were killed ... For many people that would be a deterrent, but for him that was a reason to go."

The school will be made of bricks to a standard that can resist the monsoon.

The ancient name Meghalaya translates from Sanskrit as "abode of the clouds".

The area attracts the most amount rainfall on earth (annual rainfall is 5200mm).

The Garo call themselves *achik munde* meaning "hill people".

Terrain is steep and prevents roads or industry from developing; wild beasts

still roam with impunity. The Garo are unique in their isolation; linguistically closer to Mandarin than Hindi.

Geographically their closest relatives are the Tibetans in the Himalayas.

Despite this, the Catholic Church has battled geography to preach to the Garo. According to the 2011 Indian Census, Garo literacy is very low.

In recent years, literacy has increased from 50 to 65 per cent—no doubt due to the efforts of the Church.

Father George wrote that: "By providing for a primary education we will be able to do justice to the poor who look up to the Church with great hope for the future of their children."

\$10 will secure a brick for the school. For more information, email: info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au



Stories of previous missionaries being killed were no deterrence to Fr George, above, who enlisted the Parish of Berala in helping the Garo people. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Marriage Encounter Weekend

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a Marriage Enrichment experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset . . . your Marriage! Weekend date: 24th -26th November, at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW. Bookings online at www.wwme.org.au or Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com.

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

** Name changed and model used to protect privacy

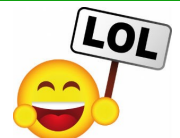
Jubilee Hall

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.

Piety Stall

Drop by our Piety Stall and grab a gift for that special someone. The stall is filled with a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The stall is open on Sundays before and after the 10.00am mass. If you have any product enquiry, please contact the Parish Office by phone or email.

A husband takes the wife to a night club. There's a guy on the dance floor giving it big time. Break dancing, moon walking, back flips, the works! The wife turns to her husband and says, "See that guy? 25 years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down!" The husband says, "Looks to me like he's still celebrating!!!"



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)

Other Notices

Positions Vacant:

Applications are invited for the position of **Family Educator** based in a number of systemic Catholic primary schools across the Archdiocese of Sydney. To see locations please go to <https://sydcatholicsschools.nsw.edu.au> Click on Employment, Positions Vacant. Applications close 27 October 2017. For further information contact meredith.lemos@syd.catholic.edu.au

Sacramental Coordinator, Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Kingsgrove. Permanent part time position working 20 hours per week. For further information please visit www.catholicjobsonline.com.au or by contacting Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055. Applications close 15 November 2017.

CATHOLICCARE. Supporting the people of Sydney to live and thrive. Could you provide a short-term loving home for a child? CatholicCare is seeking short-term foster carers who can love and care for children for a few months or up to two years. To find out more or to receive our Foster Care brochure, call 13 18 19 or email connect@catholiccare.org Visit our website: www.Catholiccare.org.

Month of Prayer and Fasting for Marriage and Families – Week 4 – 22 October.. This Sunday 22 October, is the fourth week of the Month of Prayer and Fasting. The prayer theme for this Sunday is: For our nation's understanding of the importance of marriage: That we will act to protect God's plan for marriage and family life. The Prayer of the Faithful for 22 October is: "Today and throughout this week we pray for our nation's understanding of the importance of marriage. Heavenly Father, grant that all Australians develop a true understanding of the meaning and importance of marriage in our society. We pray that we will work cooperatively to ensure our nation upholds your plan for marriage and families."

Australian Catholic Youth Festival. This is the last weekend for group registrations to the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Please contact our Tommy Francisco as soon as possible. Individuals (over 18) can continue to register, please visit the website www.acyf.org.au for all details.

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@griegtogracesaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griegtogracesaus.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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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@rachelsvineyard.org.au. For more information visit: www.rachelsvineyard.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.

Holy Spirit Pilgrimage to "Holy Land & Holy Places in Italy (17 Days)" for \$5,555 from 3rd-19th Sept, 2018 and 7 Days "Optional Extension to Egypt & Jordan". Spiritual Directors: Fr Emmanuel-tv & Fr Jude CSSp. Contact for itinerary/ 0400759391, (03) 97899672 info:fremmanueltv@hotmail.com, or jude.agorchukwu@cam.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. reservations@domusaustralia.org.

Direct Employment. Direct Employment is a fee-free recruitment agency, helping people with disabilities overcome these barriers to find meaningful and sustainable work. It is the not-for-profit disability employment agency of the Archdiocese. Employers are only introduced to candidates who have the right availability, skills and ambitions. Candidates like Direct Employment because employment opportunities are tailored to each person's skills, individual goals and the needs of employers. Call us on 13 18 19 for more information.