

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.

First Sunday of Advent - Year B

3 December 2017

First Reading

Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the

wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Second Reading

1 Cor 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and

without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel

Mk 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O

Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

2. 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.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Ps 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Next Week's Readings:

Is 40:1-5. 9-11

2 Pt 3:8-14

Mk 1:1-8

Reflections on Mark 13:33-37

Have you Thought? Beginning Advent

The season of Advent begins this week and continues through the four Sundays of Advent and ends at Christmas Eve. The first week of Advent focuses on the return of the Lord and the following weeks focus more specifically on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Rather than simply commemorating an historical event, Advent is a time of preparing our hearts to 'receive' Jesus into the world each year. Advent is traditionally marked by the colour of violet—the same colour as used in Lent. In recent years, some parishes have moved to a more blue/mauve colour for Advent to try to distinguish it from the season of Lent.

Living the Gospel: Stay Awake!

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.

Gospel Focus: The Doorkeeper

The image of the doorkeeper from this week's gospel is an interesting one. It is not unusual to hear references to people being 'gatekeepers' today in relation to projects or groups working together. The role of the gatekeeper, or the doorkeeper, is to maintain a watching brief—to be alert to dangers or distractions and to ensure that everyone who is important to the process is invited to participate. Today's gospel reminds us that as believers we are to be the doorkeepers or gatekeepers of the Kingdom, watching for dangers and welcoming in all those who wish to enter.

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. 0408 404 130
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 Mass 9.15am Mass
Thursday	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass 4.00pm Legion of Mary (St Joseph's House) 7.00pm Christmas Choir Practice at Maureen's House (9644 5818)
Friday	6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass
Saturday	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary 9.00am Novena, Adoration, Confession, 5.00pm Mass Cancelled due to Youth Festival
Sunday	8.00am Mass (SJW) 10.00am Mass (SPC) 4.00pm Christmas Choir Practice (SPC Church)

Family that pray together stay together"
PILGRIM STATUE

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL**

at Boustani Home
18 Lewis Street, Regents Park

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 Kavanagh Home

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

Roster Next Week

10 DECEMBER 2017		2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	William ANDREWS	Mario CAPRA
ACCOMPANIST	Kate PARISH		ELMER'S
CANTOR	J SALAR & PARISH CHOIR		GROUP
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Micheline BOTHAM
	John Donnellan	Maris MARSH	Margaret NUGYEN
COMMENTATOR	Jann ROCKLIFF	Karim KASSIS	Rhia VICTORINO
GIFTS	Helen Le Mottee		CHILDREN'S LITURGY
SP. MINISTER	Phirum DUCH		Hoa NGUYEN
SP. MINISTER	Sam DUCH		Hilary NGUYEN
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY		John SHANLEY
GREETERS	Dante & Lynda AMORES	Loutoa OLIE	E LUI & V NAZARETH
HOSPITALITY		Alicia MOORE	

Hospital Visitation Sat: Christine Parish

Altar: Group 6 Korina Kinda, Antoinette Boudaheer

Hospital Communion Sun: : Bob Kensey & Christine Kensey

Cleaners SPC : Roland & Aida Javier

Children's liturgy: Pam Snell

Saturday**9 DECEMBER**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Christine KENSEY

Mass Intentions

Sick: Anne Nguyen

Recently Deceased: Maria Pagarno, Shinta Widjaja, Harry Willoughby, Juliet Andino - Festejo

Anniversary: Eddie Leonardi, Erwin Domenico Patti, Mary Gabrielle, Fatima Bolonia, Colleen Willoughby (70th), Ivan Medved, Stella Mills, Colin Baudille, Gary Williams

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



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Eric Fang

May he always know the love of God
and feel His guiding hand throughout his life.

Be Good Door Keepers



Last Thursday I was at Auburn Ministers Fraternity. Amongst other things we also discussed the attitude of the newly elected Cumberland Council to Christmas and other celebrations. The Council used to spend a lot of money organising Christmas celebrations. Most of it were very secular and there was nothing much in it to call it Christian. In spite of spending so much of money, the attendance at those celebrations were not that fantastic. Now the good news is that the newly elected Cumberland Council is willing to support celebrations organised by various Churches, because it is much cheaper and much more efficient. Christmas is a celebration of Christ's presence amongst us. Therefore this move of Cumberland Council is a welcome one.

Christmas is more than the birthday celebrations in the name of Jesus. This Advent, starting today, is an invitation to see Christ among us and letting God's Son into our lives. But like a door keeper we need to be watchful. It is not just the Son of God who is at the door of our lives. There are gate crashers too. One of the recent ones is the aftermath of the plebiscite on same sex marriage. In spite of the promises by the 'Yes' lobby that they will respect and keep religious freedom and free speech, we see complete disregard for it in our senate. In recent days, in the process of legalising same sex marriage, the senate has dispensed with our right to free speech and freedom of religion. This is just one example of undesirable gate crashers into Christian religion. Therefore like a good gate keeper we need to be fully awake and watchful to let Christ in and ward off all irreligious gate crashers.

Today's Gospel, Mark 13:33-37, is taken from the remarks of Jesus, directed to his disciples, which close his sermon on the end of Jerusalem and the end of the world. With the coming of Jesus as the Son of God, a new world has dawned for us. This is the time to specially acknowledge this truth and celebrate it. We celebrate the presence of Christ through breaking of God's Word and the Body of Christ, and sharing the cup of his Blood. The faith that gathers us around the Altar is ours because he has already come. Now as good gate keepers let us be awake to let Christ into our personal lives and our social life. Let us also be vigilant not to let any other undesirable gate crashers in.

Advent Wreath

The round shape and the green leaves that decorate it, together symbolises life without end – Eternal Life. Progressively lighting one each candle each week of Advent symbolises progressively God revealing himself to us. Lit candles represent the resurrected life of Christ. The colours of the candles are the liturgical colours of the week. So much is common with any advent wreath you see. But the Wreath in St Peter Chanel Church is made of the original baptismal font before it was replaced with the marble font. Therefore this wreath also should remind us of our baptismal call to welcome Christ our life.

Christmas Masses Roster

The Liturgy Roster for all Christmas Masses is now being organised. There are 4 Masses over Christmas - The Vigil Mass, Midnight Mass, 8.00am at St Joseph the Worker Church and 10.00am at St Peter Chanel Church. Please let the parish office know if you are available to read, do the offertory, be a Special Minister, open the Church Shop or be a Greeter at any of these Masses.

Christmas Lunch Donations

Donations are needed for our luncheon on Christmas day to ensure it is a success. We require donations of salads, desserts, meat, hot food and alcoholic drinks. If you can help please fill in the Christmas Lunch Donation Sheet located at the rear of the church. Together we can bring some joy to many. For more details contact Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378.

Feasts & Memorials of the Week



Thursday— St Ambrose, bishop, doctor
Born in Trier (Germany) about 340. Ordained bishop on this day in 374 and died at Milan (Italy) on Holy Saturday 397. A lawyer who became governor in Milan and who was still a catechumen when elected bishop by popular acclaim. Upheld orthodoxy against the Arians and won many Christian converts. Encouraged monasticism and defended the independence of the Church against secular authority. Remembered as an outstanding pastor through his writings on the sacraments and Christian ethics and through his homilies, instructions, and hymns.



Friday— The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
This feast had its origin in the East as the "Conception of Mary by Saint Anne". It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the "Immaculate Conception" and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

40 Years at the Altar

Bob Kensey and Sergio Eamiguel, two stalwarts of the parish have been serving the Altar for last 40 years—7 years more than my priestly years.

Fr Peter Galligan, who succeeded Fr Cornelius Donovan as Parish Priest in 1975 had many initiatives. Following the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, he established the first ever parish council 15 parishioners in the year he took charge of Berala as Pastor.

He invited a group of 12 men of the parish to undertake training for the Ministry of Acolyte. They completed the course of instruction and were commissioned on the 12th of November 1977.

These were the first of many who have been invited to participate in this new ministry for lay people, a role with which we are very familiar in today's Liturgies. Out of the twelve some have gone for their eternal reward and some others have moved out of the parish. Bob and Sergio are the two surviving members of the original group. They remember being special and called to sit like 12 Apostles for the washing of feet on Maundy Thursday 1978. It was a time of newness. Fr Donovan installed a new marble Altar with is own money to face the congregation at the Mass, which is still used. Following this lead, Fr Galligan modernised the sanctuary according the 2nd Vatican Council by removing the Altar Rails. Congratulations Bob and Sergio who have witnessed and assisted many such changes in the church and the liturgy for last four decades.

Currently we have, in addition to the above duo William Andrews, Mario Capra, Charlie Scully, and Roland Javier doing Acolytes ministry in addition to Bob and Sergio. I would like to train some of Acolytes for the Parish. Therefore Parishioners wishing to become Acolytes are welcome to contact me.

~Fr Thomas



Buy a Brick! Fr George's School



Thanks to everyone who sponsored bricks! We exceeded our goal of 300 and sold a total of **305** bricks so far and still going! Special thanks also to all the coordinators who helped with this mission: Arthur Doumit, Charlie Scully and Jenny Michael.

Christmas Luncheon Crib

Christmas Luncheon is a tradition we have started in 2013 where a crib is set up in Jubilee Hall on 23/24 December. It is simple but ingenious piece of art, when you know how it is made. Pam Snell is the creator of it. Pam would like to hand this over to a volunteer who is prepared to set it up for Christmas. It would take no more than 2 hours either on 23rd or 24th of December. Therefore I will be happy to hear from anyone who is prepared to learn this crib making.

SPC Christmas Carols Festival

You are invited to come along and bring the whole family, some rugs to sit on and your Christmas voices of course! You can purchase battery candles and glo-sticks for only \$2 each. Carol booklets will also be available so that we can sing with joy in anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child!



Practices for Carol Festival & Midnight Mass

Sunday Practices: These will be in SPC Church from 4pm to 6pm on Sunday 10 Dec and Sunday 17 Dec. **Thursday Evening Practices:** These will be held at Maureen's house (8 Wallace St Sefton) from 7pm to 9pm on Thursdays 7, 14, & 21 Dec. If you love singing, do come along and join us as we prepare to celebrate this Joyful Christmas Season. (Info: 9644-5818)

Just for Laughs

One night a Viking named Rudolph the Red was looking out the window when he said,
 "It's going to rain." His wife asked, "How do you know?"
 "Because Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."



Christmas Schedule 2017

Wednesday 20 December

7.30pm Carols Festival at SPC Berala

Friday 22 December

7.30pm Second Rite Reconciliation at SPC Berala

Sunday 24 December

8.00am Mass at SJW Auburn South

10.00am Mass at SPC Berala

7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at SPC Berala

12.00am Solemn Midnight Mass at SPC Berala

Monday 25 December

8.00am Christmas Mass at SJW Auburn South

10.00am Christmas Mass at SPC Berala

11.00am - 3.00pm Christmas Lunch in the Jubilee Hall

**The Catholic Parish of
St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala**

invite all who wish
to share the joy of Christmas with others to a Christmas Lunch.

Food, drink, entertainment and face painting provided

Date: 25 December 2017

Place: Jubilee Hall, 64 Kingsland Rd Berala (next to church)

Time: 11am to 3pm

RSVP for transport: Please phone Anne or Christine no later than

Monday 18 December on 9643 7794

For further details please contact

Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378

#ACYF17

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

December 7-9

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

Day Registrations for the ACYF are now available for Thursday December 7th & Friday December 8th.

Registrations are available as a group or individual and have been provide for day experiences for schools, university students and young adults in the greater Sydney area.

Day Registrations are \$125 per person per day.

Festival Contact:

Sydney
Kathy Campbell
Host Diocese Coordinator
Archdiocese of Sydney
acyf@sydneycatholic.org
Ph: 02 9390 5976

SPREADING

SPC-SJW KIDS CAMP
11-13 January 2018

Joy

SPC-SJW KIDS CAMP 11-13 January 2018

To be held over three amazing days over the summer holidays, this will be a day camp (10am - 4pm) on the grounds of St Peter Chanel for all 6-12 year olds.

Filled with fun activity and teaching based on our Catholic faith, it is an event not to be missed.

Cost is \$25 per child (with concessions for siblings - \$35 for two children and \$40 for three children).

Please register your interest now as places are limited.

Please contact Rhia Victorino (SPC) on 0420 966 463 /
Angela Finnane (SJW) on 0425 312 302
angela.finnane@syd.catholic.edu.au

2018 Year of Youth: Open new horizons for spreading joy

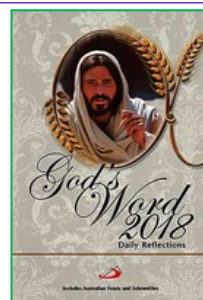
Morning Tea Next Sunday at SJW



The Legion of Mary will celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (8 December) next Sunday, 10 December after the 8.00am Mass at St Joseph the Worker Church with cakes during morning tea hosted by Alicia Moore.

You are also invited to join the Legion of Mary which meets every Thursday at 4.00pm at St Joseph's House. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787.

We are seeking families that wish to host the Rosary for the Pilgrim Rosary Statue at SJW. Should you wish to be included in the roster kindly let the Parish Office know.



GOD'S WORD 2018: DAILY REFLECTIONS LITURGICAL DIARY

Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life.

A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God. Includes the Bible readings set down for each day, with a reflection.

God's Word 2018: Daily Reflections brings you:

- ◆ Liturgical readings of the day from the New Jerusalem Bible
- ◆ Inspiring reflection of the Gospel of the day by eminent homilists
- ◆ Liturgical information for the day
- ◆ Space to note down important events and reflections of the day
- ◆ Australian Feasts and Solemnities.

The retail price is \$15.95. But you can buy it now from the Parish Church Shop for \$12 today. It will make a good Christmas Gift to your friends.



Church Shop

Drop by our Church Shop 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.

Jubilee Hall 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.

Other Notices

Come Celebrate Australia's largest Mass since World Youth Day 2008! - Saturday 9 December. Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to attend Mass in the Domain on Saturday 9 December for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. This will be a joyous occasion! The Mass at 6.30pm will follow an afternoon of concerts and festivities beginning at 4pm and featuring Australian and international musicians and performers, including Matt Maher. The Archbishop also invites the people of Sydney to pray for the success this important event. Prayer cards have been distributed to parishes (see attached). For more information go to the ACYF website: www.acyf.org.au. Download App for FREE here: www.xt3.com/acyf2017/apps/

A Christmas Celebration 2017 – Friday 15 December 2017
Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Orchestra of the Antipodes Including congregational carols and music to lift your spirits in the joy of the season! For tickets and more information please visit www.achristmascelebration.com.au

Christmas Remembrance Service – 17 December 2017 at 7:30pm. All are welcome to join in St Mary's Cathedral as

we remember and pray for all those who have died and whose memory we cherish over the Christmas season.

Tell your MPs: Hands off our freedoms! Take action to defend religious freedom and parental rights over the education their children receive. Contact your local federal MP today to demand your freedoms are protected in any legislation for same-sex marriage. For more information and to contact your MP got to: www.marriagealliance.com.au

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

CATHOLICCARE..... Looking for parenting resources?
CatholicCare's new online parenting resource provides information and tips to help build positive parent-child relationships. Visit catholiccare.org and look for the Parenting Hub icon or call our CCareline Team 13 18 19