

## 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.

### Second Sunday of Advent - Year B

10 December 2017

#### First Reading

**Is 40:1-5, 9-11**

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

#### Second Reading

**2 Pt 3:8-14**

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

#### Gospel

**Mk 1:1-8**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

### Antiphons & Readings

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Is 30:19,30  
O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

#### Responsorial Psalm:

**(R) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

**1.** I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

**2.** Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**  
**3.** The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

#### Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4, 6

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.  
**Alleluia!**

**Communion Antiphon** Bar 5:5; 4:36  
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

#### Next Week's Readings:

Is 61:1-2, 10-11  
1 Thes 5:16-24  
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



**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 10.30am	Mass Funeral Mass - Giuseppina Vartuli
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) Parish Choir Practice at Maureen's House (9644 5818)
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 4.00pm	Mass (SJW) Mass (SPC) Christmas Choir Practice (SPC Church)

*Family that pray together stay together"*  
**PILGRIM STATUE**

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL**

at the Chiu Home  
65 Fourth Avenue, Berala

Please join them any evening at  
7.30pm for the Rosary.

To host the Pilgrim Statue and  
Rosary prayer please contact Mona  
on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

**FROM ST JOSEPH THE WORKER**

at the Lopez Home

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

**Roster Next Week**

17 DECEMBER 2017		3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
ORGANIST	Renee SALAR		SAMOAN
CANTOR	SCHOOL CHOIR		CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Jann ROCKLIFF	Ken HARTMAN	Mai VU
	John DONNELLAN	Jenny MICHAEL	Maureen HYNES
COMMENTATOR	Christine KENSEY	Joe MOSES	Margarette Nguyen
GIFTS	Dorothy BOYD		BOTHAM Family
SP. MINISTER	Joy SKERRITT		Micheline BOTHAM
SP. MINISTER	Pam SNELL		Anna MANGANARO
CHURCH SHOP			Mervin VICTORINO
GREETER	Parish Children	Joe MOSES	A FACER & P KAVANAGH
HOSPITALITY			Anna FACER

<b>Hospital Visitation Sat:</b> John Le Mottee & Deb Gooch	<b>Altar:</b> Group 1 Gloria De Alkstrand; Moya Lewis; Anna Manganaro
<b>Hospital Communion Sun:</b> : Ken Hartmann & Jenny Michael	
<b>Cleaners SPC :</b> H Duff & Friends	<b>Children's liturgy:</b> : School Holidays

Saturday	16 DECEMBER
LECTOR FOR MASS	Jann ROCKLIFF

**Mass Intentions**

**Birthday:** Noel Snell

**Sick:** Anne Nguyen

**Recently Deceased:** Giuseppina Vartuli, Maria Pagarno, Shinta Widjaja, Harry Willoughby

**Anniversary:** Eddie Leonardi

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



## An Exciting News



A few exciting things happened in the first few decades of Christian era. Silk was first seen in Rome. A silk route was established to the East from Rome. A sea route was established between Rome and India for the spice trade. This helped the Roman economy enormously by avoiding middle men. For the first time a Chinese ambassador was appointed to the Roman Empire. Other major events recorded by historians include a major earthquake which destroyed many Asian cities. These events were subjects of major discussions at that time. But Mark does not care to mention any of these ‘major’ happenings in his writing. Instead he wrote “the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God”. What Mark writes is not recorded by any historians or scholars of the time. Yet what he wrote is read and known by generations of the millennia till today. Other important historical facts are left to the researchers. Such is life. Australian media may be full of news about same sex marriage being legalised, or looming wars over tensions between major countries, or fully automated cars becoming a norm over others. But the only news that has lasting impact in your life is the ‘good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God’. Are you ready to pay attention to this good news?

While we are busy preparing for Christmas, John called to prepare yourself to receive Jesus Christ. His call for preparation was different to how we normally would think of preparing for Christmas. He called for repentance as a preparation to receive the promised Saviour of the World. We will be mad, not to listen to him. A mad person does the same thing again and again without any proper result. If we continue to do the same sins and mistakes again and again and complain that there is no inner peace or joy, we are no different to a mad person. We wish for peace and joy during Christmas. Let us trust in God and repent for our sins as John the Baptist demands. By doing so only then we can attain the true fruits of Christmas. Let us make sure God gifts us with joy and peace.

Having received Christ into our lives, let us experience stronger marriage, trusted friendships harmonious families, powerful spirituality, and clear purpose in life. Next two weeks you may work intensely on it.

### Reflections on Mark 1:1-8

#### **Historical Context: A Baptism of Forgiveness**

The understanding that we generally have of baptism today has not always been the case. At the time of John and Jesus, the Jewish tradition used baptism as a ritual bath to cleanse a person who had become ritually unclean and make them able to participate in religious rituals. What John was preaching was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins—a new interpretation at the time. He emphasised that repentance was essential for forgiveness and that there needed to be a conscious returning to God. John’s baptism was a symbolic act to signify the willingness of the person to renounce their sins and make a more conscious return to God.

#### **Scriptural Context**

The gospel of Mark is sometimes portrayed as a ‘no fuss’ gospel. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in this week’s passage. We have the first eight verses of the gospel and the author wastes no time in announcing the purpose, ‘The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.’ The gospel of Mark does not give any infancy narrative or genealogy like Matthew or Luke, nor a theological foreword like John. It jumps straight I with a declaration that Jesus is the Son of God and almost immediately begins to explore his ministry.

#### **Gospel Focus: Preparing the Way**

The gospel passage quotes the prophet Isaiah (although text combines Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; and Exodus 23:20) and casts John the Baptist in the role of fulfilling the prophecy of the voice that cries in the wilderness, ‘Prepare a way for the Lord’. The description of John in camel-skin and eating locusts and wild honey is designed to align him with Elijah, the great prophet of Jewish history. In a very short and sharp passage the gospel ties the coming of Jesus to the expectation of a messiah that has run through Jewish history and been foretold by the great prophets.

### Feasts & Memorials of the Week



#### **Wednesday - St Lucy**

St Lucy died at Syracuse in Sicily, probably in the persecution of the emperor Diocletian in 304. Widely venerated from the earliest times, her memorial has long been kept on this day. Probably because her name is suggestive of light, her intercession has been sought for eyesight problems. Named in

Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon) and remembered as a youth, radiant with Christian faith and courage.



#### **Thursday— St John of the Cross**

He was born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain). Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discalced Carmelites.

Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

**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.



## Children to be nativity characters, Human Couple and Baby for Nativity Scene

Christmas vigil at 7 PM on Sunday 24 December will have special focus on families with small children. To keep up with the tradition, all children are invited to dress up as one of the characters in the nativity scene. This includes, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Magi, and Angels. Simple costumes can do the job. All dressed up children may come the Mass 15 minutes early so that they can be organised to walk in the entrance procession. We are looking for a couple with a baby to form a still presentation of the nativity in front of the Altar in the first half of the Mass. Any volunteers are welcome to speak with Fr Thomas for the details.

## Reappointed

My first term at Berala was for 6 years and it was to conclude on New Year Day 2018. But Archbishop Anthony Fisher has reappointed me to this parish for a further 6 years. I see this as an opportunity to expand on the pastoral initiatives undertaken so far and to discern more pastoral plans helping all parishioners to live their Christian Faith to the fullest. Next year I will be consulting with the parish on furthering our pastoral plan.

This year I have completed 25 years of priestly ministry in the Archdiocese of Sydney. It is good to have an occasional appraisal of my ministry. I had one done on myself in the year 1999. It is good on such a jubilee to have another one done now. Therefore I have commissioned personnel from Human Resource department of Sydney Catholic Schools to appraise my ministry at this parish so far. They will be contacting many of you soon. When they contact you, I would like you to be frank and open in your responses. I always like proper assessment of my ministry which would help me to be more effective in the ministry.

## Change of Mass Schedule

I have decided to differ the change of Mass times for the time being. It is to be reviewed later in 2018. Meanwhile please note that there is No change in the time and location of Holy Mass.

~Fr Thomas

## Sefton to get a new Parish Priest

It was announced that, after many years of service, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, commonly referred to as 'The Oblates' will be leaving Sefton Parish in 2018. The Archdiocese will be appointing a new priest to Sefton next year.

## Raffle Winners

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for our fundraising. We raised a total of **\$4,695**. Congratulations to the winners: 1st Prize: M Ditchburn, 2nd Prize: D Susic, 3rd Prize: B Truong, 4th Prize: R Croucher, 5th Prize: A He, 6th Prize: Samoan Lady, 7th Prize: M Victorino, 8th Prize: K Hartman

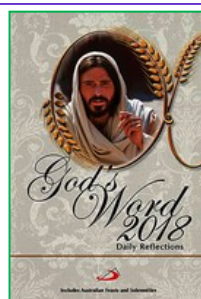
## Christmas Luncheon Crib



We are still looking for a volunteer to help put up a single crib on the 24th or 25th of December in the Parish Hall. All materials and structure are provided. Please contact Fr Thomas if you can.

## Christmas Giving Tree

A tree has been erected in the foyer of the church and all are invited to leave a gift. Please label wrapped gifts with who they may be most appropriate for (i.e. child, man). Your generosity will help bring a smile to those less fortunate.



## 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.

**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

*Do not let  
anyone be alone  
on Christmas  
Day!*

*Invite them to  
the Parish  
Christmas Lunch  
on 25 December  
at the Jubilee  
Hall.*

## 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

### Tuesday 26 December (Boxing Day)

6.45am Mass

9.15am Mass

## SPREADING

BERALA KIDS CAMP

11-13 January 2018

# Joy

### BERALA 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](mailto:angela.finnane@syd.catholic.edu.au)

*2018 Year of Youth: Open new horizons for spreading joy*





# Parliament of New South Wales

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE GOOD WORKS OF THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST PETER CHANEL AND ST JOSEPH

Statement delivered in the Parliament of New South Wales on 15 November 2017

The mountainous jungles of Meghalaya in the north-east of India on the border of Bangladesh receive the highest rainfall on earth. In Sanskrit "Meghalaya" means the abode of the clouds. The remote village of Dainadubi, home to the Garo people, will have a school built thanks to the parishioners of St Peter Chanel and St Joseph parish in Western Sydney. This Catholic parish is an amalgamation of St Peter Chanel at Berala and St Joseph the Worker at Auburn South. The new school will be made of bricks to a standard that can resist the monsoons that wreak havoc in the wettest place in the world. I honour the good works of parish priest Father Thomas Kuranthanam, parish staff, the members of the parish council and parishioners. The efforts of the parish community in Berala and Auburn South will bring justice to the poor in perhaps the remotest Catholic community in the world.

*Luke Foley MP*

Member for Auburn  
Leader of the Opposition





To,

The parish Priest, parish council Members are  
parishioners.

St. Peter Chamel parish, Beralda

Dated - 1st November 2017

Subject - Thanks and prayers

Dear Father, parishioners and organisers,

I am very happy to know that you  
are organising many programs for our School. I  
Miss Wansana K. Sangma on behalf of Class IV students  
are very grateful to you and happy with it. And also we promise  
to study very hard and become good and responsible  
citizens. I want to become a doctor and I can  
fulfill it by being in this school with your help. And with  
your help we can have a beautiful school building in  
future. Thank you.

We would be grateful for your help  
father. Thanking you with lots of prayers and praying for you  
all.

yours faithfully  
Wansana K. Sangma  
Std - Class IV  
St. Joseph's School  
Dainadubi

