



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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Year B

31 December 2017

First Reading

Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.'

Second Reading

Col 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all

wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel

Lk 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and

he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon **Lk 2:16**

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **(R.)**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **(R.)**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation **Col 3:15. 16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your

hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon **Bar 3:38**

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Next Week's Readings:

Is 60:1-6

Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

Mt 2:1-12

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
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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

Pastoral Council

To be reconstituted in the New Year.

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 9.15am Mass—New Years Day (Parish Choir to sing)
Tuesday	6.45am Mass
Wednesday	6.45am Mass
Thursday	6.45am Mass
Friday	6.45am Mass
Saturday	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary 9.00am Novena, Adoration, Confession, 5.00pm Sunday Vigil Mass (SPC) (Parish Choir to Sing)
Sunday	8.00am Mass (SJW) 10.00am Mass (SPC)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Family that pray together stay together"
PILGRIM STATUE



FROM ST PETER CHANEL

at Flores Home
23 The Boulevard, Berala/
Lidcombe

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

7 JANUARY 2017		THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
ORGANIST	Maureen HYNES	LEWISHAM TONGAN	SAMOAN
CANTOR	C HYNES & PARISH CHOIR	COMMUNITY CHOIR	CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Noelene DONNELLAN Flavia NARAYAN	Ken HARTMAN Joe MOSES	Hoa NGUYEN Margaret Nguyen
COMMENTATOR	Jann ROCKLIFF	Maris MARSH	Micheline BOTHAM
GIFTS	Carol MABON Family		Children's Liturgy
SP. MINISTER	Pam SNELL		Angela Tang
SP. MINISTER	Christine KENSEY		Mai VU
CHURCH SHOP	Margaret HEYS		Jenny MICHAEL
GREETERS	Roshan SEBASTIAN Sharon SEBASTIAN	Joe MOSES	Merv & Rhia VICTORINO
HOSPITALITY		Tony & Jennifer KASULE	

Hospital Visitation Sat: Christine Parish

Altar: Group 4 Anita Yip, Catherine
Naidu-Narayan, Malia Pei

Hospital Communion Sun: : Joy Skerritt & Roland Javier

Cleaners SPC: Samoan Choir

Children's liturgy: School Holidays

Saturday	6 JANUARY
LECTOR FOR MASS	Jann ROCKLIFF

Mass Intentions

Sick: Anne Nguyen

Recently Deceased: Colin Sinclair, Maria Pagarno, Harry Willoughby

Deceased: Shinta Widjaja, Ted Duffy, Felicisimo Amores, Fe Amores - Allarde, Tarcila Amores - Figueras, Cristina Figueras, Pacita Allarde

Anniversary: Siobhain Morris, Gordia & Astrid Bolonia,
Consuelo Ibardolaza

Deceased Members and Friends of: Amores & Domingo
Families.



Life of Consequence

Stephen Devassy is an amazing musician with Rexband. For the third time I went to his show last November. The parishioners who came with me also can tell you what an amazing musician he is. He holds the unparalleled distinction of completing 8th grade piano at the age of 16. He also holds the record as Asia's highest scorer in solo piano exams from Trinity College of Music, London. Now he is a much sought after musician in the vast film industry in India and by many other music programs. Behind all these achievements Stephen has special story to share.



In his childhood, Stephen became mortally sick. No doctors could offer any more hope. At that stage one of the pastors, after understanding the faith commitment of the family and dire state of Stephen prayed over him and prophesied "This child will not die. He will do great things for the glory of God". In spite of the humble beginnings and no musicians in the family, Stephen became one of the finest musicians of this time.

I remember this story when I read the account of Mary and Joseph presenting baby Jesus in Jerusalem Temple at the customary purification of Mary. (Ref Luke 2:22-40). *Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."* (Lk 2:34-35). Luke was writing this account to announce that Jesus is revealed as the messiah for Simeon, Anna (daughter of Phanuel) and all righteous people of Israel who have been waiting for the coming of the saviour. These people's heart and mind were fully devoted to God and spiritual life. Identifying ourselves with these holy people, we too can look forward to meeting the saviour in our life.

But still better, we can identify with child Jesus. Through baptism into the Body of Christ, the Church, we ourselves are Christ in flesh to the world today. So we as Christians are meant for the rise and fall of many and a sign that will be opposed that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. Let us live the life of consequence. Let the New Year show forth great consequence of your faith living. May your life show forth the greater glory of God in the New Year.

Reflections on Luke 2:22-40

Living the Gospel: Faithful

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hall mark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people.

Scriptural Context: Fulfilling Prophecy

The writer of the gospel of Luke uses this presentation event to announce or forecast the ministry of Jesus. The explicit identification of the poverty of Mary and Joseph is an indicator of the emphasis that Jesus will give to the poor throughout his ministry. The gospel writer also makes plain the link between the Temple (the Jewish tradition) and the ministry of Jesus. Tying these events into the prophecies of both Simeon and Anna reinforce the prophetic nature of this whole episode. Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as the fulfilment of the prophecies of scripture.

Historical Context: Ritual

The ritual of purification referred to in today's passage would take place 40 days after childbirth. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph.

Feasts & Memorials of the Week



Monday - Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Venerated as Mother of God from ancient times, the Virgin Mary was acclaimed Theotokos (God-bearer) in 431 by the Council of Ephesus, and commemorated on this day in Rome in the seventh century. Soon eclipsed by other feasts of Mary. Restored to the liturgical calendar in 1931, and to this day in 1969. Celebrates Mary's role in the mystery of the

incarnation, enriches the octave of Christmas with a Marian perspective, and provides a solemn beginning to the New Year.

Tuesday— Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen.



Basil: Born about 330 at Caesarea (Turkey). Died there on 1 January 379. First a hermit, then bishop of his native city. Remembered for his pioneering monastic rule,

and for writings which developed the doctrines of the incarnation and of the divinity of the Holy Spirit. **Gregory:** Born at Nazianzus (Turkey) in 329. Died there in 389. Also a hermit before becoming bishop of Constantinople. Remembered as the "Theologian" because of his wisdom and acumen in maintaining orthodox doctrine against the Arians. Basil and Gregory are commemorated together because of their friendship in life and their enduring influence on the Church, especially in the East.

Change of Mass Schedule

There will be mass on New Year's Day at 9.15am. Please note that there will be **no mass at 9.15am for the rest of the week**. However, **there will be the usual 6.45am mass on weekdays**.

Christmas Lunch: Thank You!

This is the 5th year our parish has been holding a Christmas Day luncheon. This event continues to bring joy to many who attend and are involved and truly captures the spirit of the season. Many thanks to Evelene Safadi and team and to all those who helped plan, advertise, set up and decorate the hall.

The Christmas luncheon relies on volunteers and we are extremely grateful to those who have generously donated food, drinks and their time for this event.

Parish Carols

Our second Christmas Carol Festival was a resounding success and not even the weather could put a stop to our carols or dampen our holiday spirits! It was great to see the hall filled with joyful faces and listen to the cheerful singing by everyone.

A job well done to Maureen Hynes for co-ordinating. Congratulations and thanks to the Parish Choir, Samoan Choir with Paul Fuiava as their leader, School Choirs, Tongan Choir, Alannah Kassis, Alena Haban & Renee Salar for providing an array of wonderful carols on the night.

Sound Engineering was done by Robert Weaver, Micheline Botham & Renee Salar took on the roles of MC. Sharon Sebastian, Roshan Sebastian & Rhia Victorino proclaimed the Word of God announcing the Christmas joy.

To everyone who helped with setting up the chairs and other arrangements, Marianna Tannous & Alan Tham for the sale of candles and glow-sticks, illumination by Bolonia & Salar families, thank you! To all, I wish to say 'thank you for a job very well done.' ~Fr Thomas

Reading Mark

Following the enthusiastic reception I had for the Bible Study Program on Matthew's Gospel this year, I will be offering a Bible Study, 'Reading Mark' during Lent 2018. It will be 90 minutes sessions on Wednesday evenings (21 February, 28 February 7 March, 14 March, 21 March), starting at 7 PM. The venue will be St Joseph House Berala. If you are interested enrol for it by the end of January 2018.

Lenten Programs

It might look too early to think of Lenten Program now, even before the New Year. Really it is not so. By the time the holiday month finishes, it will be Lent. By the time we tried to order Lenten Program books in the past years, it was too late and the books were sold out. Therefore we had to pay for the licence to print them ourselves in house. Therefore this year I would like you to inform the parish office well in advance, preferably early January, how many copies of the program book you will require. We will be getting the resource from Brisbane Liturgy Office.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

It would be good to revive Berala Conference of St Vincent de Paul. Therefore anyone interested in becoming a member of the Conference in Berala is welcome to contact the parish office. Should there be enough interest we will be able to resume the Conference some time in the New Year. Currently the Parish Schools have their own Mini Vinnies.

Other Notices

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@griegtorgraceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griegtorgrace.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 connect@catholiccare.org

Just for Laughs

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck, the bartender was almost crushed to death.



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)