



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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B

4 FEBRUARY 2018

First Reading

Jb 7:1-4. 6-7

Job began to speak: Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

Second Reading

1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me. So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel

Mk 1:29-39



On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began

to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon Ps 94:6-7

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) **Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.**

1. Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving: to him our praise is due. (R.)
2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds. He

fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name. (R.)
3. Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation Mt 8:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Next Week's Readings:

Lv 13:1-2. 44-46
1 Cor 10:31 - 11:1
Mk 1:40-45

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

Pastoral Council

Karim Kassir (Chair)
T. 0408 404 130
Charlie Scully (Vice Chair)
T. 0402 071 849
Maureen Hynes (Secretary)
Jennifer Rush (Asst Secretary)
Anthony Kasule, Arthur Doumit (SVDP),
Brenda Wendt-Hussein, Jenny Michael,
Joji Salar, Micheline Botham
(Sacramental Program), Paul Fuiava,
Rani Sebastian, Rene Salar, Rhia
Victorino, Vinita Nazareth 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: Pregnancy support or grieving
after abortion www.sarasplace.org.au
Ph: 9699 8190

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon	6.45am	Mass
Tue	6.45am 9.00am	Mass Mass - Opening of School Year (SJW)
Wed	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Thu	6.45am 9.15am 11.00am 7.00pm	Mass Mass Legion of Mary (St Joseph's House) Psalmists then 7.30pm General Practice
Fri	6.45am 9.15am 7.00pm	Mass Mass - Commissioning of School Leaders/Opening of School Year (SPC) Volunteers Gathering (SPC Hall)
Sat	8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 5.00pm	Mass Rosary Novena, Adoration, Malayalam Confession, Sunday Vigil Mass (SPC)
Sun	8.00am 10.00am 4.30pm	Mass (SJW) Mass (SPC) Commissioning of Parish Council Malayalam Mass

Family that pray together stay together"
PILGRIM STATUE



FROM ST PETER CHANEL

at Manganaro Home
16 Third 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 Kavanagh Home

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

ROSTER NEXT WEEK

11 FEBRUARY 2018

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY Dom PANGILINAN	William ANDREWS	Mario CAPRA Mert BOLONIA
MUSIC & SINGING	Kate PARISH & PARISH CHOIR		ELMER'S GROUP
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Mai VU
	Noelene Donnellan	Maris MARSH	Maureen HYNES
COMMENTATOR	Lawrence LOPEZ	Karim KASSIS	Rhia VICTORINO
SP. MINISTER	Janet Ryan		Anna MANGANARO
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY		John SHANLEY
GREETER	Dante & Lynda AMORES	Loutoa OLIE	Alan THAM, Suly TAN, Gilbert KIM

Hospital Visitation Sat: John Le Mottee & Deb
Gooch

Altar: Group 3 Helen Le Mottee; Jann
Rockliff

Hospital Communion Sun: : Ken Hartman & Jenny Michael

Cleaners SPC: Malia & Mefiposeta Pei

Children's liturgy: N/A

Saturday

10 FEBRUARY

LECTOR FOR MASS

Christine KENSEY

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Celestina Andino-Retuta, Gener Retuta, Lilia Andino-Borillo, Ante Balaban, Anne
Nguyen

Recently Deceased: Ada Michael, Salvatore Capra, Engelbert Taoneyi, Nellie Lim, Spiro
Nobilo

Deceased: Alejandro Garcia, Venancio Sr, Eluseyo, Angelo Zerafa, Mary Zerafa, Poul
Gatt, Mary Gatt

Anniversary: Cernon Alinson, Gloria Mari Eamiguel, Primo & Jovito Amores, Edgardo
Paat, Rodrigo Avila, Consuelo Ibarrolaza, Patrick & Violet Lynch

Deceased Members and Friends of: Ross & Mitchell Families, Amores & Florendo
Families, Cullen & Banham Families, O'Dwyer & Erwin Families

Other Intentions: Banham & Family, Banham & Cullen Families, Maria Pauline, Annette
& Marie, Carol Dutton

The Touch

A potter moulds clay into various shapes on a wheel. The touch of his hands can transform mere clay into a glorious looking pottery. Jesus touching the sick mother in law of Peter transformed her from infirmity to the virility that enabled her to be at the service of the Lord and others. Thus the undesirable sickness was transformed into the glorious service to God and Humans.



It is not just the dear ones who benefited from the healing and transforming touch of Jesus. Many sick who were brought to Jesus were also transformed into wholeness of life and dignity. Jesus did the healing touch for the sick only to show them that God's saving touch is available to humanity now. Jesus did not do anything for his own personal glory. That is the reason for Jesus to say that if people are flocking at Simon's house to meet the Lord he rather would go to other places to continue his mission.

In a celebrity maniac world like ours, it would be hard to shift our focus from personal glory to service of others for the glory of God. Yet we have a saviour who can transform our sickness and inadequacies into means of glory to God and service to others. The more we spend on personal glory, social status, and material comfort, the less we will be participating in the transforming touch of God. If we allow God to transform our infirmity to virility we will be at the service of others and God. As people of dignity we all need the transforming touch of God in our lives.

REFLECTIONS ON MARK 1:29-39

Have you thought? Simon's Wife

In this week's reading, it is Simon's mother-in-law who is healed. This obviously means that Simon is married. However, there is no mention whatsoever about his wife. Is she alive or dead? Do they have children? We have no indication. It is not until the writings of Paul (1 Cor 9:5) that we learn Simon Peter was indeed married and that his wife accompanied him on his travels. Perhaps this visit to his family home was to announce to his wife and family that he had decided to follow Jesus and give up fishing.

Historical Context: Capernaum

Jesus appears to have made Capernaum his base after leaving Nazareth. He may, in fact, have based himself at Simon Peter's house. There are many references in the gospels to Jesus' actions in Capernaum. Archeologists have identified the house in Capernaum that they believe to be Simon Peter's house—less than 100 metres from the Capernaum synagogue. Evidence reveals carved inscriptions and symbols that identify both Jesus and Peter. The house appears to have been used as a 'house-church' until a church was built on the site in the 5th Century. Excavations of the site can be seen today.

Living the Gospel: Prayer

In the midst of an extremely hectic 24 hours where Jesus effectively launches his public ministry, Jesus takes time to go aside to a lonely place and pray. The passage tells us that it was 'long before dawn' that he did this. It may have been his usual practice to pray early in the morning or he may have been restless after the events of the previous day and the thought of what lay ahead. Nevertheless, Jesus provides us with a model of using prayer to reflect on events and to prepare ourselves for the day ahead.

PARISH NEWS

Ike Fuiava

Ike Fuiava is the father of Paul Fuiava who leads the Samoan Choir for 10AM Mass in our parish. Ike has been transferred to Westmead Hospital where he is recovering from his illness. He has been hospitalised since Christmas vigil with a number of complications including a bad stroke. But he needs our prayers. Therefore please keep him your prayers.

Volunteers Needed - Palm Sunday & Easter Services

During Palm Sunday, Holy Week and the Easter Services, we will have a special roster on. We require volunteers to be lectors, special ministers and readers for the passion narrative. Please contact Fr Thomas by 1st of March if you are able to help.

Liturgy Roster

The Liturgy Roster for the next quarter is now available for collection from the church Foyer.

New Minister of Holy Communion

Last Sunday two more Ministers are Commissioned to distribute Holy Communion. They are Mamerto (Mert) Bolo-
nia and Dom Pangilinan. These two and EJ Hoeflick are also looking forward to be trained and commissioned as Acolyte for the Parish. As part of the training, in the coming weeks they will be assisting the acolytes at weekend Masses.

PARISH NEWS

A Word from the Chair

The new Parish Pastoral Council was elected this week. It is great to see some new faces with fresh ideas volunteer time to the new council. The new council will be commissioned next Sunday, February 11th at the 10:00am Mass at St Peter Chanel Church. We hope all the parish council will be able to attend where a formal presentation will be made to the congregation. It will also be an opportunity for the parishioners to put a face to the name and know who their council representatives are. We have some wonderful plans for our Parish community and hope that we can all work together to make our Parish strong in Christ.

~Karim Kassir

St Peter Chanel Playgroup



A playgroup for toddlers to children 5 years of age is held at St Peter Chanel Primary school each Thursday morning from 9.00am to 11.00am. Babies of toddlers also welcome. The morning consists of singing, dancing, socialisation through play and art and craft activities. It is also an excellent opportunity for mums, dads and carers to make friends and connections. It is open to all children in our parish and local area. Please share this information with friends.

St Peter Chanel School Lenten Program

A Lenten Program will also be held each Wednesday at 9.00am at St Peter Chanel Primary School. It is open to all from the Parish and school community.

Out Reach Programs

Our parish has a number of outreach programs and initiatives. The annual Christmas Luncheon is one of them. Last year we also had a fundraising for Fr George's School in Garo Hills India. Recently I invited expression of interest to establish a new Conference of the Vinnies. A few people have volunteered to join it. Next week the Archdiocese will be launching a Taskforce to work towards eradicating slavery and human trafficking. This is another opportunity to work with the Archdiocese as an outreach program of the parish. Should you wish to make any comments on these initiatives or join any of these mission activities is welcome to contact me.



~Fr Thomas

Society of St Vincent de Paul

We have received interests from a couple people who would like to join. However, it would be great if we could gather a bit more! Therefore, if you or anyone you know would like to become a member of the Conference in Berala, please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or email info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. Currently the Parish Schools have their own Mini Vinnies.

Reading Mark

There's still time to register your interest if you would like to attend the Bible Study 'Reading Mark' during Lent. It will be 90 minutes sessions on Wednesday evenings (21 February, 28 February 7 March, 14 March, 21 March), starting at 7 PM. It will be held at St Joseph House Berala. Please contact the Parish Office by the 31st of January to register.

Lenten Program

Jenny Michael's Lenten Program will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm (13, 20, 27 February and 6, 13 20 March) at 7 Wilson Ave Regents Park. In order to secure your Lenten booklet for this program, you will need to register your interest by contacting Jenny on 0413 679 931. For anybody that would like to form their own group, please contact the Parish Office for resources and guidance.

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. Visit the parish website <http://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/>, click on the Administration tab to download a copy of the contract and conditions for hire.

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)

Three Catechists Retire

Three Catechists have retired from our team. We thank Pam Snell, Howard Duff and Jennifer Pauperis for many years of service at our parish. They prepared and delivered scripture lessons using the "Christ our Light and Life" curriculum at Berala Public School, Regents Park Public and Auburn West Public.



Pam Snell



Howard Duff



Jennifer Pauperis

Pam leaves the team after 16 years of teaching. She often helped other teachers as well. Thank you Pam for delaying your retirement until a volunteer joined the team. Have a well-deserved rest!

Howard has served faithfully for over 16 years, teaching mainly the younger children. He will be sorely missed.

Jennifer worked tirelessly and also relieved other teachers. We wish Jennifer well in her new endeavours.

Catechists Need Your Help!

Our Catechist teachers need your support to bring God's love to the children.

We invite people from all walks of life to join our Catechist team as a helper for just half an hour a week. Three people have retired from our Catechist team so we need your help in taking God's word to children in public schools.



Your tasks may include setting up the work tables with colour pencils and books, setting up the prayer table, supporting children with colouring-in or craft and rewarding them with a sticker. Come and see if this is right for you. Come and give it a go. Interested people can visit a public school with one of our Catechist teachers and observe a class. Choose between visiting Regents Park Public (Wednesdays); Auburn West (Thursdays); and Berala Public (Fridays).

Many of the children we teach do not have the opportunity to go to Mass. Most have never received any of the Sacraments. Catechist teachers and helpers are in the position of bringing God's word to them, of bringing God's love to them. This work is rewarding and fulfilling.

A few months ago we were privileged to take Holy Mass to our scripture classes at Berala Public School with support from the school's scripture co-ordinator. The children requested a Mass and prepared enthusiastically for the occasion. Years 1 – 6 were able to participate in the Procession of Gifts, with the Readings, and in singing the responses and hymns during the Mass – a totally awesome experience. Thank you Father Thomas.

Some concerns you may have about being a Catechist helper.



"I don't know enough about my faith."

You learn about your faith as you go along. You grow in confidence and understanding.

"I don't know how to manage a classroom of kids."

The Catechist teacher will manage the classroom while you assist the children with their activities. We provide you with training. You have a support network.

"I don't speak good English."

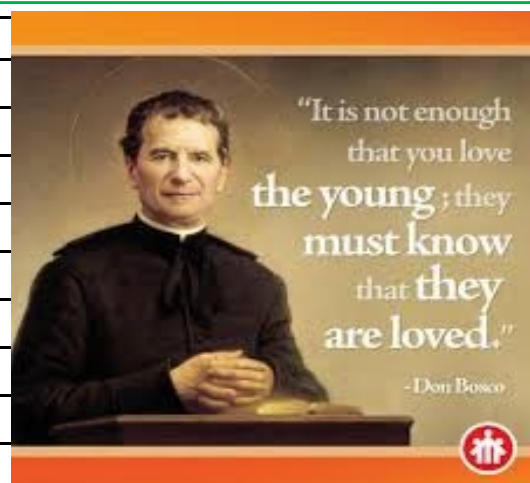
Come aboard as a helper. Come and help with craft or the colouring-in.

If you would like to know more, please speak to one of our Catechists after Mass today.

~ Catechist Coordinator, Brenda Wendt-Hussein (0402 051 365)

Catechist Helpers Schedule

Regents Park Public School		
Wednesdays	1.50pm to 2.20pm	<i>Helper needed</i>
	2.20pm to 2.50pm	<i>Helper needed</i>
Auburn West Public School		
Thursdays	2.00pm to 2.30pm	<i>Helper needed</i>
	2.30pm to 3.00pm	<i>Helper needed</i>
Berala Public School		
Fridays	11.20am to 11.50am	<i>Helper needed</i>
	11.50am to 12.20pm	<i>Helper needed</i>



Sacraments of Initiation

First Holy Communion and Confirmation are two Sacraments of Initiation to follow after infant baptism. Catholic Schools, through the school curricula help the students understand the meaning of these sacraments in depth. The parents and siblings in the family help the little ones to experience the joy and place of these sacraments by taking them to Church and worship with the Parish Community. Our parish always works on improving the Sacramental Program to prepare the children to celebrate these Sacraments of Initiation well. This Year of Youth calls for dialogue and active engagement focused on the reconnection and renewal of a new generation of young people in the life of the Church. There will be three different programs for Confirmation, First Communion, and First Reconciliation.

Communion

Parents are invited to enrol their children for First Holy Communion on 17/18 February. If your child is in Year 4 or older they are eligible to enrol. Please arrive at SJW or SPC Church half an hour before the start of the Mass. The Sacramental team will collect \$15 as registration fee and provide the families with forms to fill in. The children are to present these forms during the Mass to the priest. Parents are then invited to a meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday 20 February at The Jubilee Hall. Details of the program will be explained at this meeting and resource materials will be distributed to the parents. Using the material the parents will be able to explain Holy Eucharist to the Children and enthuse them to participate in Sunday Liturgies. The children and their parents are to meet for one hour catechetical sessions on each Sundays in March after 10 AM Mass in the Jubilee Hall. **Fr Thomas would like to meet with each family individually, from -April to mid-May**, to check the preparedness of the child before the reception of the Sacrament. **Please contact Lea to book an appointment.** Sunday, 20 May is the retreat day for the children at the Jubilee Hall. First Holy Communion will be celebrated at SJW at 8 AM on Sunday 3 June and at SPC on Saturday 2 June at 5pm or at 10am on Sunday 3 June.



Confirmation

The Confirmation Program will with the enrolment of the Candidates on 9/10 June. If your child is in Yr 6 or older, and has made their First Holy Communion, they are eligible to enrol. Candidates are invited with their parents to church 30 minutes before the start of Mass (Vigil, 8 AM, 10 AM Mass). The Sacramental team will collect a \$15 enrolment fee and provide the registration form. Parents help the candidates to fill the forms and present it during the Mass to the priest. On Wednesday, 13 June at 7 PM, parents are invited to the Jubilee Hall for a meeting where detailed information on the program will be explained and resource material will be provided. We will be using resources provided by Gracia Publication of CCD. On 24 June, 1 July, 29 July and 5 August, Parents and candidates will gather in the Parish Hall after 10 AM Mass for the catechetical and group sessions. It will be an hour each. On Wednesday, 8 August parents are invited to another meeting in the Jubilee Hall at 7PM to finalise preparations. On Sunday 12 August, the candidates will have their reflection day at the Jubilee Hall. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will be at 7 PM on Saturday 25 August.



Reconciliation

The First Reconciliation Program will start this year with enrolment at all Masses on the first weekend of November. A parents meeting will be held on the following Wednesday evening and the catechetical classes will be held in the Jubilee hall four consecutive Sundays starting on 18 November. The First Reconciliation will be celebrated Saturday, 15 December.

Any further inquiry could be directed to the Sacramental Co-ordinator, Micheline Botham, Fr Thomas or Lea in the parish office.

KEY DATES 2018	Communion	Confirmation	Reconciliation
Enrolments	17/18 February 30 Minutes before Mass	9/10 June 30 Minutes before Mass	3/4 November 30 Minutes before Mass
Parent Meetings	20 February	13 June & 8 August	7 November
Classes	4, 11 & 18 March, 8 April	24 June, 1 & 29 July, 5 August	18 & 25 November, 2 & 9 December
Celebration Dates	2/3 June	25 August	15 December

Please note, enrolments will only be accepted at these times and during the Mass

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday—St Agatha



Died in Sicily, perhaps during the persecutions of the third century. Venerated in Rome as a virgin martyr on this day since the sixth century and included by name in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon). Remembered in legend for her faith and for remaining resolute under torture.

Tuesday—St Paul Miki & Companions

Died on 5 February 1597, a group of twenty-six martyrs crucified at Nagasaki (Japan). Most were Japanese and most were laypeople, some still youths. The first of many martyrs in a young Church. Paul Miki, aged thirty-five years at his death, was a Jesuit scholastic from an aristocratic Japanese family. Remembered as a notable preacher who inspired the local Church in his own time and in the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution and isolation.



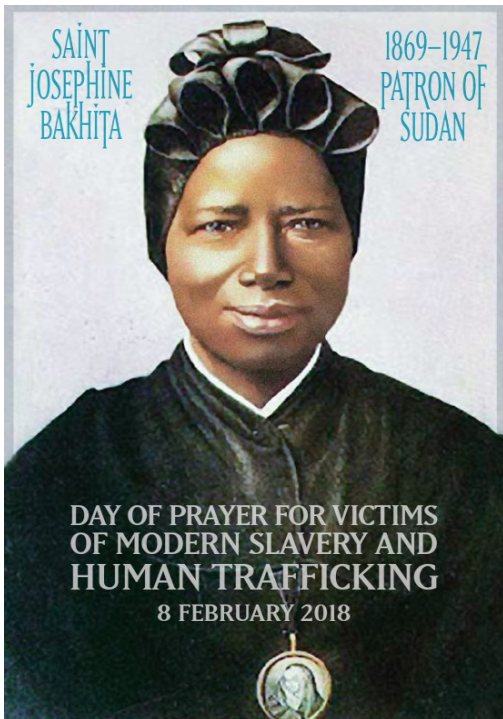
Thursday—St Bakhita

Born in Sudan, Africa, in 1869. When she was a child, she was captured and sold as a slave and suffered harsh treatment. The name "Bakhita," which means "fortunate," was given to her in sarcasm by the people who kidnapped her. Bakhita was taken to Italy and put into service as a nanny. She was sent to live with the Canossian Sisters in Venice. From the sisters she learned about God and Christianity. In time, she asked to be baptized, and took the name Josephine.

At the age of forty-one, Josephine felt God calling her to become one of the sisters. The Canossian Sisters accepted her into their community. For twenty-five years, Sister Josephine carried out humble services in the convent. She cooked, sewed, took care of the chapel and answered the door. During World War I, Sister Josephine helped to care for the wounded. She became known for her kindness and goodness. She was a source of comfort and encouragement to everyone who came to her in need.

She was canonized on October 1, 2000, by Pope John Paul II. St. Josephine is the patron saint of the Christian Sudanese people who still suffer persecution for their faith. Bakhita's story is fascinating particularly because of the story of her slavery and how God was with her every step of the way, writing something beautiful from the sad chapters of her early years as a child. There is still childhood slavery in the world today. Bakhita's story challenges readers to respect the human dignity of all.

(Source: *St Bakhita of Sudan, Forever Free*, Published by Daughters of St. Paul.)



Prayer to St Josephine Bakhita

St Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement you found true redemption in your encounter With Christ and his Church.

St Bakhita, assist all those

Who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they Will be released from their chains of captivity.

For all those enslaved, including those who are victims of forced labour, human trafficking and the survivors,

Give us the courage and strength to reach out And provide a voice and comfort.

Help all survivors find healing from their wounds.

May they see you St Bakhita

As an example of hope and faith. Amen.

Have you ever considered that what you buy may actually be contributing to modern slavery? From what we wear to what we eat, many of our commonplace purchases are tainted by modern slavery, including forced labour and human trafficking. Pope Francis has called on all of us to eliminate all forms of modern slavery. So please join us to commemorate St Bakhita's Day (8 February 2018), the international Catholic day for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. Mass at 6.45am and 9.15am. Join us in prayer for the eradication of modern slavery and human trafficking and by shopping ethically (check out the ethical shopping guide <http://www.ethical.org.au/theguide>).

OTHER NOTICES

CatholicCare Supporting Parents. Raising children can be stressful at times for parents. We have a range of parenting supports that can help, all accessed with one phone call to our CCareline Team. Simply call us on 13 18 19 to speak to our parenting specialists.

Mt Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre. 9-11 February, 2018 - **Retreat for Women.** Theme: "It is when I am weak that I am strong." (2 Cor. 12: 10). Enjoy a time of prayer and reflection as we approach the season of Lent. Experience the love of God and our Blessed Mother at the Schoenstatt Shrine in this Fr. Kantenich Year. (15.9.2017 – 15.9.2018). Where: Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, 230 Fairlight Road, Mulgoa 2745. When: 7pm 9 February – 4pm 11 February 2018. Cost: \$150 Shared rooms - Deposit \$50, Saturday only \$40 (includes lunch). Bookings: info@schoenstatt.org.au or Phone: 4773 8338 by 5 February.

Catholic Mindfulness Workshop This Ash Wednesday. Join Catholic USA psychologist, Dr Gregory Bottaro at his workshop where he will teach you new skills to help support the people in your communities. Gain more peace in your life by trusting God, letting go and becoming more present with his Mindfulness strategy. When: Wednesday, February 14 Where: Notre Dame University, Broadway Campus. Cost: \$100. Register: www.rom.org.au .

Palms Encounters are ethically run group tours that provide participants with authentic, hard to come by experiences. The tours have been carefully designed to give you an insight into the daily life of people of another culture, an understanding of sustainable approaches to reducing poverty, and an insight into the life and work of Palms development volunteers. We are booking now for our next trips to Samoa 18-30 May and Timor-Leste 20 May-1 June. Please contact Palms on 02 9560 5333 or see www.palms.org.au/encounters.

David Parkes - Free Entry! David is an international singer who has performed to over a million people world-wide during the past 25 years in his powerful music ministry. Saturday 24 February, 2:00pm-4:00pm, St James' Catholic Church, 2 Woolley Street, Glebe. Sunday 25 February, 2:30pm – 4:00pm Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 26 Swanston Street, St Marys. It has been 20 years since David last visited Australia. (A collection will be taken to cover the costs of this special event.) There will be CDs, DVDs and books available for purchase on the day. Contact: Therese - (02) 9651 3028 or 0422 678 799 John & Helen - (02) 4733 4274 or 0418 690 159.

Attention Ladies! Improve your communication, Reading & Writing Skills! Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays at 25 Helena Street, Auburn. Also come and join our knitting and crochet group each Monday morning. We knit for Ronald McDonald house, Red Cross, our own family. Enrolments now open. Contact Sr Elaine Walker on 9649 9635.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – Relationship Enrichment for Married Couples. 27th – 29th April 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.

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. Email Anne at info@griegtograces.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griegtograces.org

Positions Vacant: Director of Care Services, Rosary Village Aged Care. Permanent full-time position. Yennora-based. For further information please contact Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055. Applications close 14 February 2018.

Sydney Multicultural Community Services—Care Workers Needed. Sydney Multicultural Community Services specialises in the provision of support services to members of our multicultural communities. We currently have a number of casual positions available for Care Workers who speak a second language to provide support services to older people in their own homes who come from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds (CALD). For more information please phone: (02) 9663 3922 or email info@sydneycomcs.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. Our volunteers help us with the mailing of appeals and notices about our pilgrimages and special events as well as other duties. Please phone Amanda on 1800 753 959 or email fundraising@sydneycatholic.org for more information.

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. For further information please contact Bereavement Support bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au or Ph: (02) 9646 6908.

Shalom House of Prayer. Spend a great weekend at Shalom, Carcoar and explore how making sourdough bread can be a very spiritual exercise. It's going to be a reflective time, but also a relaxing and fun time as you learn how to bake the best sourdough, learn some new Ignatian meditation and prayer techniques, go on some lovely walks and enjoy some scrumptious food. When: Friday 16th Feb 6pm to Sunday 18th Feb at 3p. m Venue: Shalom House of Prayer, 7 Collins Street, Carcoar. Cost: Suggested Donation of \$190 (includes all meals and accommodation). To Register: Phone: (02) 63673058. Visit online at: www.shalomcarcoar.com .

Footprints of Jesus Pilgrimage May 2018. Join Fr Gabriel Ezenwa on 7 - 20 June 2018 for a 14 day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Watch the Gospels come alive on this most authentic faith journey live on location in the Holy Land of Israel. Take the chronological road of Jesus' life from Bethlehem to Nazareth and Galilee to Jerusalem. Daily Mass. Optional Extension to Petra. If interested, call Harvest Journey today for bookings or for more info 1800 819 156.

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.

Would you like to sing, or learn to sing, Gregorian Chant? The Gregorian Scholar of Sydney resumes rehearsals at 6pm on Thursdays at St Bede's Pyrmont (not far from Star City) from February 8. Come along and join us. We need you. Bring your friends also. "Gregorian Chant (is) specially suited to the Roman Liturgy .. (and) should be given pride of place in liturgical services" (Vatican II SC 116). It is not hard to learn and you have the satisfaction of acquiring a new skill.

Social Media IRL

I've given up social media for the New Year and am trying to make friends outside Facebook while applying the same principles. Every day, I walk down the street and tell passers by what I've eaten, how I feel, what I did the night before, and what I will do tomorrow. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and me gardening. I also listen to their conversations and tell them I love them. And it works. I already have three people following me—two police officers and a psychiatrist.

