



Saint Peter Chanel

## PARISHES OF ST PETER CHANEL BERALA & ST JOSEPH THE WORKER AUBURN SOUTH

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**Second Sunday Lent, 4th March 2012**

*From your Pastor*

### Three Mountains

These days, with the kind of rain we are getting and the magnitude of flood around us, many may wish they were living on the top of mountains rather than in valleys and on riverbanks. Mountain tops do have its special advantages. The air up there is cleaner. There could be a wider and clearer view from the mountain tops. Mountain tops takes us closer to God.

Today's Scripture readings at Mass on this second Sunday of Lent, are about three mountains.

In the first reading it is Mount Moriah where Abraham went up for a child sacrifice. Abraham was a man of great faith. God called him out of his homeland in Chaldea and asked him to come to a land in the south which later became Israel. While he was there, he felt the call from God to sacrifice his only son as mark of his faith. He therefore went up to Mount Moriah to perform the human sacrifice. Chaldeans in his time practiced child sacrifices to propitiate God. But in the case of Abraham, God intervened and told him that he should not perform human sacrifice. It was a new revelation from God. Abraham, therefore, was to leave the ungodly practice of his old homeland, Chaldea. Mount Moriah was a call for him to leave the past behind him and start a new life of faith.

In the second reading from the letter of Saint Paul to Romans, the Apostle tells us how the death of Jesus on the Mount Calvary brought salvation. Through this ultimate sacrifice Jesus Christ revealed that it is the self-sacrifice, not the self-centred life that bring us salvation. The world around us is full of enticement to indulge in self-centred activities. Seeking self-glory is promoted as a virtue in our time. Christ's teaching and life is contrary to this attitude of our secular world.

The third Mountain for today's reflection is Mount Tabor. It is about 20 km north west of Capernaum where Jesus lived with Peter. As part of training his disciples to carry out his mission of preaching the Kingdom of God, Jesus took three chosen disciples and went up the Mount Tabor. It was the mountain from which beacon of light was sent out to the villages of northern kingdom of Israel announcing the beginning of feasts. Since Israelites followed the lunar calendar for the religious feasts, it was important for the religious leaders to announce that they have seen the moon and it is ok to start the celebration. At a time where no megaphones or telephones or internet were available, the most efficient way of communicating was to have a light house on the top of a mountain to send signals to the people in the valley. Mount Tabor was a light house for the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Jesus took his chosen disciples to the top of Tabor Mountain and transfigured. He himself became the beacon announcing the time to celebrate. The disciples could find Moses and Elijah also in dazzling white with Jesus. By showing himself this way, Jesus was revealing to them that he is the fulfilment all the prophecies and the Mosaic Law. It also gave the disciples a glimpse of the glorified body all baptised people are entitled to at the end of their earthly pilgrimage.

This Lent is a time for us to decide which mountain we want to climb now. You may either climb the Mountain of Moriah like Abraham and leave the ungodly ways of the past behind, or climb the Calvary and make self-sacrifice with Christ, or climb Mount Tabor trusting the glory that will be ours in Christ? Which ever it is, climb a Mountain this Lent.

**Holy Mass at Berala:** Monday-Friday: 6.45 AM; Tuesday 7 PM Novena, then Mass; Wednesday—Friday 9.15 AM Saturday 8 AM

Lord's Day: Saturday 5 PM (Vigil), Sunday 8 AM, 10 AM; **Reconciliation at Berala:** Saturday 9.30 AM

**Holy Mass Auburn South:** Tuesday: 9 AM; Lord's Day, Sunday 9 AM, **Reconciliation at Auburn South:** Sunday 8.30 AM

Baptisms, Weddings, and Anointing of the Sick by Appointment



## Choir Practice for Holy Week

Today (Sunday) evening the Choir will start practising for Holy Week. The sessions will start at 6 PM. Anyone who would like to sing with the Choir is welcome to join them for the practice. The more the merrier.

## St Joseph the Worker School

St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School, Auburn South is holding an Open Day Today from 9am – 11am.

9AM Family Mass followed by morning tea and open classrooms. Phone 9646 1434

## Confirmation Program

Confirmation: Parents Information Session—7.00 PM, Wednesday 21 March,

Enrolment Mass at St Peter Chanel, 5 PM, Saturday 24 March, 10 AM, Sunday 25 March

Bishop Terry Brady will confirm by anointing with Holy Chrism at 7.30 PM on Wednesday, 23 May

If you are not attending one of the schools in the parish, please fill in a registration form at the back of the church.

## CHANGE OF VENUE FOR A DINNER WITH FR MARK SPORA:



All parishioners of St Joseph the Worker Auburn South, ex parishioners, friends and families are invited to attend a dinner for Rev Fr Mark Spora who has served St

Joseph the Worker Parish for over 35 years and has recently retired. Please note that the dinner will now be held in the function room at **Auburn Tennis Club**, Chisholm Rd Auburn (NOT at Dooley's) on Tuesday 6th March 2012 at 7.00 pm. Those attending will be able to individually select and pay for their own meals from the popular and very reasonably priced Bistro.

The caterers would like to know the number of people attending and would appreciate you contacting, as soon as possible, any one of the following:

## Mass for the Sick

Legion of Mary would like to invite all to a Mass of Anointing of the sick at Peter Chanel on Tuesday, 27 March at 11.30 AM

A light lunch will be served after Mass in the Hall. Please feel free to contact Phil on 96461756 or Mona on 97098701 for transport. Family and friends of the sick also are welcome to attend. Your help on the day will be very much appreciated.

## ACIES

As the feast of annunciation is coming closer; Legion of Mary would like to encourage and invite all the Auxiliary members of the Legion to attend the ACIES ceremony on Sunday 25th March at St Mary Immaculate Church, 61 Emerald Drive, Eagle Vale—at 1.30 PM Rosary Recitation followed by Mass at 2 PM. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Transport will be provided on request: Phil 96461756. Bring a friend and come along. Your prayers are much appreciated.

## Altar Servers

Fr Peter Kwak is recruiting new children now to be trained as Altar Servers. After the training they will be commissioned and presented a certificate before they will be rostered for various weekend Masses. Any interested children who have made their First Communion are welcome to leave your name and contact details with Fr Peter or in the Parish Office.

## First Reconciliation 2012

Parents Information Session:

18 July; 9.00 AM at St Joseph the Worker, and 7.00 PM at St Peter Chanel

Enrolment Mass

St Peter Chanel Sat 21 July 5PM, Sun 22 July 10 AM

St Joseph the Worker, Sun 22 July 9 AM

First Reconciliation on 22 August (during school time at St Joseph the Worker and in the evening at St Peter Chanel)

## First Communion 2012

Parent Information at St Peter Chanel 7.PMWed 12 Sept

Enrolment Mass at St Peter Chanel at 5 PM Sat 15 Sept 10 AM

Enrolment Mass at St Joseph the Worker TBA

First Communion

St Peter Chanel 5 PM Sat 17 Nov, 10 AM 18 November

St Joseph the Worker 9 AM Sun 18 November.

## Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross is one of the traditional devotion observing Lent. As usual we shall have Stations of the Cross in ST Peter Chanel Church at 7.30 PM every Friday of the Lent. Fr Sam (Maronite) will have stations at 6PM At South Auburn Church

## It is Jubilee again

Parish of St Peter Chanel was established in 1937. Therefore 2012 is the 75 Anniversary of the establishment of the parish. Archbishop Michael Kelly established an area that consisted of parts of then parishes of Lidcombe, Auburn, and Bankstown as a new parish and appointed Fr Maurice Carmody as its first pastor. It happened on 29th April 1937. The first Church was a Hall on Third Avenue. Since then the present church was built on Kingsland Rd. The demography grew as well as changed through the decades. Thus the faith community of St Peter Chanel Parish has many inspiring stories to share and celebrate. On the occasion of 50th Anniversary, the parish celebrated its history and goodwill in 1987. Now it is time to retell the stories of the past, share the stories of recent times, and celebrate the faith that has been bringing us together always. I am interested to hear from people who are willing to help organise Jubilee this year. You can either email me or write a note to nominate yourself or to make a suggestion.



Berala Convent and School

Fr Thomas

## Parish Census

It is important to have correct information of the parishioners in our Data Base. The data we have needs updating. Therefore from next weekend onwards, data will be collected for both St Joseph the Worker and St Peter Chanel parishes. Currently we the parish office is designing and finalising on a Census Form. They will be made available in the foyer (at the back) of the church. Please look for one next week and take a copy home to fill in and return.

## Parish Website

It is time our parishes had their own websites. It will enable greater communication on parish activities and ministries. Therefore I have commissioned Catholic Communication to create a website for St Peter Chanel Parish Berala. It will have catholic news updated daily. It will carry most of the information re various ministries and sacraments of the parish. School children will be able to use it for some of their school research. You will be able to tap on the parish website to make donations through internet using Commonwealth Bank secured facility. Catholic Communication run pilot program of this website in three parishes—Cronulla, North Shore Parishes, and Concord. Now Berala will be the fourth parish to have it. This highly advanced website will be sponsored by Catholic Development Fund.

To set up the website we need to organise material for it, like history of the parish, write up on various ministries and working groups, photos, videos etc. this could be a team work. This task is demanding only until the website is up and running. Later regular update will not be much demanding and it should not require much effort. Anyone with some computer skill may be able to help. I am interested to hear from volunteers.

Fr Thomas



## Celebrating Women in Communities Around the Globe

Each year around the world, **International Women's Day** (IWD) is celebrated on **March 8** to mark the economic, social and political achievements of women. Organisations, governments and groups around the world choose a theme to celebrate the day that reflects global and local gender issues. The United Nations theme for 2012 is **Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty**.

For **50 years Palms Australia** has been doing just that, by engaging Australian individuals and organisations to empower women in **Africa, Asia** and the **Pacific** to become self-sufficient, self-reliant and resilient. Our Global Volunteers dedicate up to 2 years mentoring in the community, transferring skills in Education, Health, Community Development, IT, Trades, Agriculture and the Environment. This 'people to people' approach has been our proven methodology since 1961, advancing the lives of women in rural communities and assisting them as they build their capacity to reduce poverty.

Numerous international studies reflect our own evaluation of work in 38 countries over 50 years: when women are supported and empowered, the whole community benefits. Families are healthier, more children go to school, agricultural productivity improves and earnings increase. In essence, communities to become more resilient.

Palms Australia echoes the U.N. theme for 2012 International Women's Day: **Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty**.

Bring your lunch and join us at **1pm Thursday, 8th March** to mark the occasion. During this informal gathering we will hear stories about the challenges and successes of rural women in their quest to be self-reliant agents of change in their community. This is also an opportunity for us to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of those Australians who have supported communities develop their strengths and grow. We would love to see you.

**1pm - 2pm Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> March; 2a Woolley Street, Glebe; RSVP: [events@palms.org.au](mailto:events@palms.org.au) or (02) 9518 9551**

## MASS FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE APOSTOLATES OF COURAGE AND ENCOURAGE.

In support of the *Courage* and *EnCourage*, official Catholic apostolates for people with same-sex attraction, Courage Chaplain, Fr Peter Joseph will offer a Mass on **Thursday, 08 March** at St Dominic's, corner of The Crescent and Hornsey Rd, Homebush West (1 min walk from Flemington station) at **7.30pm**. All welcome to come and pray for men & women with same-sex attraction: for God's grace, for healing, and for conversion where needed.

## To Receive A Heart Of Flesh

Grace and Justice in Lent. A reflection afternoon from the Sydney Archdiocese, Justice and Peace Office with input from Professor Neil Ormerod and Beth Doherty as well as time for prayer and conversation. Saturday, **24 March**, 1.30pm to 4.30pm at St Mary's Catholic Church, 21 Swanston St, Erskineville (5 minute walk from Erskineville Station). Refreshments provided.

**RSVP essential (with your name and contact number) by Monday, 19 March.**

Contact Chantelle on **9390 5319** or at [chantelle.ogilvie-ellis@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:chantelle.ogilvie-ellis@sydneycatholic.org).

## Volunteering Opportunity With Compeer

Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society matching volunteers in one-on-one friendship with people living with a mental illness, making a real difference to their quality of life and assisting to destigmatise mental illness. Volunteers are asked to spend just an hour a week or 2 hours a fortnight for at least 12 months engaging in simple friendly activities such as having coffee or going for a walk. Compeer is currently seeking volunteers aged 30 and over across Sydney. For more information please email: [compeer@vinnies.org.au](mailto:compeer@vinnies.org.au) or call **(02) 9568 0262**.

## **Your parish needs you there Sunday by Sunday!**

Use it or lose it. The joints and limbs and muscles we don't use shrivel up and die. I sometimes wonder if the same doesn't apply to parishes. Use the parish or lose the parish.

There was a time when we could be sure that the parish church and its clergy would always be there for us. If we drifted away they would be there when we got back. Things would be just as we left them.

Not any more. The days of just appearing for baptism, First Communion, confirmation, weddings and funerals are fast running out. Parishes that aren't growing are in the process of closing down. Have heard of the thoughts and planning that are going on to reconfigure or re-organise parishes?

Parishes are a missionary activity. The role of the parish is to be a serving presence to the world, not a comfort stop.

Everything is changing. Decisions are being made about the future of parishes all around the world and right here in our diocese. The presence of a parish with a priest as you have known it for years can no longer be taken for granted.

The parish of the future, that will still be going, will be the parish that is alive and full of committed people on a mission. Parishes with minimalist approach do not have much future. We will be able to tell of the future of the parishes by the enthusiasm and commitment of the Sunday gathering.

There will be no future for parishes where the people come on Sundays when there's nothing else on, only when the day is balmy and warm. Not much will happen in parishes where people come for a fill up like a service station but send a message that they don't really want to be there.

The signals sent might be putting a higher value on sitting at the back than participating, sending signals that the shorter everything is the better and getting away ASAP.

Such parishes send a message to their young people that there's nothing happening here and that if we closed it wouldn't really matter that much.

The parishes are like families who are really working at being family.

They do things together, meet each other's friends, all generations are welcome, they talk about what's important for them, share honestly their hopes and dreams and troubles.

Each generation looks up to their elders, they make sacrifices of time and money to make family work and they will always be worth coming home to. They welcome the stranger.

Parishes need to be like that or they will be like a family that can't be bothered, they will fall apart, get scratchy and not worth coming home to — disintegrate.

There are heaps of people around us who are on the verge of reconnecting with the church. We have the family home and family meal for them, we have the hospitality and the celebration. Why not invite them back?

Your parish needs you there Sunday by Sunday, willing and ready and serving in some way. Your parish needs you to invite people back and it needs you to change if necessary to make people welcome home. Your parish needs your time and support and input all the year round. It needs you to miss them badly when you're away, just like family and to be totally involved, just like a family, when you are present.

## **Catholic Inquiry**

The parish will soon be starting a program for all those are interested to learn about Catholic Faith and Practices. It could be in view of joining Catholic Church or just out of curiosity. Some of the non-Catholic parents of the children in Parish School may like to attend these programs. This program is also open to lapsed Catholics.

Discussions and study will be done in groups, and they will be meeting regularly, possibly once a week. The date and time of meeting will be organised according to availability of the people.

Anyone interested in joining the program may leave their name and contact details with the parish office.

We are also interested in hearing from active parishioners to be part of the team of Catholic Inquiry.  
Contact Fr Thomas to volunteer.

# Archdiocese of Sydney *Vocation Discernment Weekend*

*(Friday evening - Sunday late afternoon) 9-11 March 2012*

The Seminary of the Good Shepherd 50-58 Abbotsford Road HOMEBUSH

## **Prayers of St. Ignatius of Loyola**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within Your wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from You. From the wicked foe defend me. At the hour of my death call me. And bid me come to You. That with Your saints I may praise You For ever and ever. Amen. ~~~~~ Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous. teach me to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight, and not to heed the wounds; to labour, and not to seek to rest; to give of myself and not to ask for reward, except the reward of knowing that I am doing Your will.

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all that I have and possess. You have given all to me. To You, O Lord, I return it all. All is Yours; dispose of it wholly according to Your Will. Give me Your love and Your grace, for this is sufficient for me. For with these I am rich enough and desire nothing more. Amen.

## *The Grace of Discernment*

*"Few souls understand what God would accomplish in them if they were to abandon themselves unreservedly to Him and if they were to allow His grace to mould them accordingly."*

– St. Ignatius

## *A Silent Retreat based on St. Ignatius' Rules of Discernment*

## **Infant Baptism , Preparation**

We encourage baptism of infants born of Catholic parents. Parent/s and God parents profession of faith, children may receive the grace of baptism. Baptism is one of the greatest gifts parents can give their child.

To raise the child in the faith requires the cooperation of the parents. In order to baptise, the consent of at least one of the parents who has the custody of the child is required. The consenting parent should be a Catholic.

If one of the parents desires baptism and the other tolerates it, your child may be baptised.

Sometimes the child has only one parent. In such cases, the child will be baptised on the guarantee of that one parent's faith.

The parish offers a preparation session for all parents wishing to baptise their child. It is held once a month at St Peter Chanel Church. **Next Preparation Session will be on Saturday, 24 March at 10 AM.** It will be a one hour session. If parents wish, they may invite God Parents also to this preparation program.

At the preparation session the parents can book the baptism in for one of the Sundays of their choice. The Ceremony of Baptism will start within the 10 AM Mass and continue after the Mass.

You are always welcome to email or telephone the parish office to book in to join a baptism preparation.

Anyone who is seven years or more will have special preparation program.





## Khin's story

Ten-year-old Khin, her mother and her younger brother live together in one rented room in Ranong, Thailand. Her family is just one amongst an estimated two million people who have fled poverty, violence and instability in Burma. But despite their hopes of a better life in Thailand, Khin's family are amongst the poorest in their community.

Along the Thai-Burma border, Caritas Australia supports a range of programs for those communities made vulnerable by displacement, violent clashes and inadequate social services. One program, coordinated by our partner – Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), focuses on the unique vulnerability of Burmese children whose parents have migrated for work. For many children, language barriers, a lack of documentation, and costly fees prevent them attending Thai schools. JRS' community-based learning centres offer migrant children primary education and a bridge into Thailand's school system.

Khin is in grade four at Ban Klang learning centre, one of six JRS schools for children aged 5-14 years. With your compassionate support, Caritas Australia and JRS provide infrastructure, books and tables for students. To enhance their dignity in the classroom, each student also receives a uniform, textbooks, stationery, and lunch each day.



Khin has embraced the opportunity to learn, especially Thai and English. *"I like to read in school. I like everything about the school,"* Khin told us. *"I like English the best, because English can be used everywhere."* Although Khin's parents did not attend school themselves, they are supportive of her education: *"They cheer. They push me to learn."*

Khin's mother explains: *"I like that my two children can go to the learning centres. I want them to be educated because it's so difficult to find work."* Life for Burma's refugees and migrants is rife with uncertainty: for many it is a daily struggle to make ends meet. As Khin's mother recounts: *"When we first came to Thailand, we wanted to save money to go back to Burma and build a house. But just having enough money to live day to day here is difficult. I work every day from 5am sometimes until 10pm."*

Many of Khin's friends' parents must also work long hours in the informal job market and there is considerable pressure on children to contribute to family income and care for younger siblings. Khin knows some students whose family commitments have kept them from attending school: *"Some of their parents have no money and they want to work to help their parents. In Thailand, the Burmese have to work very hard. I want to work also to help my family,"* Khin explains.

As instability fluctuates in Burma, so too does attendance at JRS' learning centres. *"Sometimes it's too loud and difficult to concentrate – there are three classes in one room,"* Khin told us. But Khin and her parents are determined for her to finish school. *"My children have no papers for Thailand, no birth registration. I want them to learn Burmese, Thai and English. That's a very important skill,"* Khin's mother explains.

The Burmese community is strongly supportive of the teachers, offering gifts in kind and volunteering where possible. Last year, less than five percent of children dropped out of the schools – a remarkable achievement. More than 1000 children have now attended the community-based learning centres. In the long-term, JRS hopes to see the learning centres as transition facilities, enabling children to attend Thai schools. Last year 176 students, with JRS scholarships, began studying in Thai schools and with your ongoing support, many more have the opportunity to do the same.

Thanks to your solidarity with Caritas Australia, our local partner JRS continues to advocate for Burmese children's right to education. In meetings with parents, principals and teachers, JRS encourages the community to value primary education and provides information so that families may access work permits and healthcare services. Khin's mother is proud of her daughter.

Although she is the smallest student in her English course, Khin listens and speaks confidently in class; she is rarely without a smile on her face. Thanks to Caritas Australia's support for JRS' learning centres, Khin has great ambitions. *"I want to be a teacher when I grow up. Maybe I can go all over to teach – I'd like to go to other countries. Please open more schools like this one. This is very good for poor families who cannot afford to send their kids to Thai schools."*



## Antiphons & Readings

### Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

### Responsorial Psalm:

**R.** I will walk in the presence of the Lord,  
in the land of the living.  
I trusted, even when I said:  
'I am sorely afflicted.'  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. **R.**  
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**  
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

### Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Communion Antiphon:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.

### Today's Readings

Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18  
Romans 8:31-34  
Mark 9:2-10

### Next Sunday's Readings—3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17  
1Corinthians 1:22-25  
John 2:13-25

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial, and helping others. In this way the whole Church prepares for Easter. Other celebrations in Lent (eg Marriage) must take account of the spirit of penance: musical instruments are used only to sustain singing, and floral decorations are very simple. In Lent Alleluia is omitted at Mass even in celebrations of solemnities and feasts.

## Berala Rosters — God's House Keepers, Next Week

Church	Danny/Josie Ambat	Vigil	Gifts	A Yip family	Piety Stall	S Yip	Counters	Jenny Michael
Sanctuary	S Cendra-Kahoe R Cheema	8 AM		J Testa family		C Kensey		Charlie Scully
	A Yip	10 AM		L Portelli family		A Manganaro		Kay Scully

**PILGRIM STATUE** of Our Lady this week will be at the Bernardo Home 39 Third Ave, Berala Please join them any evening at **7.30 pm** for the Rosary.

### HOLY SOULS

Please pray for the peaceful repose of Marie Mulligan, Maria Speranza, Frank Picek, Louis Moses, Frank Merlino, Michael Hickey, Marietta Bautista, Wilma Gibson, Father Peter Galligan, Charles Kensey, William & Ada Cullen, Cornelius Keith Gordyn, Adrienne D'Souza, Clem Hill, Joseph Portelli, Joseph Summit, Dawn Roll, Sheila Wilmot, Michael Wong, Bernard & Ellen Walsh and the relatives and friends of the Mitchell, Ross, Hill, Donellan, Barton, Strahan, Elek, Blazevic, Murphy, Robb, Portelli, Maher, Turner, Elsenhuth, Williams, Boyd, Barrett, Michael & Baini, Roll, Frank Merlino, Cullen and Spiteri families. **May Their Souls Rest in Peace**

## Planned Giving

Your contribution to the Planned Giving Program of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the Financial Year you will receive a Receipt for your contributions which will enable you to claim Tax deduction. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate

Your Name: ..... Parish: ☐ Berala / ☐ Auburn South

Telephone No ..... Or Email ID .....