



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

www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

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Saint Peter Chanel

Second Sunday of Advent - Yr C - 9th December, 2012

From your Pastor

Straighten your Path

President Mohammed Morsi fled the Presidential Palace in Cairo for his life. It is a very different mood to the time described as Arabic Spring in Egypt, when he was elected to be the president of Egypt after the fall of Hosni Mubarrack. In both cases it is the aspiration of freedom, especially religious freedom that people were seeking.

Similar uprising by people were common in Mediterranean area, especially in the history of Israel. There were many such conflicts, uprisings and invasion by powerful dictators mentioned in Bible. One of such devastating events was the Babylonian deportation of the Jews after the destruction of Jerusalem Temple. The Jews felt abandoned by God when Israel had been defeated, Jerusalem conquered, the temple ransacked and the people were sent to exile. In that situation Prophet Baruch, secretary of prophet Jeremiah, imagined their return to their promised land in triumph. They would return like royalty, their route will be prepared for their glorious return – the hills flattened, they valleys filled in, to speed them on their way. They would travel not guarded by enemy soldiers but accompanied by God's mercy and integrity. The faithfulness of God would gather them once again in the Promised Land. It was an expression of hope. This is our first reading at Mass today.

That is the background of the language used by John the Baptist in today's gospel. John takes up the image of preparing the way, as he speaks of preparing to receive the coming king – Jesus Christ. At this time salvation is not just for the people of Israel, but for all people. "All mankind shall see the salvation of God."

But to receive that salvation, to welcome the king, we are asked to prepare a way for him – to straighten out our lives, smooth the way for his coming. We do that through repentance, so that our sins may be forgiven. Sin is the most fundamental form of exile – our exile from God. When we choose sin, we opt for selfishness. When we choose to prepare a way for God, the joy will not only be immense, it will be everlasting. Therefore in the midst of all other preparation for Christmas, let us not forget to prepare a way for Christ to come into our lives.



Christmas Mass times



Monday 17th December - 7.30pm - 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at Sefton

Wednesday 19th December - 7.00pm - 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at St Peter Chanel.

24th December - Christmas Vigil - 6.00pm at St Peter Chanel

Midnight Mass - St Peter Chanel, followed by wine & slices.

25th December - Christmas Day - 9.00am at St Joseph the Worker and 9.00am at St Peter Chanel.

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday-Friday: 6.45 AM; Tuesday 7 PM Novena, & 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 at Auburn South: Tuesday 9 AM, Lord's Day, Sunday 9 AM, **Reconciliation** Sunday 8.30 AM

Baptisms, Weddings, and Anointing of the Sick by Appointment



The Story of Christmas Crib

By Fr. Alfred McBride, O. Praem.

In the last year of his life, Francis of Assisi told his friends, "This will be my final Christmas. I want to celebrate it in a new way." Francis had a friend in the lovely mountain town of Greccio. His friend owned some land on a hillside opposite the town. Several grotto-like caves lined the hilly property. His friend gave him and his brothers the land to use as a hermitage.

Francis and a few of his disciples moved there at the beginning of advent. Francis confided to his friend that he would like one cave to be transformed into a Bethlehem scene. His friend lined the cave with straw. He installed a manger filled with straw and brought in an ox and a donkey. On the side he placed a small altar for Mass.



Chapel of the Crib at Greccio

About an hour before midnight, the people of the village of Greccio came in procession to celebrate Christmas with Francis. Their stream of lanterns and candles looked like stars coming across the valley. As they sang the laude, the ancient Christmas carols of Umbria, they seemed to echo the Gloria of the angels in Luke's Gospel.

When they arrived at the cave, they were charmed by the sight of the ox and donkey and manger and none more delighted than their children. The Eucharistic celebration began. At homily time, Francis stood by the manger to talk about the birth of Jesus. A spell of religious awe overtook the listeners. One account says that at the end of the homily, a gold light filled their assembly. They saw Francis reach into the empty manger and lift out a baby and cradle him in his arms. And then

he held the baby out to them, saying: "My brothers and sisters, behold the Savior of the world." And all of them were joined as one in the mystery of the Incarnation.

After the Eucharist, Francis disappeared. Not until dawn, when the morning star hovered in the sky, did someone find him. He was absorbed in prayer, his face turned toward Bethlehem.

And that is how our custom of having a Christmas crib began. Through the centuries, Christians have found a thousand ways to create their own version of the crib. By bringing to life the Christmas scene, millions of believers have been put in touch with this profound mystery of God's love for us.

What does Francis teach us by his Vision of the Crib?

See the simplicity of God's mystery. Our education makes us look at the complicated side of life. Our culture prizes the complexity of a scientific world. The result is we approach God as such a confusing reality that we fail to see the simplicity of his love. Francis brings us a birth room and a child on a hillside. He tells us that God has the simplicity of this child.

Observe how God comes amid the poor. Since God is the greatest there is, it seems to us he should be found in the palaces of the mighty. Francis builds his crib scene on a road near a poor village. God is always to be found among the poor, the needy, the suffering.

See how human God can be. What is more captivating than a few hundred families singing carols at midnight beneath a starry sky in the hills of Umbria? What is more soul satisfying than cradling a baby with love in the mountain air? What better way could God have chosen to show how much he thinks of us? What better method could Francis have picked to communicate how caring God is?



Apex Learning is a tutoring centre specialising in Mathematics and catering for students ranging from Year 7 to 12. Situated in the Parish Hall at St. Joachim's Lidcombe, Apex Learning is currently accepting enrolments for 2013. Sessions will be in two hour blocks and take place during weekday afternoons.

Further information can be obtained on the centre's website: <http://www.apexlearning.com.au/>, email: info@apexlearning.com.au or contacting by phone on 0468 300 168.

Name of the New Parish

Voting on a name for the New Parish to be created through amalgamation of both parishes closed last Tuesday. Following is the statistics of the responses

<i>Proposed Name</i>	<i>SPC Berala</i>	<i>SJW Auburn Sth</i>	<i>Total</i>
St Joseph and St Peter Chanel Berala	60	10	70
St Mary of the Cross Berala	13	1	14
Mary Help of Christians Berala	7	0	7
Holy Spirit Berala	6	4	10
Total Response	86	15	101

Since 70% of the responses opted the Name ST JOSEPH AND ST PETER CHANEL BERALA to be the name for the new parish, I shall nominate it in my submission to the Cardinal.

Your consent for the amalgamation is formalized this weekend. After that I will be working on the submission to the Cardinal.

New Assistant Principal

Susan Garrett is appointed as the new Assistant Principal to replace Tina Nicotina for 2013, at St Joseph the Worker Primary School.

New RECs for Trinity College

Michael Reid, the Religious Education Coordinator and his two assistants are moving on to other schools in the new year Mr John Coppola is the new REC and Sr Mary Rachael and Ms Sonia Cabone are appointed as new Assistant RECs for 2013.

Acolytes Meeting

All Acolytes are invited to a meeting at 7PM on Friday 14 December at St Peter Chanel Presbytery. Please inform the parish office of your availability either by phone or by email.

Christmas Pageant

All children are invited to dress up as a shepherd, or an angel, or as Magi and join the Christmas Vigil at 6 PM on 24 December. We also require a baby (male or female) to be the Baby Jesus and a teenage girl to be Mary and a teenage boy to be Joseph for the vigil. Volunteers should contact the parish office or Fr Thomas or Fr Peter.



Christmas Gifts for the Priests

Exchanging gifts is very much part of the Christmas tradition. Therefore many parishioners may want to offer gifts to their priests to share their joy. To help such parishioners, there are Christmas Offering envelopes made available at the back of the Church. The gifts you offer is considered as for all priests of the Archdiocese to share. Therefore the money collected will go in to Pastoral Revenue Fund of the Archdiocese. Priests in poorer parishes draw their stipends and expenses from this fund. The money you offer through this envelope is NOT considered as Mass Offering.



COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR— Now available at SPC Berala Piety Stall for \$9.00.
Buying a copy you will be supporting the Columban Mission.

Nativity Scene in St Peter Chanel Church

As we start the Advent, nativity scene is set up in the church. Thanks to John Rodoreda and team. You see the crib very bare. Jesus and Mary have not reached there yet. They are on their way to Bethlehem. Therefore the statues are on a mobile platform which will move up towards the crib each week until Christmas day when the statue of baby Jesus also appears in the Crib.

Banners on the walls represent the Litany of names of Jesus Christ. They are based on Old Testament Prophecies and taken from one of the ancient hymns still used from 17 December till Christmas, in the official prayer of the church.



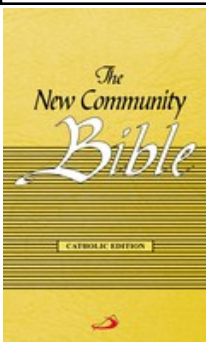
Nativity Scene on the Roof

One of the novelties this year is the nativity scene above the portico of St Peter Chanel Church. It was the combined effort of the dedicated team work of Ante Susic, Zeljko Zivkovic, Anton Cvetko, Marija Kovac, Ivica Kovac. Thanks to them for a job well done.

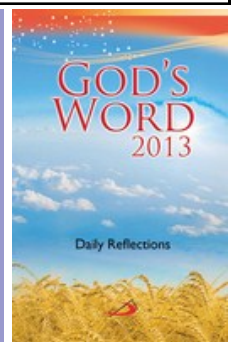
Christmas Trees and Ornaments

The fir tree has a long association with Christianity, it began in Germany almost 1,000 years ago when St Boniface, who converted the German people to Christianity, was said to have come across a group of pagans worshipping an oak tree. In anger, St Boniface is said to have cut down the oak tree and to his amazement a young fir tree sprung up from the roots of the oak tree. St Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith. But it was not until the 16th century that fir trees were brought indoors at Christmas time.

We have an imitation Fir Tree set up in St Peter Chanel Church. It is decorated with empty gift boxes. The Tree is an invitation for all parishioners to make an offering of gifts for the poor. You may wrap up the gifts and write on them for what age people those gifts are meant for. Then place them under the Christmas Tree. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will collect the gifts and distribute them to the less fortunate.



Currently available for sale at the Piety Stall
The New Community Bible for \$11
and Gods Word 2013, a daily reflection diary
for \$15.
Buy your copies now while stocks last.



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith
Benjamin Keith Evers
May he always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand
throughout his life.



Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45 AM Mass; Priests' Day off	Priests Day Off
Tuesday	6.45 AM Mass, 7.00 PM Novena & Mass	9.00 AM Mass
Wednesday	6.45 AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass Secretary available at Parish Office	Secretary available at Parish Office
Thursday	6.45 AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass, Secretary available at Parish Office	Secretary available at Parish Office
Friday	6.45 AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass	
Saturday	8.00 AM Mass; 9.30 AM Confession 5.00 PM Vigil Mass	
Sunday	8.00 AM Mass 10 AM Mass	8.30 AM Confession, 9.00 AM Mass

**Fr Mark's 80th Birthday Celebrations at
St Joseph the Worker after 9am Mass today.
Happy Birthday Fr Mark.**



Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is traditionally a circular garland of evergreen branches representing eternity. On that wreath, five candles are typically arranged. During the season of Advent one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.



Advent Wreath Candles

Set on the branches of the wreath are four candles: three purple candles and one pink candle. In the centre of the wreath sits a white candle. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the light of Christ into the world.

On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. This candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

Each week on Sunday, an additional candle is lit.

On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents love. Some traditions call this the "Bethlehem Candle," symbolizing Christ's manger.

On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-coloured candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle" and it represents joy.

The fourth and last purple candle, oftentimes called the "Angels Candle," represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the white centre candle is traditionally lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The colour white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. Also, those who receive Christ as Savior are washed of their sins and made whiter than snow.

Feasts this week

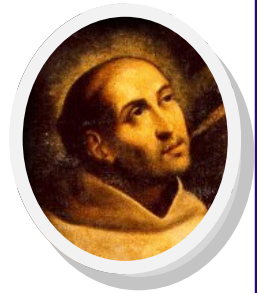


13 December – St Lucy, virgin, martyr. Memorial

St Lucy was a young woman from a wealthy Sicilian family who lived during the early fourth century. It is believed that her mother arranged for her to be married, but Lucy refused as she wanted to devote her life to serving Christ. She offered prayers at the tomb of St Agatha and her mother's illness was miraculously cured. She was eventually martyred during the persecution of Emperor Diocletian, but even in the face of death she showed great courage and faith in God. The name Lucy means 'light' and St Lucy is called upon as the patron saint of the blind.

14 December - St John of the Cross, priest, doctor. Memorial

St John of the Cross was born into a poor Spanish family in 1542. After attending a Jesuit college, he joined the Carmelite Order, studied theology and was the ordained a priest at the age of 25. St Teresa of Avila encouraged him to join the Discalced Carmelite Reform, which provided two houses for friars. But after several years he was seized and imprisoned by the Calced Carmelite friars, who rejected the reform. St John of the Cross was a mystic and poet, and it was during his captivity that he wrote some of his finest work. He eventually escaped and founded a college at Baeza. St John's is regarded as a Doctor of Mystical Theology, and was officially declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.



PILGRIM STATUE

Our Lady this week will be at the Manganaro home, 16 Third Ave, Regents Park.
Please join them any evening at 7.30pm for the Rosary.

"Family that pray together stay together" the Rosary Statue is still visiting homes of parishioners of St Peter Chanel every Saturday.
If you would like to host Our Lady for a week please contact
Mona for booking on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.



ROSARY STATUE at St Joseph the Worker

-an inspiration for daily recitation of the Rosary.-

There is now a new roster available at the back of the church. Anybody who is interested in having Our Lady's Statue in their home for a week please put your name, address and phone number on the roster. Claudette Abu Azzar will contact those interested persons, for delivery and pick-up of the Rosary Statue.
Thank you from the Legion of Mary

After Mass Refreshments

As an initiative to welcome new Parishioners to our Parish and also for us Parishioners to spend some time getting to know one another, it is proposed to have some light refreshments at the conclusion of each Mass. This would only take up an extra 15 - 20 minutes of time.

Volunteers are needed for a roster to assist with preparing and serving. The more volunteers we have the less often you will be rostered on. If you are able to help, please write your name on the list placed on the table at the back of the Church.

HOLY SOULS

Please pray for the peaceful repose of Tony Chew.

And the deceased members and friends of the following families

Donnellan, Roll, Mackiw, Wennek, Sokolowski, Nekrachewicz.

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Ivan Medved, Matthias Xudong Cheng, Eddie Leonardi, Grazia Cavaleri, Jim Ross, Dawn Roll

May Their Souls Rest in Peace

SVDP Christmas Appeal 2012

This year our Catholic Bishops' Conference has underlined the needs of families in its Social Justice Sunday Statement, The Gift of Families in Difficult Times. Families are at the heart of our faith and are the basis on which our society is built; and families are particularly vulnerable in 2012.

Your donations will help the society provide a range of services, from finance assistance to food baskets, emotional support to those without it, even gifts to children so that they can still be children during Christmas. The Christmas appeal this year optimistically affirms the promise of new beginning, of strength and of hope.

The St Vincent de Paul society asks for your compassion & generosity to help bring hope this Christmas to people who need our help. Appeal envelopes can be found at the back of the Church. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Please give generously.

9 Day DAWN MASSES in Preparation for Christmas at St Joachim's Lidcombe

Christmas is a season that we dearly cherished, yet at times we can never fully grasp. It is good to have time to REFLECT each day on some aspects of this mystery to help us PREPARE for this important feast. This 9-Days novena Masses are actually a novena in honour of the Blessed Virgin who welcomed Jesus into the world and took the consequences of it. We who join the joyful celebration in the explosion of lights in the churches, could take a lesson from the mother of Jesus in her commitment to WELCOME JESUS into the world. Join us at St Joachim's Lidcombe 5:00 o'clock each morning for 9 days of DAWN masses starting 16 December till the 24, praying and singing Christmas hymns/songs, and sharing a hearty breakfast in the hall (or Dooley's Catholic Club).

Christmas activities at St Mary's Cathedral

THE CHRISTMAS STORY - CATHOLIC STUDENTS ART EXHIBITION. Over 90 inspired artwork pieces showcasing the creative talent of young Catholic students in Years 5 and 6 will be presented in an exhibition - The Christmas Story. One artwork will win the Cardinal's trophy. Now open to the public in the Crypt of St Mary's. Monday to Thursdays - 10am to 4pm.

THE LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS is on again at St Mary's Cathedral. This spectacular light show on the facade of the Cathedral will tell the story of unity, world peace and harmony. The Lights of Christmas will be launched on Thursday, 13 December from 7.30pm and will run every night from 8.30pm to midnight through until Christmas night. Bring the family to Cathedral square and watch the spectacular show of light, sound and the true meaning of Christmas.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS SERVICE AND READINGS. The Cathedral's spectacular and renowned Christmas Carols Service and Readings with the St Mary's Choir. The evening will consist of a rich selection of traditional carols and liturgical Christmas music. Friday, 21 December 7.30pm.

Other Notices

WYD RIO 2013 SYDNEY ARCHDIOCESE - Raffle

In July 2013 our pilgrims will be attending World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. To support our Pilgrims and their mission work please purchase a \$2 ticket in our WYD Raffle and you could win \$10,000 in travel or shopping vouchers. Tickets and booklets of tickets to sell are available online at www.cwf.org.au or by calling 1800 753 959. Raffle closes 28 March 2013 and will be drawn 5 April 2013.

Cleaner, Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush South

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is seeking applications for the role of Cleaner, Seminary of the Good Shepherd. Working hrs are 8.30am to 4.00pm, Mon to Fri. Further details at www.catholicjobsonline.com.au. Applications to Anthony Spata by email at anthony.spata@sydneycatholic.org by 6 December 2012. Enquiries: 9390 5317.

CATHOLIC MISSION – GIVE A GIFT WRAPPED IN LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS.

With Christmas fast approaching, Catholic Mission launched its exciting new online gift catalogue—Life-Giving Gifts—with a selection of gifts that will benefit those who need it most. The online gift catalogue is organised into three sections which represent the three different funds that Catholic Mission provides financial support to: Children, Communities and Church Leaders. Those who choose to give a life-giving gift this Christmas will have the opportunity to send an e-card to their loved ones or to receive a printed card, with the card portraying a photo of the gifts that have been selected. please visit www.catholicmission.org.au/gifts.

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

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. The Lord has done great things for us; we are
filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears

will sing when they reap. **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God .

Today's Readings

Baruch 5:1-9

Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

Luke 3:1-6

Next Sunday's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:10-18

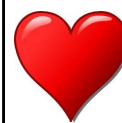
Berala Rosters — God's House Keepers, Next Week

16 TH DECEMBER		3 RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
MASS	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	E. DUFFY	F.ROLL	M. CAPRA
ORGANIST	ORGAN	K.PARISH	SAMOAN
CANTOR	J SALAR	-----	CHOIR
LECTOR/S	J. ROCKLIFF	J. MICHAEL	M BOTHAM
	K. YIP	D GOOCH	R JAKSIC
COMMENTATOR	N. DONNELLAN	J.RODOREDA	K CAROLL
GIFTS	G. TOBY	G.FRAIETTA	R JAKSIC
	FAMILY	FAMILY	FAMILY
PIETY STALL	M. HEYS	A. WILLOUGHBY	K CAROLL

Group 2: ALTAR – Bolonia family

Group 5: COUNTERS – Elizabeth John; Jacob John, Monica Smith

Church Cleaners: Dec 15 - Roland/Aida JAVIER.



Volunteers

The **HEART** Of The
COMMUNITY

Auburn South Roster - God's Housekeepers, Next Week

16 TH DECEMBER	
1st Reading & Resp. Psalm	William Andrews
2nd Reading	TBA
Prayers of the Faithful	Maris Marsh
Altar Servers	TBA
Cleaning	Maronite Group

Please contact William Andrews on 97020428 or
0410878952 if you are interested in:

- 1) Preparation and operation of Power Point
Presentation during mass.
- 2) Altar Serving.
- 3) Joining the Choir.
- 4) Offertory Procession participation.
- 5) Joining monthly church cleaning group.

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

