

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

www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

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Saint Peter Chanel



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Yr C - 23rd December, 2012

From your Pastor

Turn to the Family

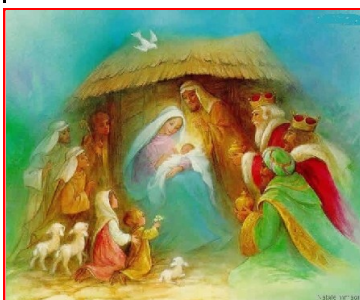
Newtown Massacre in Connecticut was another sad episode of so many Mass killings in United States. The cruel killing of innocent primary school children is beyond comprehension for any one's mind. Our sympathies and prayers go out to the grieving parents, family members, relatives and friends. Newsmax, an American news agency in its published time line lists multiple mass shootings in many years. There were three mass shootings in 1999. Ten years later in 2009 it rose to seven mass killings. Connecticut shooting was the seventh mass killing this year in United States of America. We all wonder why these mostly young men turn to such a horrible evil of destroying many lives. The reason could be very complex. One thing is common among all these killers. They were all social loners. Social loneliness can cause disasters, not just for themselves, but for others as well.

Some parents might think of 'permissiveness' as an antidote for loneliness. But if the little children learn as they grow up that there are no limits or boundaries which they must respect, it will affect them in their ability to make meaningful relationships later. If the little ones are permitted to be more destructive in their play, they are not learning the necessary discipline for their lives. Drug and alcohol abuse is tolerated among bigger boys, society will have to pay for it. Even poor academic performance should be taken seriously. Permissiveness is not an antidote for loneliness in society. Ironically it is the discipline that will help the people. Ability to connect with families with proper training in etiquette and manners is the foundation for training in healthy social interaction. When someone is feeling down or in difficulty he or she should be able to turn to the family for support.

In today's Gospel we read, 'Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zachariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.' (Luke 1:39-40)

Mary went to greet Elizabeth not only because she has heard that her kinswoman Elizabeth is pregnant, but also to find some support for herself. It would certainly make human sense because Mary as a very young woman needed support. Like any other woman she turned to an older relative. Though Mary said 'yes' to the angel by saying, 'let what you have said be done to me', she was human and might have gone through all the emotions any woman in her situation would have gone through.

Continued on next page



Happy Christmas

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: 6.45AM; Tuesday 7PM 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



Continued from previous page

The fact Mary had to face Joseph and tell him that she is pregnant before the marriage might not have been a very pleasant one. The neighbours and relatives would not have approved of her pregnancy before marriage, because no respectable girl got pregnant before marriage. She could not expect the relatives and the neighbours to believe her story of the angel announcing her pregnancy and a virgin birth. In a world where death at child birth was common, she might also have had the fears of child birth. Therefore naturally she turned to her relative Elizabeth for support. The mother of our Lord, herself sought the support of the extended family.

God has given us all a family, including the extended family for a reason. In spite of all the fights and arguments within the family, it is to a family member that we turn to for support especially at times of difficulties.

Families getting together for Christmas celebration is a valuable tradition. May the family bonds go beyond Christmas celebrations. May the Christmas greetings between members of the family be personal.

I wish you all a truly Happy Christmas.

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam

Amalgamation of Parishes

Amalgamation of both St Peter Chanel and St Joseph the Worker parishes has been discussed for past few months. An explanatory article in the parish Bulletin in September and October were the start of the consultation with the parish. Since then there was a pastoral planning meeting where the major stakeholders of the parishes met most of a Saturday in early November. The last of the process was signing of the consent by the parishioners which was done a fortnight ago. Out of 325 responses I had from St Peter Chanel, 85% said 'YES' to amalgamating both parishes to create a new one. 15% did not support the proposal. The response from St Joseph the Worker is more dramatic. All 46 responses I received were in favour of the amalgamation and there was no one opposing the proposal. Having finished the consultation, early in the New Year I shall make presentation to our Archbishop Cardinal Pell. I shall keep the parishes posted on the response of the Cardinal.

Carols; WINE & SLICES

Before the midnight Mass, at 11 PM there will be carols singing in St Peter Chanel Church. Therefore all are invited to come early to join in the Carols.

Please advise by today if you are helping with 'WINE AND SLICES' after midnight mass by setting up and serving or by providing slices/wine. Since it is the first time of this program, your response will help us plan for the night.

Boxing Day

On Boxing Day there will be two Masses at St Peter Chanel: 6.45 AM and 9.15 AM. It is the ordination anniversary of Fr Thomas and he will be celebrating the thanksgiving Mass at 9.15 AM. All are welcome to the Mass.

NEW YEAR DAY

New Year Day is also the Solemn Feast of Mary Mother of God. There will be two Masses on this day, first one at 6.45 AM and then in the evening at 7.00 PM Novena to our Lady, followed by Mass.

Sponsor a Guide Dog

Sarina Brockner from Sydney Baseball Lions Club is seeking sponsors to train and donate Guide Dog "Cleo" for the benefit of a needy local person. They are happy to receive donations of \$300 or \$450 or \$600. Donors can either contact them directly or through Parish Office. Their contact details: GPO Box 287, Sydney 2001, Tel/ Fax: 1300 886 196.



PROUD SPONSORS AT ST PETER CHANEL PARISH.

For all your funeral needs contact Guardian Funerals

35 - 49 Joseph Street, LIDCOMBE NSW 2141

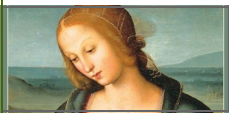
PH: 8745 7800 Fax: 8362 9200

Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45 AM Mass 6.00 PM Christmas Vigil 11.00 PM Carols followed by Midnight Mass	
Tuesday	9.00 AM Christmas Mass	9.00 AM Christmas Mass
Wednesday	6.45 AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass	
Thursday	6.45 AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass.	
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

LOST MOBILE PHONE

A PHONE HAS BEEN LEFT IN THE CHURCH. IF YOU HAVE LOST A PHONE PLEASE SEE ONE OF THE PRIESTS.



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

ST JOACHIM'S LIDCOMBE CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24th December - 7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass; 12 Midnight Mass with carols commencing at 11.30pm
25th December - 10.00am Christmas day Mass

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.

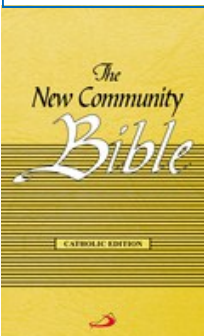
ROSARY STATUE at St Joseph the Worker

-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.

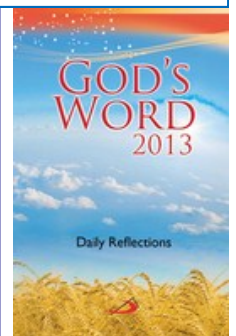
Claudette Abu Azzar will contact those interested persons, for delivery and pick-up of the Rosary Statue.

Thank you from the Legion of Mary



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.
They make great Christmas gifts!



PILGRIM STATUE

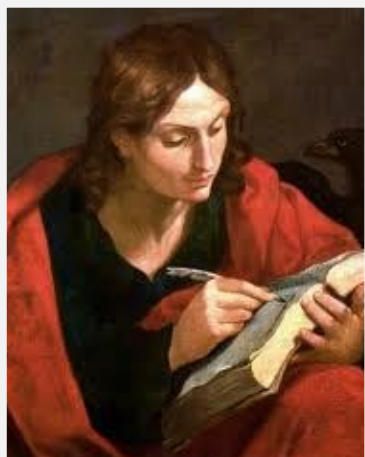
Our Lady this week will be at the Michael home, 7 Wilson Ave, Regents Park.
Please join them any evening at 7.30pm for the Rosary.

"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.



Feasts of the Week

27 December – St John, apostle, evangelist. Feast



St. John, the son of Zebedee, and the brother of St. James the Great, was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He became the "beloved disciple" and the only one of the Twelve who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Savior made him the guardian of His Mother. His later life was passed chiefly in Jerusalem and at Ephesus. He founded many churches in Asia Minor. He wrote the fourth Gospel, and three Epistles, and the Book of Revelation is also attributed to him. Brought to Rome, tradition relates that he was by order of Emperor Domitian cast into a cauldron of boiling oil but came forth unhurt and was banished to the island of Pathmos for a year. He lived to an extreme old age, surviving all his fellow apostles, and died at Ephesus about the year 100.

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he had learned from his Divine Master, and which he constantly inculcated by word and example. The "beloved disciple" died at Ephesus, where a stately church was erected over his tomb. It was afterwards converted into a Mohammedan mosque.

John is credited with the authorship of three epistles and one Gospel, although many scholars believe that the final editing of the Gospel was done by others shortly after his death. He is also supposed by many to be the author of the book of Revelation, also called the Apocalypse, although this identification is less certain.

28 December – Holy Innocents, martyrs. Feast

During this octave of Christmas the Church celebrates the memory of the small children of the neighborhood of Bethlehem put to death by Herod. Sacrificed by a wicked monarch, these innocent lives bear witness to Christ who was persecuted from the time of His birth by a world which would not receive Him. It is Christ Himself who is at stake in this mass-murder of the children; already the choice, for or against Him, is put clearly before men. But the persecutors are powerless, for Christ came to perform a work of salvation that nothing can prevent; when He fell into the hands of His enemies at the time chosen by God it was to redeem the world by His own Blood.

Our Christmas joy is tempered today by a feeling of sadness. But the Church looks principally to the glory of the children, of these innocent victims, whom she shows us in heaven following the Lamb wherever He goes.



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.

HOLY SOULS

Please pray for the peaceful repose of Marie Irwin, Peter Michael, P Smith; Gert & Jack Herrmann
And the deceased members and friends of the following families Donnellan, Ross & Mitchell
and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Joso & Kata Zivkovic
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.

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.



Compeer

a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society

All it takes it just one hour a week to have an impact on the life of someone who is lonely because of their mental illness.

Mental illness is more common than you think. Almost 1 in 2 Australian adults will experience a mental illness at some point in their life. The symptoms of mental illness can make people become isolated. Adding to that, the stigma of mental illness can often make connecting to the community very difficult.

You can help by volunteering for the Compeer program, a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society. By spending an hour a week enjoying a simple social activity with your new friend, such as chatting over a cup of coffee or taking a walk in the park, you can really make a difference.

Volunteers are matched with a friend of the same gender, similar age and who lives in their local area. You don't need to have prior experience with mental illness – full training and ongoing support is provided by Compeer staff.

For further information, please phone Vanessa or Natalie on 9622 2411 or email compeer.westernsydney@vinnies.org.au. Men and women over the age of 30 are encouraged to apply.

Compeer: Friendship makes a difference.

St Patrick's Institute of Education

St Patrick's Institute of Education, formerly St Patrick's Business College, has limited places available for the January 2013 intake for the Diploma of Business Administration and Diploma of Business.

Nearly all graduates commence employment at around \$40,000 per year after 40 weeks training.

Students receive individual attention with a focus on pastoral care.

Students can 'study now and pay later' with a VET FEE-HELP loan.

For full details and to apply, visit www.spie.edu.au. Hurry as places are limited.

Young Mens Retreat

The Dominican friars will be holding a retreat for men aged 18-35 at Winbourne, Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference Centre, Mulgoa, from 15-17 February 2013. Speakers include Fr Dom Murphy OP and Fr Paul Rowse OP. Theme: "Wisdom". Cost \$200 – includes meals and accommodation. Register by 26 January. For more information and to register contact Br James Baxter OP – james.baxter@op.org.au.

Position Vacant

Caritas Australia, the Catholic Church's Agency for International Aid and Development, is looking for a person, committed to Social Justice and the Church's mission to the poorest of the poor, to be our Regional Engagement Group Leader. This position leads & inspires our decentralised Regional Engagement team of Coordinators, Diocesan Directors and Administrative Assistants This is a full-time paid position, located in Sydney and may be the job for you. If you are interested, please read further information on the notice board and/or email Human Resources on jobs@caritas.org.au

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Today's Readings

Micah 5:1-4

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-44

Next Sunday's Readings

1 Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28

1 John 3:1-2. 21-24

Luke 2:41-52



Berala Rosters — God's House Keepers, Next Week

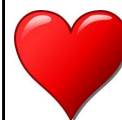
25 TH DECEMBER			CHRISTMAS
MASS	VIGIL	MIDNIGHT	9AM
ACOLYTE	C SCULLY	F ROLL	J. JOHN
ORGANIST	SAMOAN	K. PARISH	SERGIO
CANTOR	CHOIR	W. BAKER	SERGIO
LECTOR/S	J DONNELLAN	C MARTIN	R JAKSIC
	FAMILY	A WILLOUGHBY	S IACANO
COMMENTATOR	M BOTHAM	J MICHAEL	M. BOTHAM
GIFTS	CHILDREN	M OSZUST	CHILDREN'S
		FAMILY	LITURGY
PIETY STALL	M HEYS	R TESTA	A MANGANARO

30 TH DECEMBER			HOLY FAMILY
MASS	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	S EAMIGUEL	R. KENSEY	R. JAVIER
ORGANIST	-----	----	SERGIO
CANTOR	-----	----	SERGIO
LECTOR/S	A HOWSON	A THAM	J. MICHAEL
	L LOPEZ	F ROLL	M. BOTHAM
COMMENTATOR	JOY SKERRITT	K HARTMAN	R. JAKSIC
GIFTS	C MABON	WARDENS	CHILDREN'S
	FAMILY	-----	LITURGY
PIETY STALL	A MELER	F ROLL	L BILANDZIC

Group 4: ALTAR – S Cendra-Kahoe; R Cheema; A Yip

Group 2: COUNTERS – Christine Kensey; J Toby

Church Cleaners: Dec 29 - Dom/Josie PANGILINAN



Volunteers
The HEART Of The
COMMUNITY

What is the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?
The Christmas alphabet has no L (noel).

