

## ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH BERALA



Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141;

Tel: 96447787; [info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

Stpeter Stjoseph Fr Thomas@TKurunthanam

**2nd Sunday of  
Advent -Year A  
8 December 2013**

### Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam  
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T (02) 9644 7787

### Priests in Residence

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Cor Bishop  
T (02)9738 1491  
M 0418 459 431

Fr Mark Spora  
Pastor Emeritus SJW  
T (02) 9649 9089

### Secretary

Marie Caldareri  
T (02) 9644 7787  
[info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

### Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)  
T. 0402071849  
Karim Kassir (Vice Chair)  
T. 0408404130  
Joji Salar (Secretary)  
Pat Kavanagh (Asst Secretary), Jenny Michael, Kay Scully, Joseph Vu, Joe Moses, William Andrews, Arthur Doumit and Principals of the Parish Schools.

### Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)  
T (02) 9644 8859  
Micheline Botham  
(Secretary) 0422939342,  
Joe Moses, Edward Duffy

### Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel  
Regents Park  
Principal—Jo Fox  
T. 96449083

St Joseph the Worker  
Auburn South  
Principal—John Kennedy  
T. 96461434

*From your Pastor*

## Fire and Power

It is that time of the year again, when everyone is busy. All are busy organising gifts, parties, collecting food for the less advantaged, and sending Christmas greeting cards. In such a warm mood we are in, I do not think any of you would have chosen today's Gospel as part of the celebration. In Gospel today, John the Baptist calls for repentance. He even rebukes the people for the lack of repentance they have shown.

As I said last weekend, Christmas is not just the celebration of the Birthday of Jesus. Christ is coming again into our lives and our human story. He will come to realise the Kingdom of God in our midst. This advent is the time to prepare for the coming of Christ with his Kingdom. As prophet Isaiah, in the first reading says, the coming of Christ will bring peace and joy. Everyone aspires for the Kingdom of God with all its peace and Joy. But we want the Christmas without any advent; Easter without Lent; joy without sacrifices, peace without justice. That is where John the Baptist has a strong message for us. John called for the repentance of hearts. Even Pharisees and Sadducees who lead an apparently good life, John said, need to repent. It is not enough to have a good humanitarian approach, to receive the Kingdom of God. Our lives need to have Christ at the centre.

John was quick to tell the people that his baptism is only a mark of conversion of hearts. Jesus Christ who is coming after him will be baptising with the power of The Holy Spirit and Fire of Love. As baptised people we need to produce the fruits of the Fire of Love and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The flood of charity that flows at the time of Christmas is the produce of the Fire of Love Christians try to live out. Similarly we can produce amazing results as people baptised with the Power of the Holy Spirit. Last Wednesday night Christine D'Rozario from Justice and Peace Office was explaining with examples around us to show how the fire of love could be ignited in our community. Working with Sydney Alliance is a powerful and practical way.

Most times to reveal the glory of God, He chooses the weakest link to produce the power of the Holy Spirit. That may explain how the Catholic Church which was oppressed early in the history of the country and was poor of money till after the Second World War succeeded in becoming the most efficient educators and best providers of social welfare activities in the country. You may have personal stories of how you have inspired and ignited new hope in other people's lives. A lot of times it happens when you were either sick or when you thought that you are not having the best of luck in your life.

This advent is time to realise that even in our weakness we are baptised with the Fire of Love and the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us try to produce its fruits in our lives so that we will not disappoint ourselves and God.

**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 10 AM.  
**Holy Mass at Auburn South:** Tuesday 9 AM (school term only); The Lord's Day Sunday 8 AM.  
**Reconciliation at Berala:** Saturday 9.30 AM

# Christmas Schedule 2014

## Thursday, 19 December

7.00 PM – 8.30 PM Confession at Berala

## Saturday, 21 December

9.30 AM – 11 AM Confession at Berala

## Tuesday 24 December

6.00 PM– 6.30 PM Christmas Pageant & Carols  
at SPC Berala

6.30 PM Christmas Vigil Mass with families  
at SPC Berala

11.00 PM Carols at SPC Berala

12.00 Midnight Mass of nativity at SPC Berala

## Wednesday 25 December

8.00 AM Mass at SJW Auburn South

10.00 AM Mass at SPC Berala

12.00 Noon – 2.00 PM Christmas Luncheon at Berala



A number of parishioners have raised concern about starting Christmas Vigil at 7 PM, because it could be late for the children. Therefore I have changed the schedule. The Vigil will start at 6 PM with Pageant and Carols and 6.30 PM Mass. The rest of the schedule remains unchanged.

*Change of Christmas Schedule*

## Christmas Luncheon

On Christmas Day 12 noon to 2PM

St Peter Chanel Church premises

Thanks to the volunteers for taking time out to help on the day.

We invite donations of cold meats, dessert, fruit, beer and wine. They could be dropped in on Monday 23rd December between 7PM–8PM or Wednesday 24th between 8AM– 10AM in the Parish Jubilee Hall.

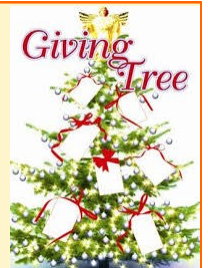
For further details contact Arthur Doumit on 0417 270 923.

## Christmas Roster

There is a blank roster for the Christmas Masses at the back of the Church. Volunteers wishing to participate in the liturgy, please write your name in the space corresponding to which Mass and duty you are volunteering for.

## Christmas Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree has been erected on the side altar and gifts of food and toys will be most welcome. These gifts will assist the St Vincent de Paul Society in their charitable work with the poor and lonely. Food must be non-perishable and it would be of great help if wrapped toys were labelled with age and gender. Thank you



## Angels Needed

For the Christmas Vigil on 24th December. We are looking for children to dress up as angels, shepherds and kings. Please let Fr Thomas know if you are volunteering.

## GOD'S WORD 2014: DAILY REFLECTIONS LITURGICAL DIARY

Now available in the Piety Stall, Berala for \$15

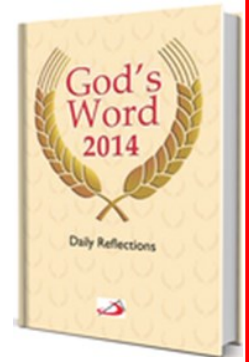
Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life.

Pray with it, share it and make your life a daily celebration with the word of God.

Grow in God's love, being nourished daily by His word, the bread of life.

God's Word 2014 - Daily Reflections brings you:

- Liturgical readings of the day from the New Jerusalem Bible
- Inspiring reflection of the Gospel of the day by eminent homilists
- Liturgical information for the day
- Space to note down important events and reflections of the day



### *Feasts of the Week*

#### *9 December – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Solemnity.*

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is the subject of a lot of misconceptions (so to speak). Perhaps the most common one, held even by many Catholics, is that it celebrates the conception of Christ in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That the feast occurs only 17 days before Christmas should make the error obvious! We celebrate another feast—the Annunciation of the Lord—on March 25, exactly nine months before Christmas. It was at the Annunciation, when the Blessed Virgin Mary humbly accepted the honor bestowed on her by God and announced by the angel Gabriel, that the conception of Christ took place.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in its oldest form, goes back to the seventh century, when churches in the East began celebrating the Feast of the Conception of Saint Anne, the mother of Mary. In other words, this feast celebrates the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of Saint Anne; and nine months later, on September 8, we celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

#### *13 December - St Lucy, virgin, martyr. Memorial.*

Lucy's name means "light", with the same root as "lucid" which means "clear, radiant, understandable." Unfortunately for us, Lucy's history does not match her name. Shrouded in the darkness of time, all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life in the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defense of the faith.

Lucy's name is probably also connected to statues of Lucy holding a dish with two eyes on it. This refers to a legend in which Lucy's eyes were put out by Diocletian as part of his torture. The legend concludes with God restoring Lucy's eyes.

Whatever the fact to the legends surrounding Lucy, the truth is that her courage to stand up and be counted a Christian in spite of torture and death is the light that should lead us on our own journeys through life.

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

Born in Spain in 1542, John learned the importance of self-sacrificing love from his parents. His father gave up wealth, status, and comfort when he married a weaver's daughter and was disowned by his noble family. After his father died, his mother kept the destitute family together as they wandered homeless in search of work. These were the examples of sacrifice that John followed with his own great love -- God.

When the family finally found work, John still went hungry in the middle of the wealthiest city in Spain. At fourteen, John took a job caring for hospital patients who suffered from incurable diseases and madness. It was out of this poverty and suffering, that John learned to search for beauty and happiness not in the world, but in God.

After John joined the Carmelite order, Saint Teresa of Avila asked him to help her reform movement. John supported her belief that the order should return to its life of prayer. But many Carmelites felt threatened by this reform, and some members of John's own order kidnapped him. He was locked in a cell six feet by ten feet and beaten three times a week by the monks. There was only one tiny window high up near the ceiling. Yet in that unbearable dark, cold, and desolation, his love and faith were like fire and light. He had nothing left but God -- and God brought John his greatest joys in that tiny cell.

After nine months, John escaped by unscrewing the lock on his door and creeping past the guard. From then on his life was devoted to sharing and explaining his experience of God's love.

John left us many books of practical advice on spiritual growth and prayer that are just as relevant today as they were then. These books include: Ascent of Mount Carmel, Dark Night of the Soul and A Spiritual Canticle of the Soul and the Bridegroom Christ.

## Other Notices

### The Manhood Forum

A new online community is available for Catholic men at [www.beingcatholic.com.au/men\\_invite](http://www.beingcatholic.com.au/men_invite)  
A dynamic online community for single men, husbands, fathers and religious The Manhood Forum is an exciting new initiative for any man that wants to deepen in faith, love of the Church and their vocation as men. If you want to grow as a man and connect with other committed Catholic men please visit [www.beingcatholic.com.au/men\\_invite](http://www.beingcatholic.com.au/men_invite)

*Volunteers are needed to undertake training to work for Pregnancy Help Sydney which is a pro-life counselling service. A course is soon to be conducted to equip people to counsel on the telephone in their homes in hours to suit them. Please telephone the Co-ordinator (Carmel 9602 6100) for more information about the training course.*

### Beach Day Out

On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014, Catholic Youth Services are inviting kids from years 7-12 to "Beach Day Out" We will travel from Catholic Youth Services office in Homebush West to Bronte Beach (via train and bus) where we will have a BBQ, music, swimming and games! Date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014  
Cost: \$20 Time: 8:30am – 5:30pm RSVP: 13<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2014. If you have any questions or would like to register to come along please email [emma@catholicyouthservices.org](mailto:emma@catholicyouthservices.org) for a registration form.

### THE MUSTARD SEED BOOKSHOP EXTENDED CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS .

The Mustard Seed Bookshop will be extending it's opening hours throughout December for the Christmas shopping season. The shop will be opening late on Thursdays - 5, 12 & 19 December till 9pm. Also, the shop will be opened on Saturday, 14 December from 9am-5pm. The Mustard Seed Bookshop, 3 Keating Street Lidcombe [bookshop@caec.com.au](mailto:bookshop@caec.com.au) / 9646 9000 / [www.mustardseed.org.au](http://www.mustardseed.org.au) .

**The Fr Colin McKay Institute of Counselling**, established in 1969, offers a course designed to develop skills in personal growth, communication, parenting and general counselling principles. Participants can learn new skills in dealing with daily personal challenges and the issues that arise within families, the school environment and in the workplace. It is conducted on Tuesday evenings within the school term between 7.30pm – 9.45pm at Holy Cross College, Victoria Road, Ryde commencing on Tuesday 4 February 2014. For enquires please contact: Michael Hill - 9869 3774 or 0410 774 432; Carol Harding - 9639 0096 or 0411 022 478; Jannelle Carlile - 0431 598 004 (Mon – Fri between 7.00 & 9.00 p.m.); or Email: [counselling1969@gmail.com](mailto:counselling1969@gmail.com)



### Compeer

*a Special Work of the St Vincent de Paul Society*    **This Christmas, give the gift of friendship**

Christmas is a hard time of year for people who are alone. Could you spare an hour a week to ease someone's isolation?

We have a huge need for adult male and female volunteers across Sydney to spend an hour a week doing social activities with a new friend, such as having coffee, watching the footy, or going for a walk. Training and ongoing support is provided. Your friendship can make a big difference to your new friend's quality of life, and help reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

***"Compeer is a simple, meaningful way of making a difference." - Volunteer***

To find out more about volunteering with Compeer, email [compeer.westernsydney@vinnies.org.au](mailto:compeer.westernsydney@vinnies.org.au) phone 9568 0295 or visit our website [www.compeer.org.au](http://www.compeer.org.au)

## Mass Intentions

**Recently Deceased:** Blue (Jim) Collins (*brother of Lloyd*)

**Anniversary:** Rosa Manganaro

**Deceased:** *deceased members and friends of the following families* Ross & Mitchell, Donnellan.

**Sick:** Terry Flanagan & Mary Fraser, Adrian Lynch, Stipe Lisica, Aloysius Chong.



# Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45AM Mass.	
Tuesday	6.45AM Mass. 7.00 PM Novena followed by Mass	9.00AM Mass
Wednesday	6.45AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass. 6.00PM Year 6 Graduation Mass Secretary Available.	Secretary Available.
Thursday	6.45AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass. Secretary Available.	Secretary Available.
Friday	6.45AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass.	
Saturday	8.00AM Mass, 9.30 AM Reconciliation 5.00PM Vigil Mass	
Sunday	10AM Mass	8.00AM

**Alcohol and Drug Information Service:** (Confidential) (02) 9361 8000

## Spiritual Retreats:

Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo T/F: (02) 4236 0533 E [cottageretreats@bigpond.com](mailto:cottageretreats@bigpond.com)

Carmelites Varroville E [retreats@carmelite.com](mailto:retreats@carmelite.com) ;

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby E [clary.antaogmail.com](mailto:clary.antaogmail.com) T: 0434099088

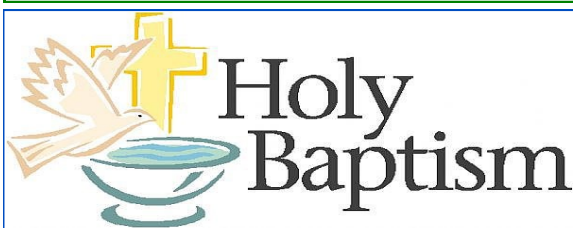
## Hospitality

**At St Peter Chanel** - No hospitality this week.

**At St Joseph the Worker** - This Week Jenny Michael is hosting Morning Tea. Next week Karim & Gloria Kassiss will host Morning Tea.

Thank you to all the volunteers for hosting this wonderful event. Please organise to swap with someone if you cannot attend your rostered day or ring Pam on 9649 5974.

**Note that in the event of rain there will be no hospitality.**



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

**Aubrey Jude Victorino**

May he always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout his life.

## DEFEND THE FAITH

DEFEND THE FAITH is one of the special works of Robert Haddad. Now it is available in our piety stall at a concessional rate. It retail price is \$34.95. But we are selling it for \$25. Stock is limited – only 8 copies. It will make a good Christmas gift for someone who likes to read faith matters.

## Break Open Word

All Ministers of Word (Readers) should have a copy of BREAK OPEN WORD to help them prepare their proclamation of the Word at Mass. A copy of Break Open Word is now available for Readers to pick up from the Sacristy.

*The teacher was explaining to her students that there is  
no other book as important as the bible.*

*"Oh no!" exclaimed Johnny,*

*"I can't live without my dad's cheque book either."*



## 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.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of  
peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name. (R.)

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

### Communion Antiphon:

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

### Today's Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:4-9

Matthew 3:1-12

### Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11



## St Peter Chanel & St Joseph the Worker Rosters - Next Week

15 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2013		3 <sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Edward DUFFY	William ANDREWS	Robert JAKSIC
ORGANIST	Joji SALAR	SJW YOUTH	SAMOAN
CANTOR	Sergio EAMIGUEL	CHOIR	CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Lawrence LOPEZ	Frank ROLL	Carmel MARTIN
	Patricia DUFFY	Jenny MICHAEL	Micheline BOTHAM
COMMENTATOR	Jann ROCKLIFF	Joe MOSES	April RIGNEY
GIFTS	Dorothy BOYD & Eileen FITZPATRICK		CHILDRENS LITURGY
PIETY STALL	Maureen HEYS		John SHANLEY
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Micheline BOTHAM
SP. MINISTER	Janet RYAN		Rita JAKSIC

### HOSPITAL

Frank ROLL & Elizabeth CHIA

Group 6: ALTAR – Micheline Botham; Korina Kinda.  
Group 2: COUNTERS – Christine Kensey; Julie Toby.  
SPC CHILDREN'S LITURGY - Sharon Iacono & Megan Ross.

**Volunteers**  
The HEART OF The  
COMMUNITY

**Church Cleaners: Dec 14 - SPC:** Rey/Brilla QUINOY. **SJW:** Maronite Group.



***"Family that pray together stay together"***

**PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel** at the O'Dwyer home, 4/35 Hydepark  
Rd, Berala. Please join them any **evening at 7.30pm** for the Rosary.

To host the Pilgrim Statue from St Peter Chanel contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

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