

ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH BERALA



Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141;

Tel: 96447787; info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Stpeter Stjoseph Fr Thomas@TKurunthanam

3rd Sunday of
Advent -Year A
15 December 2013

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
T (02) 9644 7787

Priests in Residence

Mgr Michael Barbari
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

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)
T. 0402071849
Karim Kassis (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

IS HE THE CHRIST?

Last Tuesday was the grand memorial service for Nelson Mandela. Leaders or heads of states of 90 nations gathered to praise Mandela for his achievements. He was a man who helped the country to end the racial apartheid. Mandela established true democracy in South Africa for its real progress. Yet there are people who ask the question, was Mandela the real saviour of South Africa. They would say how come, in spite of all the resources in the country, why South Africans are still poor. If Mandela's dream was to abolish racial divide, how come there are so many racial killings still happening. These are the people who expected overnight transformation with Mandela's coming to power. They are disappointed that it did not happen.

Similar is the mood of John the Baptist when he asked his disciples to go and check whether Jesus is the Saviour (Christ) we have been waiting for. Like all the people who expected drastic change overnight at the coming of the Christ, were disappointed that it has not happened in the event of Jesus' coming. One of the expectations of the Jews was that they will be liberated from the Roman Imperialism at the coming of the Christ. It took a while for them to realise that they had got it wrong. Jesus' answer to John the Baptist was simple. Look at what is happening. "The blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life."

It may not be a transformation happening overnight and total at once. But profound happenings are marking the true liberation, an inner liberation. The needy are getting the message. The Good news is proclaimed to the poor. But it requires the eyes of faith to see all these. Without the eyes of faith, they may not be evident as it happened to the Pharisees of Jesus' time.

The most common mistake we make, as it has been the case always, is to judge things according to our prejudice. We may have a set expectation. If things do not happen accordingly, it is hard to accept them. It is like what happens in parishes sometimes when a new parish priest comes. If the priest is not doing things according to the whims and fancies of some of the parishioners they may get agitated. This happens especially if they consider themselves as the people who set the benchmark for the parish ministry. Such people may also be spending their time and energy trying to destroy their pastor, just as the Pharisees were bent on destroying Jesus. It is all because of the self-centred approach and the lack of insight into the unfolding of God's Kingdom in our midst. Advent is a time for us to pray for and work on the insight to see the Kingdom of God unfolding in our community and personal life. It will help us receive Jesus as our Christ and celebrate Christmas as something more than just a good time to remember the birth of Jesus.

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 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



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

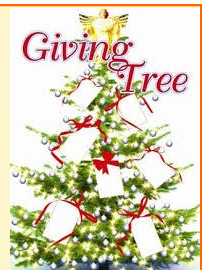
There are still empty spots to be filled on the Christmas Roster to volunteer during the Masses. Please write your names on the form at the back of the Church.

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.

Christmas Giving Tree

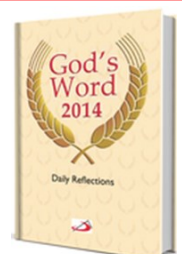
The Christmas Giving Tree has been erected on the side altar and gifts of food and toys will be most welcome. These gifts will assist the St Vincent de Paul Society in their charitable work with the poor and lonely. Food must be non-perishable and it would be of great help if wrapped toys were labelled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



GOD'S WORD 2014: DAILY REFLECTIONS LITURGICAL DIARY

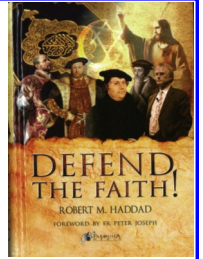
Now available in the Piety Stall, Berala for \$15

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.



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.



YOU ARE INVITED TO CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Parish of St. Peter Chanel
and St. Joseph's Berala invite all
who wish to share the joy of
Christmas with others to
Christmas lunch.

DATE: 25 December 2013

TIME: 12.00 noon to 2.00pm

PLACE: Jubilee Hall,
64 Kingsland Road, Berala

Food and drink provided free of
charge

R.S.V.P. not required – or phone
Anne or Christine on 9643 7794
by Thursday, 19th Dec

Further details contact Arthur
Doumit on 0417270923



Advent Retreat

Participants at an Advent Retreat in Moss Vale. Every Advent and Lent, I get together with my friends for an overnight retreat. Should some parishioners like the idea, we could think of something similar for Lent 2014.

Mother of Divine Mercy Group NZ



Mother of Divine Mercy Women's Refugee Youth Group performing in Jubilee Hall, last Saturday night. Each of these young people has a heart breaking story of abuse and broken family to tell. But the Good news is that they all feel saved from it. Now they all are committed Catholics wanting to share their story and proclaim their faith Christ. They were brought up in different denominations of Christian churches or other religions. Now they all are converts to Catholic Church which they are proud of.

Other Notices

The Manhood Forum

A new online community is available for Catholic men at 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

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 20th 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 20th Jan 2014 Cost: \$20 Time: 8:30am – 5:30pm RSVP: 13th of Jan 2014. If you have any questions or would like to register to come along please email 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 / 9646 9000 / www.mustardseed.org.au .

"LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS" – St Mary's Cathedral. The spectacular laser light story of Christmas is once again on at St Mary's Cathedral starting every night at 8.30pm until midnight right through to and including Christmas Day night. Everyone is welcome to this free public event in the Cathedral forecourt where there will also be different choirs performing from 7.30pm. Bring family and friends and come and enjoy this year's theme "Lighting the World".



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 phone 9568 0295 or visit our website www.compeer.org.au

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased: Aloysius Chong.

Anniversary: John Rockliff, Toscano Giuseppe Nato.

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

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

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 Year 6 Graduation Mass
Wednesday	6.45AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass. Secretary Available.	Secretary Available.
Thursday	6.45AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass. Secretary Available. 6.30PM Anniversary Mass for Toscano Nato 7.00PM - 8.30PM Reconciliation	Secretary Available.
Friday	6.45AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass.	11.30 AM Mass at Berala on the Park
Saturday	8.00AM Mass, 9.30AM - 11.00AM 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

Carmelites Varroville E retreats@carmelite.com ;

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby E clary.antaogmail.com T: 0434099088

Hospitality

At St Peter Chanel - This week Pam Snell is hosting Morning Tea after 10.00am Mass. Next week Josie Pangilinan will be hosting tea after 5.00pm Mass.

At St Joseph the Worker - This Week Karim & Gloria Kassis are hosting 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.

SPC Altar Society Roster

The new SPC Altar Society Roster for 2014 is now available in the Sacristy at St Peter Chanel Church. A copy may also be accessed on our website.

9 Day DAWN MASSES in Preparation for Christmas at St Joachim's Lidcombe 5:30AM each morning 16 Monday – 24 Tuesday Dec 2013

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. The 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 5:30AM 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).

*The minister of aged care went to visit a nursing home. He walked up to a lady in a wheelchair and said, "Madam, do you know who I am?"
She answered, pointing toward the enquiry desk, "No sir, I do not know who you are but if you go to that desk they can tell you".*



Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *(R.)*

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. *(R.)*

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. *(R.)*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Today's Readings

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Next Sunday's Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24



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

22ND DECEMBER 2013

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY		Mario CAPRA
ORGANIST	Kate PARISH		SAMOAN
CANTOR	Sergio EAMIGUEL		YOUTH
LECTOR/S	Jann ROCKLIFF	Karim KASSIS	Ken HARTMAN
	Joy SKERRITT	Michael CHOW	Micheline BOTHAM
COMMENTATOR	Ann HOWSON	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Margaret NGUYEN
GIFTS	Graham TOBY Family		Leo PORTELLI Family
PIETY STALL	Adele MELER		Margaret THAM
SP. MINISTER	Kay SCULLY		Micheline BOTHAM
SP. MINISTER	Joy SKERRITT		Pam SNELL

HOSPITAL

Charlie & Kay Scully

Group 1: ALTAR – Gloria Alkstramd; Moya Lewis; Anna Manganaro; Nola Mann.
Group 3: COUNTERS – Ken Hartman; Alan Tham; Romaine Cheema.
SPC CHILDREN'S LITURGY - None during school holidays.

Volunteers
The HEART OF The
COMMUNITY

Church Cleaners: Dec 21 - SPC: Roland/Aida JAVIER. **SJW:** Irene Kula, Taoto Langi & friends.



"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel

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.