

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

4th Sunday of
Advent -Year A
22 December 2013

Parish Priest

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Priests in Residence

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

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Secretary

Marie Caldareri
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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

Commitment

These days our federal treasurer is in pain to explain how he is keeping the commitments he made during his election campaign. He promised to bring a surplus during his first term of the Government. Now he hopes that he will live long enough to see a surplus made in the budget. The opposition is questioning the treasurer on his integrity. Yes protecting one's integrity is important. If it is a matter of fundamentals of life, it is paramount important. Today's Gospel is about such a commitment in life.

Mary was betrothed to Joseph. But Joseph finds Mary pregnant before they cohabited. This naturally upsets Joseph. Joseph is a just man and marital commitment is important for him. Therefore he decided to divorce Mary thinking that she was unfaithful. But still he did not want to take any revenge on Mary or damage her reputation. Therefore Joseph wanted to divorce her in secret. But when he learns that Mary was not in any way unfaithful to him; on the contrary was very faithful to God, he accepts Mary into his life.

One of the major tendencies of our time is the unwillingness to take fundamental commitments in life. A lot of marriages are in ruin because of the lack of commitment shown by one or both parties. There is a tendency to substitute fundamental commitments in life with fascination for hobbies. Some may enjoy looking after pets, others may be into full time gardening, or some kind of sports. Sometimes job and status that would bring popularity become priority over fundamental commitments in life.

Joseph in most traditional pictures is painted as an old man, a father figure to the Holy Family rather than a groom to his young bride, Mary. It is in fact an attempt to depict Joseph as a wise man rather than to make a statement about his age. In his wisdom Joseph listened to God's promptings and followed the Holy Spirit. The way we can make the best of Christmas and make our celebrations meaningful is by reaffirming our commitment to the fundamentals of our Christian living. That is where you will meet Christ in our midst.

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

Tuesday 24 December



**All children are invited to dress up as
Shepherds and Angels for the Vigil Mass.**

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

Thursday 26 December

6.45AM & 11.30AM Mass



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.

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

Further details contact Arthur Doumit on 0417270923



Funeral Mass

Stephen Ross, son of Gwen passed away during the week and his funeral will be held at The Sacred Heart Chapel at Rookwood Cemetery on Monday 23 December at 2.00pm. Please pray for Gwen and her family during this difficult time

Special Mass on Boxing Day.

On Boxing Day which is also the feast of St Stephen, there will be a special Mass at 11.30 AM at St Peter Chanel Berala. A number of priest friends will be concelebrating with Fr Thomas. There will not be a Mass at 9.15 AM. Mgr Berbari will celebrate the usual 6.45 am Mass.

Marie on Holidays

Parish Secretary, Marie Caldareri will be on her annual leave during the month of January.

Feasts of the Week

25 December - The Nativity of the Lord. Solemnity.

History of Christmas:

People are often surprised to find that Christmas was not celebrated by the earliest Christians. The custom was to celebrate a saint's birth into eternal life—in other words, his death. Thus Good Friday (Christ's death) and Easter Sunday (His Resurrection) took center stage.

To this day, the Church celebrates only three birthdays: Christmas; the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and the Birth of John the Baptist. The common thread in the celebrations is that all three were born without sin: Christ, because He was the Son of God; Mary, because she was sanctified by God in the Immaculate Conception; and John the Baptist, because his leap in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth, at the Visitation is seen as a type of Baptism (and thus, even though John was conceived with Original Sin, he was cleansed of that sin before birth).

It took a while, though, for the Church to develop the feast of Christmas. While it may have been celebrated in Egypt as early as the third century, it did not spread throughout the Christian world until the middle of the fourth century. It was first celebrated along with Epiphany, on January 6; but slowly Christmas was separated out into its own feast, on December 25. Many of the early Church Fathers regarded this as the actual date of Christ's birth, though it does coincide with the Roman festival of *Natalis Invicti* (the winter solstice, which the Romans celebrated on December 25), and the Catholic Encyclopedia does not reject the possibility that the date was chosen as "a deliberate and legitimate 'baptism' of a pagan feast."

By the middle of the sixth century, Christians had begun to observe Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas, with fasting; and the Twelve Days of Christmas, from Christmas Day to Epiphany, had become established.



26 December - St Stephen, the first martyr. Feast.

Stephen's name means "crown," and he was the first disciple of Jesus to receive the martyr's crown. Stephen was a deacon in the early Christian Church. The apostles had found that they needed helpers to look after the care of the widows and the poor. So they ordained seven deacons, and Stephen is the most famous of these.

God worked many miracles through St. Stephen and he spoke with such wisdom and grace that many of his hearers became followers of Jesus. The enemies of the Church of Jesus were furious to see how successful Stephen's preaching was. At last, they laid a plot for him. They could not answer his wise argument, so they got men to lie about him, saying that he had spoken sinfully against God. St. Stephen faced that great assembly of enemies without fear. In fact, the Holy Bible says that his face looked like the face of an angel.

The saint spoke about Jesus, showing that He is the Savior, God had promised to send. He scolded his enemies for not having believed in Jesus. At that, they rose up in great anger and shouted at him. But Stephen looked up to Heaven and said that he saw the heavens opening and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

His hearers plugged their ears and refused to listen to another word. They dragged St. Stephen outside the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. The saint prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" Then he fell to his knees and begged God not to punish his enemies for killing him.

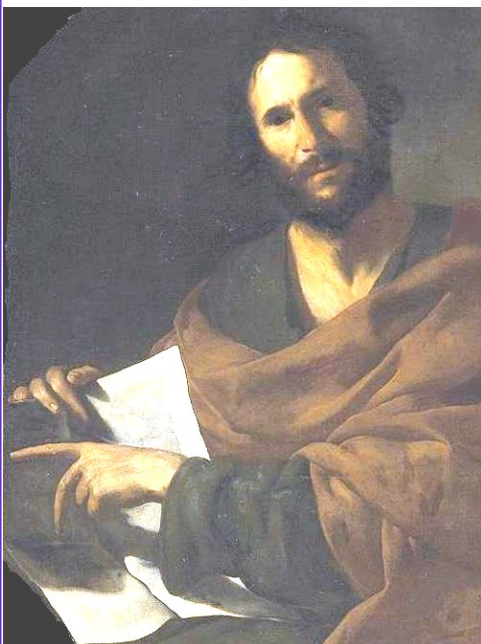
After such an expression of love, the holy martyr went to his heavenly reward.



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 Patmos 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 - The 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.

Today, dearest brethren, we celebrate the birthday of those children who were slaughtered, as the Gospel tells us, by that exceedingly cruel king, Herod. Let the earth, therefore, rejoice and the Church exult — she, the fruitful mother of so many heavenly champions and of such glorious virtues. Never, in fact, would that impious tyrant have been able to benefit these children by the sweetest kindness as much as he has done by his hatred. For as today's feast reveals, in the measure with which malice in all its fury was poured out upon the holy children, did heaven's blessing stream down upon them.

"Blessed are you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah! You suffered the inhumanity of King Herod in the murder of your babes and thereby have become worthy to offer to the Lord a pure host of infants. In full right do we celebrate the heavenly birthday of these children whom the world caused to be born unto an eternally blessed life rather than that from their mothers' womb, for they attained the grace of everlasting life before the enjoyment of the present. The precious death of any martyr deserves high praise because of his heroic confession; the death of these children is precious in the sight of God because of the beatitude they gained so quickly. For already at the beginning of their lives they pass on. The end of the present life is for them the beginning of glory. These then, whom Herod's cruelty tore as sucklings from their mothers' bosom, are justly hailed as "infant martyr flowers"; they were the Church's first blossoms, matured by the frost of persecution during the cold winter of unbelief.

— St. Augustine

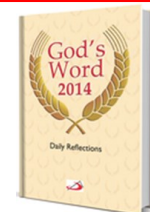
DEFEND THE FAITH

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.



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.



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.

Other Notices

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.

"LIGHTS OF CHRISTMAS" – 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".



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).

City Silence

A weekly Holy Hour for young adults (18-35) will begin at St Mary's Cathedral from 4 February 2014, followed by dinner and drinks at Puntino Italian Restaurant (41 Crown St, Woolloomooloo). Join Catholic Youth Services every Tuesday from 6:30-7:30pm for adoration, music and reflection with young people from across Sydney.

We are also looking for young musicians to help with the music at City Silence. If you, or someone you know, can help us on a rotating roster contact us at events@catholicyouthservies.org.

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2014.

19 January 2014 is World Day Of Migrants And Refugees. The theme is - "Migrants and Refugees: Towards a Better World". The text message from the Holy Father Pope Francis can be found on the Pontifical Council website www.pcmigrants.org .

Mass Intentions

Recently Deceased: Stephen Ross

Anniversary: Marie Erwin

Deceased: Theravium Sandanam, Joseph Sandanam, Percy Smith, Gert & Jack Herrmann, Carmen Portelli Charlie Portelli, Bert Portelli, Carmen Spiteri, Anthony Spiteri, Gloria & Astrid Bolonia, Consuelo Ibardolaza *deceased members and friends of the following families* Ross & Mitchell, Bolonia & Ibardolaza.

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. 6.00 PM Christmas Pageant followed by Mass 11.00PM Christmas Carols followed by Midnight Mass	
Wednesday	10.00AM Christmas Day Mass 12.00PM Christmas Lunch in Jubilee Hall	8.00AM Christmas Day Mass
Thursday	6.45AM Mass, 11.30 AM Mass.	
Friday	6.45AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass.	
Saturday	8.00AM Mass, 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.anta@gmail.com T: 0434099088

Hospitality

At St Peter Chanel - This week Josie Pangilinan is hosting Tea after 5.00pm Mass. Next week Rani Sebastian will be hosting morning tea after 10.00am Mass.

At St Joseph the Worker - No 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.

*A priest walked into a pub and said to the men, "Those who want to go to heaven please gather around."
All the men stood up and gathered around the priest. He started to talk about the Good News
but he noticed a man still drinking in a corner of the pub.*

*He walked up to him, "Mr Murphy, do you want to go to heaven?"
No, I don't Father," he replied. The priest looked at him right in the eye, and said, "You mean to tell
me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?" Murphy smiled, "Oh, when I die, yes Father.
I thought you were getting a group together right now."*



25 th December 2013			The Nativity of the Lord	
Mass	Vigil (SPC)	MIDNIGHT(SPC)	8am (SJW)	10am (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Charlie SCULLY & Edward DUFFY	-----	Mario CAPRA
ORGANIST	SAMOAN	Kate PARISH	SJW	SAMOAN
CANTOR	CHOIR	COMBINED CHOIRS	CHOIR	CHOIR
LECTOR	John DONNELLAN	Carmel MARTIN	Doreen STANMORE	
LECTOR	Noeline DONNELLAN	April RIGNEY	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	April RIGNEY
COMMENTATOR	Renee SALAR	Jenny MICHAEL	Joy SKERRIT	Micheline BOTHAM
GIFTS	CHILDREN	Kelli & April RIGNEY		BOTHAM Family
PIETY STALL	----	Jenny MICHAEL	----	----
SP. MINISTER	Anna MANGANARO	Kay SCULLY	Joy SKERRIT	Micheline BOTHAM
SP. MINISTER	Christine KENSEY	Ann DUFFY		

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.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia, alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

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

Today's Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

Next Sunday's Readings

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3:12-21
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



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

29TH DECEMBER 2013

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Robert KENSEY		Roland JAVIER
ORGANIST	Sergio EAMIGUEL		SAMOAN CHOIR
CANTOR	Sergio EAMIGUEL		Sergio EAMIGUEL
LECTOR/S	John DONNELLAN	Jenny MICHAEL	Sharon IACONO
	Noeline DONNELLAN	Deborah GOOCH	Micheline BOTHAM
COMMENTATOR	Patricia DUFFY	Joe MOSES	Robert JAKSIC
GIFTS	Dorothy BOYD & Eileen FITZPATRICK		Roland JAVIER family
PIETY STALL	Maureen HEYS		Anna MANGANARO
SP. MINISTER	Christine KENSEY		Rita JAKSIC
SP. MINISTER	Ann DUFFY		Anna MANGANARO

HOSPITAL

Bob & Christine KENSEY

Group 2: ALTAR – Bolonia family.
Group 4: COUNTERS – Charlie & Kay Scully.
SPC CHILDREN'S LITURGY - None during school holidays.

Volunteers
The HEART OF The
COMMUNITY

Church Cleaners: Dec 28 - SPC: DELA CERNA Family/Friends. **SJW:** Claudette Azar & friends



"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel at the Michael home, 7 Wilson Ave, 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.