

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

Www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Fourth Sunday of

Advent - Year B

21 December 2014

Parish Priest

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

Priests in Residence

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

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

Parish Secretary

Marisa Squadrito
Tues to Fri 9am -3pm

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)
T. 0402071849
Karim Kassis(Vice Chair)
T. 0408404130
Joji Salar (Secretary)
Pat Kavanagh(Asst
Secretary), Jenny Michael,
Joe Moses, Arthur Doumit,
Afiafi Alai, Micheline
Botham and Principals of the
Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T (02) 9644 8859
Micheline Botham
(Secretary) 0422939342,
Joe Moses & Ingrid
Scharenguivel.

Social Committee

Pat Kavanagh & Joji Salar

Parish Schools

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

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

Let No Anguish Stop Us from Being Christ Bearers.



While we are preparing to celebrate the feast of joy and peace, our hearts are weighed down by the memories of the terrorist siege in Sydney and the terrible massacre of 141 people, mostly children, in Pakistan by the heartless Taliban. These people who did such atrocities are not just mad, they are evil. Though there is grief and anger we must not act with revenge and hate. But we are mindful of the militant Islam which hates all other people. It was good to see most Muslim leaders and people of Muslim faith distancing themselves from the evil killer and terrorist activities. It is time for all people of good will to cooperate and to do acts of charity and goodness. There is no shortage of charity and friendship initiatives in this Christmas season. Christmas luncheons, like the one our parish is hosting, many charity activities of Vinnies, Salvos, Smith Family, Anglicare, Catholic Care and so on are some of them. The question is whether there is enough cooperation from all segments of society. I wish there was more cooperation, especially from the people of the Muslim faith in such initiatives of people with good will. Active cooperation of all people of good will to work towards the dignity and welfare of all people is the best remedy for the evils of hate doing. We do not want evil to breed more evil in the world.

The terrorist forced the hostages to display a black banner with words translated as “God is great”. But there was not much glory to God the way it was made to be displayed. But there was greater glory of God displayed through the life and witness of the innocent people who were kept as hostages. Tori Johnson, the manager of the business and one of the victims, was killed because he put the lives of his staff and customers before his own, and tried to grab the gunman more than once to help other hostages. Katrina Dawson, the other victim, was trying to protect a pregnant woman. Her life was sacrificed out of the love and care for human life and dignity. Such acts of courage glorify God and bring about peace and joy as God’s gift to the world in ways that no terrorist, and no black banner with proclamation of God’s greatness they carry, can do.

Today, on this fourth Sunday of Advent, we reflect on the words of Angel Gabriel to Mary in Galilee. They were “Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God’s favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and called Son of the most high.” These words said to Mary are repeated to every baptised Christian. Through baptism we are Christ bearers. We shall not be afraid to bear Christ, Son of the most high, in our lives. Proudly declare to the world that you are carrying Jesus Christ. Show to the world, as Jesus taught us, through your lives, self-sacrifice and love, that God is great. That will bring us favour from God and from people. In doing so we too will be highly favoured. When Mary was told that she will be pregnant before cohabiting with her husband, it caused a lot of anguish for her. Yet she showed the courage to accept God’s word. Just as Mary showed the courage to accept God’s word even in her anguish, we too shall show courage to accept God’s word even in the midst of worrying and anxious moments in our lives.



Happy Christmas



Christmas is a holiday time and many of our parishioners may be travelling to visit their relatives or for holidaying, during Christmas feast. I would like to wish all of them and all parishioners and visitors to the parish God's blessing of peace and joy during this Christmas.

Thank You

I extend my thanks and appreciation to all those who made contributions to the Giving Tree and Christmas Luncheon. I would also like to acknowledge your goodness to the persecuted Church in the Middle East. The exit collection on the first weekend of this month raised \$1049 and it was handed over to the Middle Eastern Bishop's conference. Many parishioners have greeted me personally with cards and gifts. To them also my thanks and blessings.

Concreting SPC Car Park

Last Monday I received a letter from the Premier's Office announcing that our application for funding from the Government's Community Building Program is granted for the car park. The funds of \$37000 was made possible because of the recommendation of Barbara Perry, our MP. On behalf of the parish, I have thanked Barbara Perry for her support. I am hoping to carry out this work during the school holidays in June 2015.

Confessions / Reconciliation

Mass will be celebrated at 6.30 PM on Tuesday, 23 December at St Peter Chanel Church. After Mass priests will be available to hear confessions. You are welcome to use this opportunity before Christmas.

Christmas Luncheon Donations

There will be volunteers in the Jubilee Hall from 6.30 - 7.30pm on Wednesday 24 December and 9.30 - 10.00am on Christmas day to receive food donations for the Christmas Luncheon

Christmas Play

St Raymond's Maronite Parish is putting on a Christmas play at St Joseph the Worker Church on Sunday 21 December (today) at 7.30pm. The presentation will be followed by supper. It promises to be a spectacular event. All welcome.

Christmas Schedule 2014

Wednesday, 24 Dec

7 PM Mass at SPC Berala with children and families. Children are invited to dress up as shepherds, Magi (kings), angels.

Wednesday, 24 Dec

11 PM-11.45 PM Carols by candle light at SPC Berala

Thursday, 25 Dec

0 hours Solemn Midnight Mass at SPC Berala

Thursday, 25 Dec

8 AM Mass at SJW Auburn South

Thursday, 25 Dec

10 AM Mass at SPC Berala

Thursday, 25 Dec

11 AM – 3 PM Christmas Lunch in Jubilee Hall

Boxing Day, Friday, 26 Dec

10 AM Mass celebrating 30th anniversary of Fr Thomas' Ordination.





Prayer For Peace

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth.
I beseech you to guide all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace.
Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict, and war.
Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness, and hatred.
Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war.
Lead us to find peace, respect, and freedom.
Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against
ignorance, poverty, disease, and oppression.
Grant that we may grow in harmony, and friendship as brothers and sisters
created in your image, to your honour and praise.
Amen.

Other Notices

I LEAD 15 presented by the Catholic Guy Team Held on 4 -7 January at Mt Carmel retreat centre, 247 St Andrews Rd, Vorroville. I LEAD 15 will give young adults the skills essential in leading other people to higher levels of achievement in their spiritual, personal and professional lives. Cost \$159 Includes accommodation and food Ph: 1300 734 880 or visit ilead.thecatholicguy.com

Notre Dame University Course Information Day will be held on Tuesday, 06 January 2015 from 9.00am – 3.00pm at the University's campus on Broadway, just a short 10 minute walk from Central Station and Railway Square. Apply on the Course Information Day or at notredame.edu.au as applications for 2015 are still open. To register and for more information visit www.nd.edu.au/events/sydney

ACSA Christmas Movie Event for Young Adults You are invited to celebrate Christmas with ACSA NSW on Monday December 22, 6:00 pm at Event Cinemas, Castle Towers. Everyone is welcome to attend and cost only \$30 inclusive of food, drinks and the movie ticket. We will be watching Exodus, a movie directed by Ridley Scott (Director of Gladiator) on the story of Moses.

St Mary's Cathedral—Lights of Christmas 2014 The unique and spectacular Lights of Christmas at St Mary's Cathedral will run through to and including Christmas Day night. The projections begin at 8.30pm nightly and go to midnight. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Sydney the presenting partner this year is PAYCE and the theme is service – giving what we can to our family, friends and the community.

Sign Language Classes For The Catholic Community. The Ephpheta Centre, the Catholic Centre for the Deaf in the Archdiocese of Sydney will be providing signed language classes. Learning signed language may lead to work as a sign language interpreter, enhance one's ability to work in welfare related positions and support a person's existing pastoral contribution to their community. The classes will be quite informal but taught by some of the most competent teachers in Sydney. The cost of the course will be by donation and classes will be held in a central location in the Sydney Archdiocese. Places are limited and classes will begin very soon. Please contact Nicole Clark on (02) 9708 1396/0438 201 707 or ncole@ephpheta.org.au.

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

Feasts of the Week.

25 December - The Nativity of the Lord

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 Encyclopaedia 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.



Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45 AM Mass.	
Tuesday	6.45 AM Mass 6.30 PM Mass & Reconciliation	NO MASS
Wednesday	7.00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass 11.00 - 11.45 PM Carols by Candlelight in Church 12.00 AM Midnight Christmas Mass	
Thursday	10.00 AM Mass Christmas Day 11.00 AM - 3.00 PM Christmas Luncheon in Jubilee Hall	8.00 AM Mass Christmas Day
Friday	10.00 AM Mass 30th Anniversary of Fr Thomas' Ordination	
Saturday	8.00 AM Mass 9 - 10.00 AM Adoration & Novena & Reconciliation 5.00 PM Mass Feast Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
Sunday	10.00 AM Feast Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	8.00 AM Feast Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

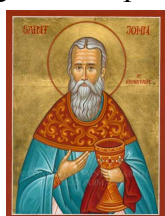
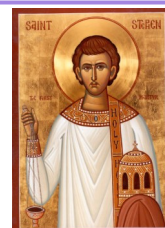
Mass Intentions - May they Rest in Peace

Anniversaries: Stephen Ross, Gloria & Astrid Bolonia, Consuelo Ibardolaza

Deceased: Fatima Bolonia, Leonard Gabrielle

Deceased members and friends of the following families: Ross & Mitchell Families,

26 December - St Stephen Died in Jerusalem about 35. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service (diakonia). Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).



27 December - St John First-century Galilean fisherman, son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James, left their nets to follow Jesus. With Peter, these "sons of thunder" form an inner group among the twelve. Probably the "disciple whom Jesus loved" of the Fourth Gospel and, according to ancient tradition, the author of this Gospel and also of three letters and the book of Revelation. Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis on Christian love.

28 December - Feast the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

This feast was established as part of the Christmas season in 1921 following promotion of the cult in the nineteenth century; it was linked to the octave of Christmas in 1969. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, itself subject to the difficulties and social pressures of its time, is offered as a model for Christian family life today.



Planned Giving Program Request Form

Your contribution to the Planned Giving Program of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the Financial Year you will receive a Receipt for your contributions which will enable you to claim Tax deduction. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate

Your Name:

Telephone No Email ID

☐

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.

YES/NO Tax deduction

☐

Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions.

(A credit card authority form will be sent to you for completion)

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.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the
heavens. (R.)

2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)

3. He will say to me: 'You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. (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

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Rom 16:25-27

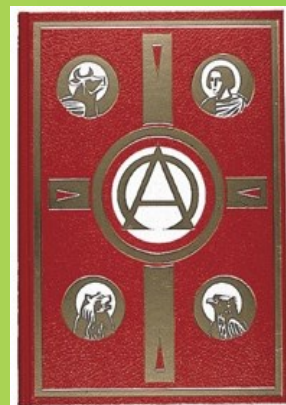
Lk 1:256-38

Next Sunday's Readings

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:22-40



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

28 DECEMBER 2014		HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Joseph MARMAN	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
ORGANIST	Kate PARISH		SAMOAN
CANTOR	Sergio EAMIGUEL		YOUTH
LECTOR/S	John DONNELLAN		Mai VU
	Noeline DONNELLAN	Jenny MICHAEL	Micheline BOTHAM
COMMENTATOR	Patricia DUFFY	Joe MOSES	Robert JAKSIC
GIFTS	Dorothy BOYD & Eileen FITZPATRICK		Roland JAVIER family
PIETY STALL	Maureen HEYS		John SHANLEY
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Rita JAKSIC
SP. MINISTER	Janet RYAN		Anna MANGANARO
HOSPITAL: Bob & Christine Kensey		ALTAR: Group 6 Korina Kinda, Antoinette Boudaher	
SPC CLEANERS: Howard Duff & Friends		COUNTERS: Group 4 Charlie & Kay Scully	
SJW CLEANERS: Irene Kula, Taoto Langi & Friends.		CHILDREN'S LITURGY: None during school holidays	
HOSPITALITY: This week Rani Sebastian will be hosting morning tea after 10.00am Mass. Next week Micheline Botham will be hosting .Thank you to our hospitality team for providing this very important ministry			

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel at the Bernardo home, 39 Third Ave, Berala

Please join them any evening at **7.30pm** for the Rosary.

To host the Pilgrim Statue contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

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



Holy Mass at Berala: Monday-Friday: 6.45 AM. Wednesday - Friday 9.15 AM (See Christmas Schedule in Bulletin)
Saturday 8 AM, 9 AM Adoration & Novena. **Lord's Day Mass:** Saturday 5 PM (Vigil), Sunday 10 AM.

Holy Mass at Auburn South: Tuesday 9 AM (school term only); **Lord's Day Mass:** Sunday 8 AM.

Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 9.00 AM - 10 AM.