

ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH BERALA



Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141
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Second Sunday of
Advent Year C
6 December 2015

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
Maureen Hynes
(Secretary)
Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),
Micheline Botham (Social
Committee) Jenny Michael
(Liturgy Committee)
Pat Kavanagh (Social
Justice), Jann Rockliff,
(Hospital Visit) Sam Duch,
Joe Moses, Rhia Victorino,
Arthur Doumit and
Principals of
the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

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

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel
Regents Park
Principal - Phil Townsend
T. 96449083

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

Prepare for the Joy

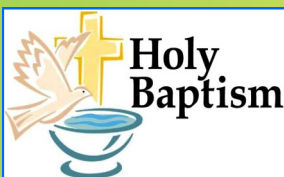


There was a time when Christmas meant a lot of excitement. Christmas gifts to the children meant a lot to them, because it was one of the rare occasions they could expect one. Families got together to enjoy traditional meals, some of them cooked only for Christmas. Everyone took time off work to celebrate Christmas. Therefore the wait for Christmas day was much valued and the day itself brought a kind of joy which was unparalleled. Now we live in a much more affluent society where we work so hard that most times we are time poor. We try to buy the joy with our wealth all through the year and Christmas has become only one in a series of big celebrations.

Ironically, unlike affluence, deprivation can cause greater joy. Babylonian exile was a period of terrible deprivation for the Jewish people. The Jews felt abandoned by God when Israel had been defeated, Jerusalem conquered, the temple ransacked and the people were sent to exile. In that situation the Prophet Baruch, secretary of prophet Jeremiah, imagined their return to their promised land in triumph. They would return like royalty, their route would be prepared for their glorious return – the hills flattened, the valleys filled in, to speed them on their way. They would travel not guarded by enemy soldiers but accompanied by God's mercy and integrity. The faithfulness of God would gather them once again in the Promised Land. This message caused much greater joy among the Jewish in diaspora than any prophecy could do while they were in the comfort of their homeland Israel. This is our first reading at Mass today.

The announcement of the birth of John as the prophet to prepare the way for the saviour caused much excitement and joy to the elderly couple Zechariah and Anna who were without any children till then. Unlike most couples they could experience much greater joy at this news because of the great deprivation they had experienced.

Deprivation combined with commitment to hope generate much greater joy than the celebration of affluence. After all, human life is in pursuit of joy. We need not throw away our fortunes to generate happiness. But we do need to be people committed to hope and connecting with the deprivation experienced of the less fortunate. This time of preparation for Christmas is the time and opportunity to connect with people who are feeling hopeless and help them. This is also the time to see what is spiritually lacking in personal life and connect with God so that we can generate much joy out of the fallen-ness. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great opportunity to do so. May this time be a great time to prepare for a much joyous Christmas.



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith
Matthew Nguyen
May he always know the love of God and feel His guiding
hand throughout his life



Happy Birthday Fr Spora!

On Sunday the 6th December there will be a birthday cake for Father Spora after the 8.00am mass at St Joseph the Worker. All parishioners are invited to join in this celebration.

Christmas Schedule 2015

Wednesday 23 Dec

7 PM Confession at SPC Berala

Thursday 24 Dec

7 PM Mass at SPC Berala with children and families.

Children are invited to dress up as shepherds,
Magi (kings), angels.

Thursday 24 Dec

11.00 PM - 11.45 PM Carols by candlelight at SPC Berala

Thursday 24 Dec

12.00 AM Solemn Midnight Mass at SPC Berala

Friday 25 Dec

8 AM Mass at SJW Auburn South

Friday 25 Dec

10 AM Mass at SPC Berala

Friday 25 Dec

11.30 AM – 2.30 PM Christmas Lunch in the Jubilee Hall



Christmas Tree at St Joseph the Worker Church

Parishioners are invited to take a gift card from the Christmas Tree at St Joseph the Worker and then bring a present and place it under the Tree. The presents will be given to those in need in our community.

Christmas tree at St Peter Chanel Church

The Christmas Giving Tree has been erected on the side altar and all parishioners are invited to leave a gift. Please label wrapped gifts with who they may be most appropriate for (i.e. child, man). Your generosity will help bring a smile to those less fortunate. Thank you

Holy Family for Christmas

We need a BABY JESUS, Mary, and Joseph to dress up for Christmas Vigil at 7 PM. Any parents wishing to dress up their baby to be Jesus, and any teenager wishing to be either Mary or Joseph at the Vigil Mass is welcome to contact Fr Thomas or the parish office. Parents also may start planning to dress up your children as shepherds or angels, or kings for the Vigil Mass.

The Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP Syrian Refugee Appeal.

The Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP Syrian Refugee Appeal is the official appeal of the Archdiocese of Sydney. It's an opportunity for all Catholics to respond generously to the needs of Syrian refugees fleeing persecution. If you can offer support, large or small, please call the appeal hotline on 1800 690 302 or visit catholiccare.org/Syria.



SPC - SJW KIDS CAMP 14-16 JANUARY 2016

We are proud to present our parish's very first kids camp -

GOD IS LOVE: CELEBRATING WITH FRIENDSHIP, FAITH AND FUN!

To be held over three amazing days over the summer holidays, this will be a day camp (no sleepover required!) on the grounds of St Peter Chanel for all 7-12 year olds.

Filled with fun activity and teaching based on our Catholic faith, it is an event not to be missed.

Cost is \$15 per child (with concessions for siblings - \$25 for two children and \$30 for 3 children)

Please register your interest now as places are limited.

Please contact Rhia Victorino (SPC) on 0420 966 463 or Karim/Gloria Kassis (SJW) on 0408 404 130/0414 493 154.

Kids Camp 2016

The SPC-SJW Kids camp organisers are looking for volunteers - both adults and high school/uni students. If you are available for any or all of the days of the camp and are interested in sharing your friendship, faith and fun with our kids, please contact Rhia Victorino on 0420 966 463.



Children celebrating the making of a Crib on the porch of SPC Church

Sacramental Program 2016

Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation are three sacraments children receive during their Primary School Years. Our Parish Schools always help the families and the parish to prepare the children for these sacraments. But the schools or the parish should not diminish the joy and responsibility of the parents in preparing their children for the Sacraments. After all, it is their sharing of faith with their children at the core all these programs. Therefore to enhance the joy and involvement of the parents in the preparation for the Sacraments, there have been some changes made to the program next year. In addition to the school staff, there will be a parish team assisting the parents with the process of preparation. The Sacramental Team of the parish consists of Marisa Squadrito (Parish Secretary), Sister Karen Nguyen, Maureen Hynes, and Josie Pangalanan. The program used for preparation is the GRATIA SERIES published by the CCD of the Archdiocese of Sydney. I have been part of the preparation of this program and most of the team members are experienced in using it. It involves meetings for the parents, children with parents, and for First Communion, a personal interview with me, your parish priest as well. You will be able to enrol for the Sacraments in February 2016. This will allow plenty of time for parental involvement in the preparation. More details will be announced early next year.

Christmas Lunch Donations

Donations are needed for our luncheon on Christmas day to ensure it is a success. We require donations of salads, desserts, meat, hot food and drinks. If you can help please fill in the Christmas Lunch Donation Sheet located at the rear of the church. Together we can bring some joy to many. For more details contact Evelene Safadi on 0416140378


**The Catholic Parish of
St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala**
 Invite all who wish
 to share the joy of Christmas with others
 to a Christmas Lunch
 Food and drink provided
Date: 25 December 2014
Place: Jubilee Hall,
64 Kingsland Rd Berala (next to church)
Time: 11.30am to 2.30pm
 RSVP for lunch and transport: Please phone
 Anne or Christine no later than
 Friday 11 December on 96437794

Opening of the Door of Mercy Sunday 13 December 2016

Pope Francis has asked that a "Door of Mercy" be inaugurated in each Diocese around the world on Sunday 13th December 2015. The Holy See has issued a special liturgical ceremony for the opening of the Doors of Mercy in the diocesan cathedrals.

In the Archdiocese of Sydney, the Door of Mercy at St Mary's Cathedral will be opened by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at a special liturgical celebration commencing at 10.30am on Sunday 13th December. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.



Pilgrimages through the Door of Mercy throughout the year

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has encouraged us all to receive the gift of the Indulgence for the Jubilee Year of Mercy by making a pilgrimage to the Doors of Mercy:

"I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral or in the churches designated by the Diocesan Bishop, and in the four Papal Basilicas in Rome, as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion. Likewise, I dispose that the Indulgence may be obtained in the Shrines in which the Door of Mercy is open and in the churches which traditionally are identified as Jubilee Churches. It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world."

Pope Francis, Letter to the president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the new Evangelization, 1 September 2015

Other Notices

Youth Summer Schools of Evangelisation 2016 – A Great Summer Retreat! What are you doing this summer? Come on a week long retreat for young people wanting to encounter Jesus in a new way and share the Christian challenge with others. Theme: "The Joy of the Lord is our Strength" Neh 8:10. Includes lectures and seminars, prayer, music, loads of fun and new friends. Two locations in NSW – Bathurst and Paterson (10-17 January 2016). Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community for over 25 years. For ages 16-35. For more information see www.summerschool.org.au.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration St. Joachim's Parish, John Street, Lidcombe will start their Adoration program from 8 December 2015. The Church will provide access to allow parishioners and visitors to spend one hour each week in Adoration. This will be available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. If you would like to commit to one hour on a full time basis please contact the Parish Office on 9649 7030 or Trevor Brewty on 0429777518. Casual visitation would also be welcome."

A Christmas Celebration! Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra including congregational carols and music. Friday, 18 December at 7.30pm St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Tickets available online at www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/st-marys-cathedral or 02 8256 2222.

Bereavement Support Bethany Support Group. An invitation is extended to join the group for morning tea and a chat. For those grieving the death of someone close and those who support them. Prayer, reflection and gentle conversation to be held on Wed 9 December from 10am to 12.00pm. Venue: Polding Centre, Level 8 Barlow Room, 133 Liverpool Street, Sydney. RSVP: Patricia Thomas Mob 0438 263 036/ 02 9649 6423 or Email: patriciat@catholiccemeteries.com.au.

The Face of Mercy, the new Archdiocesan Advent Resource. In April this year, Pope Francis announced a "Year of Mercy", to commence on 8 December. As part of our Archdiocesan response to this, an online daily Advent resource connecting the season of Advent with the theme of mercy will be provided. You can subscribe now for this free daily resource at <http://www.thefaceofmercy.org.au/>. For more information, please visit

Parish Diary This Week!

| | St Peter Chanel | St Joseph the Worker |
|-----------|--|---|
| Monday | 6.45 AM Mass | |
| Tuesday | 6.45 AM Mass | 9.00 AM Mass 7.45 PM Legion of Mary (SJW Hall) |
| Wednesday | 6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass | |
| Thursday | 6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass 7.30 PM Group 2 singing practice at 8 Wallace St Sefton – All welcome | 9.00 -10.00 AM Playgroup in Mark Spora Room |
| Friday | 6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass | |
| Saturday | 8.00 AM Mass 9.00 - 10.00 AM Adoration, Novena, Reconciliation 5.00 PM Mass | |
| Sunday | 10.00 AM Mass 10.30 AM opening of the Door of Mercy St Mary's Cathedral 5.00 PM Christmas Singing Practice in the Church-All Welcome | 8.00 AM Mass |

Mass Intentions

Sick: Fr Graham Kings

Deceased: Fatima Bolonia, Nada Lolric, Joan Ou, Louise, Rhia & Lucien Descombes

Deceased members and friends of : Ross & Mitchell Family, Irwin & O'Dwyer Families

A Christmas Celebration! Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra including congregational carols and music. Friday, 18 December at 7.30pm St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Tickets available online at www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/st-marys-cathedral or 02 8256 2222.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries offers a confidential voicemail number: 0400 092 555. There are healing retreats regularly in the Sydney area that offer women and me a spiritual way through grief and loss. Contact them for a non judgemental listening ear through one on one support or a referral to a trained counsellor or a trained, compassionate priest. Visit www.rachelsvineyard.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.antao@gmail.com

Sara's place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 96998190



Feasts of the Week.

7 December - St Ambrose Born in Trier (Germany) about 340. Ordained bishop on this day in 374 and died at Milan (Italy) on Holy Saturday 397. A lawyer who became governor in Milan and who was still a catechumen when elected bishop by popular acclaim. Upheld orthodoxy against the Arians and won many Christian converts. Encouraged monasticism and defended the independence of the Church against secular authority. Remembered as an outstanding pastor through his writings on the sacraments and Christian ethics and through his homilies, instructions, and hymns.

8 December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary This feast had its origin in the East as the "Conception of Mary by Saint Anne". It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the "Immaculate Conception" and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.



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. The Lord has done great things for us; we are
filled with joy

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **R.**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad **R.**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap **R.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **R**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon:

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

Today's Readings

Baruch 5:1-9
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Lk 3:1-6

Next Sunday's Readings

Zeph 3:14-18
Phil 4: 4-7
Lk 3:10-18

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

| 13 DECEMBER 2015 | | 3 RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | |
|--|-------------------|---|----------------------|
| MASS | VIGIL (SPC) | 8AM (SJW) | 10AM (SPC) |
| ACOLYTE | Joseph MARMAN | William ANDREWS | Roland JAVIER |
| ORGANIST | Kate PARISH | | Elmer |
| CANTOR | Joji SALAR | | |
| LECTOR/S | John DONNELLAN | | Rhia VICTORINO |
| | Noeline DONNELLAN | Jenny MICHAEL | Hoa NGUYEN |
| COMMENTATOR | Katrina YIP | Joe MOSES | Hilary NGUYEN |
| GIFTS | Dorothy BOYD | | Roland JAVIER family |
| PIETY STALL | Charlie SCULLY | | John SHANLEY |
| SP. MINISTER | Warren RYAN | | Karen NGUYEN |
| SP. MINISTER | Janet RYAN | | Anna MANGANARO |
| HOSPITAL: William Andrews & Robert Jaksic | | ALTAR: Group 2 Bolonia family | |
| SPC CLEANERS: Rey Quinoy, YFC & friends | | COUNTERS: Group 2 Christine Kensey; Julie Toby | |
| SJW CLEANERS: Maris & John Marsh | | CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Vinita Nazareth & Anna Facer | |
| HOSPITALITY SPC: P Lopez | | SJW: F Attard & W Andrews | |



"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel at the Tham home,
6 Kibo Rd, Berala . Please join 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.

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45AM & Wednesday to Friday 9.15 AM
Saturday 8.00AM, 9.00AM Adoration & Novena. **Lord's Day Mass:** Saturday 5.00PM (Vigil), Sunday 10.00AM.
Holy Mass at Auburn South: Tues No Mass (During school term only) **Lord's Day Mass:** Sunday 8.00 AM
Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 9.00AM - 10.00AM.

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 NoEmail

- ☐ Yes, please organise a set of envelopes. YES/NO Tax deduction (*please circle*)
- ☐ Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (*An authority form will be sent for completion*)