

## ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH BERALA



Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141

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Fourth Sunday of

Advent Year C

20 December 2015

### 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

### 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

## The Best Gift, God's Love

It's gift giving time now. Parents take much care to find appropriate gifts for their children. But what makes the gifting special and rewarding is the kiss of love and the sweet words of thanks the parents receive from their dear children as they receive the gifts. Love is the value of gifts, not the price tag. The greater the expression of love in gifting and receiving gifts, the greater the value of the gift. Therefore the promises of gifts to the children and our dear ones contribute a lot to the making of families and building up of good relations. Good promises make a wonderful time of expectation. In the end when the expectations are realised there is so much joy generated that it causes celebration.

Pregnant Mary travelled about 150 kilometres from Nazareth to a place called Ein Karem about 8 kilometres west of Jerusalem to meet her heavily pregnant cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth saw the child she has conceived as the realisation of God's promise in her old age. For Mary too, the fruit of her womb was a great gift of God's promise. They both were so joyous that God had shown great love and gifted the fruit of their wombs. Therefore the leaping of baby John in Elizabeth's womb is likened to the dancing of David in front of the Arc of the Covenant. For King David the Arc of the Covenant was the mark of God's special dwelling in their midst. Similarly for Elizabeth the presence of pregnant Mary was the mark of God's coming into our midst. Therefore they both praised God.

On this last Sunday of Advent we are praising God for his coming into our midst, God becoming one like us to live with us. Let this sense of God gifting us with his love overtake all other expectations of joy in our lives. If we are to look for joy in prosperity or price tags of the gifts we are receiving, our celebrations will be short of real joy.

In our frantic effort to find perfect gifts to provide joy to the family, we may remember that the poor people in less fortunate parts of the world also find joy. Sometimes they find more joy than their more affluent cousins in other parts of the world. It is the ability to look into the future with hope and appreciate the expressions of love from our dear ones that generates an abundance of joy. Let us not forget it. Therefore let the young parents direct the vision of their children to the love of the Father in heaven who gifted us with his Son, Jesus Christ. Let them teach their children how to enter into the mercy of God so that they will be called blessed by everyone. The joy of God being with us is the best of gift one can wish for their dear ones.



## 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

On Wednesday evening at 7.00pm, the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation will be offered in St Peter Chanel Church. All are welcome to the celebration of God's mercy.

**May the Peace  
and Joy of  
Christmas be  
with you now  
and in the New Year**

### Fr Kings back in Nursing Home

There has been some improvement in the health of Fr Graham Kings, he is now able to recognise his sisters. He is now moved back to Nursing Home. But his dementia is still very bad. He needs our prayers.



### New Principal for SJW Gai Melville

John Kennedy, the principal of St Joseph the Worker Primary School has been appointed to Sefton Parish School from January 2016. It was a very late move. In his place Gai Melville has been appointed as acting principal for a one year term from January. Gai has been acting principal at St Francis of Assisi Regional Catholic Primary School Paddington. Since John's move was very late in the year, there was not enough time to undertake the process of appointing a permanent principal to replace him. Next year, the process will be undertaken for a more permanent appointment. The parish welcomes Gai as one of the pastoral leaders of the parish in the role acting principal of St Joseph the Worker Parish School.

### Christmas Carols in the Park

Students from St Peter Chanel Primary School sang Carols at the Combined Church's Christmas Carols in Guilfoyle Park, Regents Park last Sunday.



### The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

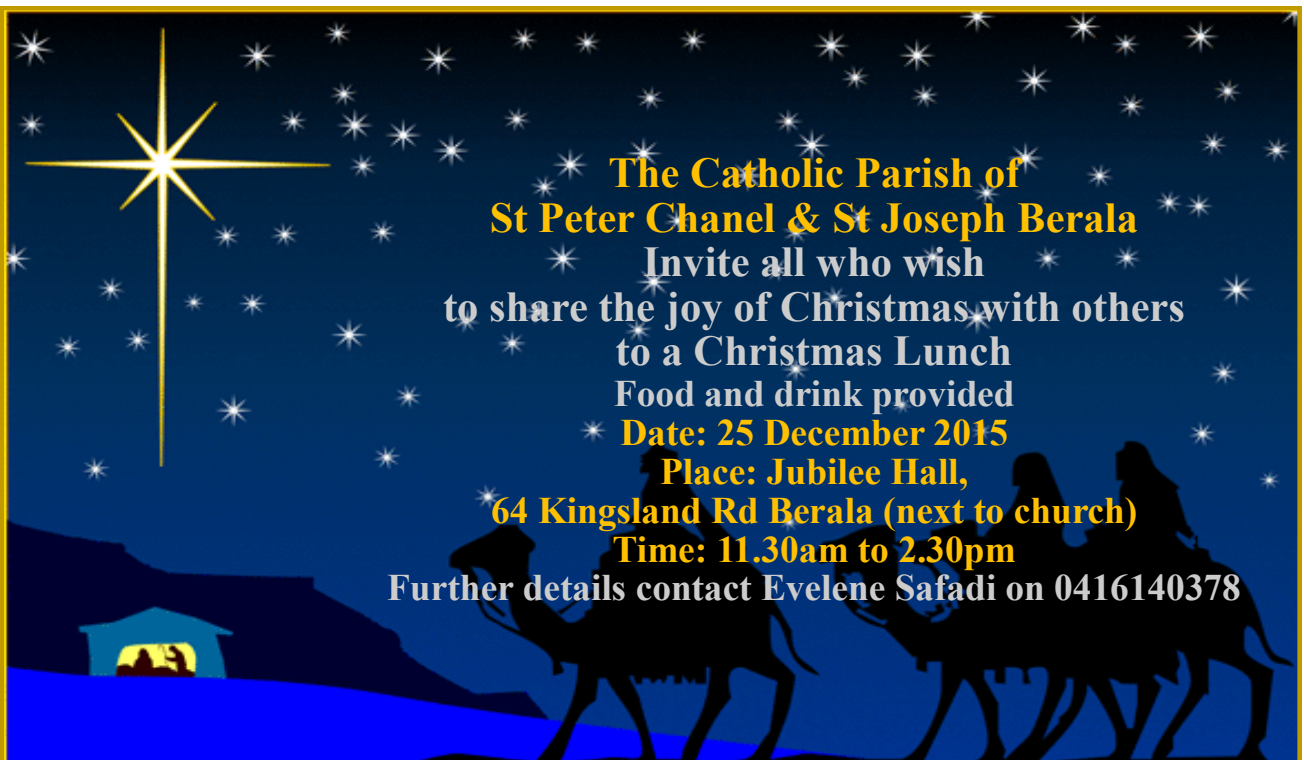
Invite all who wish  
to share the joy of Christmas with others  
to a Christmas Lunch  
Food and drink provided

**Date: 25 December 2015**

**Place: Jubilee Hall,  
64 Kingsland Rd Berala (next to church)**

**Time: 11.30am to 2.30pm**

Further details contact Evelene Safadi on 0416140378







### Family Educator for SPC

We are privileged to have a Family Faith Educator appointed to St Peter Chanel Primary School. It is Barbara Mucha. She is currently a part time teacher at SPC Primary.

Previously she has worked as Religious Education Co-ordinator at St Joseph the Worker primary School for some years. Her role is primarily to work with parents of the school and liaise them with the worshipping community of the parish. You can expect some new initiatives for next year. Barbara will be of great help in implementing the new sacramental program in 2016.

### Fr Spora, 60 years Priest

The sixtieth anniversary of priestly ordination of Fr Mark Spora is on Monday, 21 December. More than half of his priestly life was with St Joseph the Worker parish. It is a milestone in his priestly ministry and our prayers are with him.



### Carols at C3 Church

Some members of our parish choir sang at a Christmas Carols organised by Jacobite Orthodox Church at Silverwater. They were so good that they got a standing ovation. Out of many groups that performed St Peter Chanel and St Joseph were the only ones who got the standing ovation. Such was the appreciation of our wonderful choir. Many thanks to Maureen Hynes and Joji Salar for their leadership.

### Ordination Anniversary

Fr Thomas will be 31 years a priest on Boxing Day. He was ordained for Kothamangalam Diocese in Kerala, India on 26 Dec 1984. On Boxing Day he will be Concelebrating with other priests at 8.00 am at St Peter Chanel. You are welcome to join him on this special Day

## Christmas Schedule 2015

### Wednesday 23 Dec

7 PM 2nd Rite Reconciliation at SPC Berala

### Thursday 24 Dec Christmas Eve

7 PM Mass at SPC Berala with children and families.

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

11.00 PM - 11.45 PM Carols by candlelight at SPC Berala

12.00 AM Solemn Midnight Mass at SPC Berala



### Friday 25 Dec

8 AM Mass at SJW Auburn South

10 AM Mass at SPC Berala

11.30 AM – 2.30 PM Christmas Lunch in the Jubilee Hall

### Saturday 26 Dec Boxing Day

8 AM Concelebrated Mass. NO Novena / adoration

### Sister Dorothy in South Sudan

I have received a couple of emails from Sister Dorothy who is now in South Sudan trying to help people in dire need in a country made unsafe by a civil war. This was also a response to an offer of a truck load of new clothing for the people in South Sudan. Arthur Doumit found the clothing for them. This email gives some idea of the conditions in which the people in South Sudan live.

*Dear Fr Thomas*

*Greetings from this isolated part of South Sudan it is always so good to hear from home. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and offer of clothing as the need here is great the people are poorer than the poor and hunger is evident everywhere. Many of the children especially in this area are suffering malnutrition and many of the childhood illnesses are killing the children and the elderly. People are dying young and from preventable illness. Medical supplies are difficult to find so at the moment I haven't opened the little clinic as there are no medicines to give. The past few days I received some money so hope to go to the nearest town to try and buy but for the past days there has been fierce fighting and some people killed so the town is in lockdown and the roads are unsafe to travel. Now to answer your question and offer of clothes they would be very much appreciated but unfortunately there is no way of getting anything into South Sudan There is no post or shipping and the banks are not safe or their exchange rate is so low it makes it not worthwhile. The group I am with, Solidarity with South Sudan, has a way of getting money in and out but at this stage I am not sure about the How. Please continue to pray for us as the people are in such need and the warring factions continue. There are numerous displaced people, refugees in camps all over the country. I hope to travel today to get a few medicines especially for the children please God the road will be safe and there will be some to buy.*

*Wishing you Arthur and the Parish a Blessed and Happy Christmas and New Year I am relying on your prayers for peace here for the people.*

*Peace. Dorothy*

Sister Dorothy may be contacted on the following email: [dab3au@yahoo.com.au](mailto:dab3au@yahoo.com.au)

### GEM: for birthday celebrations

If your Birthday is in January or February, the GEM group of the parish would like to celebrate it on Saturday 13th February, 2016 at 6.30. Please let the parish office know if you are coming. You are also welcome to invite people who do not normally get to celebrate such occasions normally. You can invite them to this GEM Dinner even if their birthday does not fall in January or February. Any volunteers wishing to be part of GEM Group can contact Pat Kavanagh on 96464283 or [ozziek@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ozziek@bigpond.net.au)





## 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.

## Flowers for Christmas

We are in need of flowers for St Peter Chanel Church for our Christmas celebrations. If you are able to donate flowers, or make a cash donation to purchase flowers, please contact the Parish Office.

## Choir Practice

The last choir practice before Christmas is this Sunday, 20 December at 4.30pm in St Peter Chanel Church

## 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.



## Other Notices

**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](http://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](mailto:cottageretreats@bigpond.com)

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

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby E: [clary.antaog@gmail.com](mailto:clary.antaog@gmail.com)

**Sara's place:** For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit [www.sarasplace.org.au](http://www.sarasplace.org.au) Ph: 96998190

**Positions Vacant St Mary's Cathedral House** Applications are being considered for 2 positions at St Mary's Cathedral House - Sacramental and Special Mass Coordinator, Part Time working 4 days per week, Wednesdays to Saturdays, hours are 10am to 6pm and Administrative Assistant, Full Time working 5 days per week, Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm. For further information please contact Anthony Spata, REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055. Applications close Monday, 21 December 2015.



**Lights of Christmas 2015** will illuminate St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney's oldest and grandest Cathedral. An open and encompassing event for the whole community. Lights of Christmas presented by PAYCE will run from December 10 – 25, 2015. Starting each evening at 7:30pm with a choir performance. The light show comes on just after dusk and stays on until midnight. The event is presented by PAYCE and hosted by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, with the support of our education partner the Australian Catholic University and supporting partners Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria, and TDC.

**Holy Family Sunday - Pilgrimage of Families to Door of Mercy (27 Dec 2015)** For the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has invited the faithful to obtain a plenary indulgence by making a brief pilgrimage to the Door of Mercy in their diocese. Families in the Archdiocese of Sydney are invited to enter the Door of Mercy at St Mary's Cathedral prior to the 10.30am Solemn Mass on Holy Family Sunday, 27 December. To fulfil the conditions of obtaining the indulgence, each family member must be in a state of grace, receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist within several days, recite the Profession of faith and say a prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. E: [lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org) or Ph: 9390 8400

**Position Vacant: Cook Fairfield Presbytery Fairfield** Parish is inviting applications for the position of Cook for their presbytery. This position mostly comprises of preparing meals in the presbytery four days (12 hours in total) per week, together with basic cleaning of tablecloths, napkins, etc. Enquiries to Fr de Stoop, Parish Priest. For a copy of the Job Description or enquiries, contact the Parish Secretary: 9724 5997, or email Fr de Stoop, the Parish Priest: [pp@olrfairfield.org.au](mailto:pp@olrfairfield.org.au) Applications must include a Cover Letter and Resume and be sent to the Parish Priest by or on 18 January 2016.

**The CWF Summer Bonanza Raffle** was drawn at 12 noon on 11 December 2015.

The winners are:

1st PRIZE #13955 Renee Azzopardi of Hurstville Grove NSW won \$5,000 worth of shopping vouchers

2nd PRIZE #13252 Kevin Gurney of Heathcote NSW 2233 - won \$1,000 shopping vouchers

3rd PRIZE #49845 Michelle Dean of Heathcote NSW 2233 - won \$500 in shopping vouchers.

First prize was sold by the Fundraising Office with both Second and Third prizes sold by St John Bosco Parish Engadine.

The Summer Bonanza Raffle raised approximately \$45,000 for our parishes and agencies who benefited from 100% of their ticket sales.

# Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45 AM Mass	
Tuesday	6.45 AM Mass	7.45 PM Legion of Mary (SJW Hall)
Wednesday	6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass 7.00 PM 2nd Rite Reconciliation	
Thursday	6.45 AM Mass 7.00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass 11.00 - 11.45 PM Christmas Carols in the Church 12.00AM Christmas Midnight Mass	
Friday	10.00 AM Christmas Mass 11.30 AM Christmas Lunch in the Jubilee Hall	8.00 AM Christmas Mass
Saturday	8.00 AM Mass 5.00 PM Mass	
Sunday	10.00 AM Mass 5.00 PM (27th) Extra Choir practice in the church to prepare for Golden Wedding Mass and Feast day of Mary the Mother of God.	8.00 AM Mass

## Mass Intentions

**Sick:** Nada Lovric, Fr Graham Kings

**Anniversaries:** Maria Yen Vu, Consuelo Ibardolaza, Astrid Bolonia

**Deceased:** Fatima Bolonia, Carmen Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Bert Portelli, Carmen Portelli, Anthony Spiteri

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

## Feasts of the Week.

**25 December - The Nativity of the Lord** - First mentioned in the fourth century, the feast spread from Rome to the East, its importance enhanced by the Christological controversies at the time. The date may have been determined as a counter to the pagan solstice festival of the Birth of the Sun of Righteousness. It may also derive from the feast of the Annunciation on 25 March (nine months earlier) on the basis that this was the date of the crucifixion and that significant individuals died on the date they began life. The day celebrates the mystery of the incarnation which is fully revealed only in the events of the Easter Triduum.



**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 - 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.





## 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.** Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,

O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name **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

Micah 5:1-4

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:39-44

### Next Sunday's Readings

Sirach 3:2-6,12-14

Col 3:12-21

Lk 2:41-52



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

27 DECEMBER 2015		THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Mario CAPRA
ORGANIST	Kate PARISH		SAMOAN
CANTOR	Sergio EAMIGUEL		YOUTH
LECTOR/S	Phirum DUCH	Ken HARTMAN	Anna FACER
	Lawrence LOPEZ	Joe MOSES	Sharon IACONO
COMMENTATOR	Christine KENSEY	Maris MARSH	Robert JAKSIC
GIFTS	Moya LEWIS & Helen Le MOTTEE		VICTORINO Family
PIETY STALL	Adele MELER		Anna FACER
SP. MINISTER	Joy SKERRITT		Mai VU
SP. MINISTER	Phirum DUCH		Anna MANGANARO
<b>HOSPITAL:</b> Ken Hartman & Jenny Michaels		<b>ALTAR:</b> Group 4 A Yip; M Botham; A Tumapon	
<b>SPC CLEANERS:</b> Howard Duff & Friends		<b>COUNTERS:</b> Group 4 Charlie & Kay Scully	
<b>SJW CLEANERS:</b> I Kula, T Langi & Friends		<b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY:</b> School holidays	
<b>HOSPITALITY SPC:</b> Anne Marie		<b>SJW:</b> Jenny Michael	



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

**PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel** at the Hazboun home,

6 Larcombe St, Regents Park. 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 9.00 AM (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 No .....Email .....

☐ 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*)