St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala



Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141, Ph: 96447787 E: info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au Parish Website: www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, facebook: stpeterstjoseph

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Wednesday to Friday 9.15am, Saturday 8.00am **Adoration & Novena**: Saturday 9.00am

Lord's Day Mass Berala: Saturday 5.00pm (Vigil), Sunday 8.00am & Sunday 10.00am Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 9.00am - 10.00am. Or contact the parish office for any other time. For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR A

5 JANUARY 2020

First Reading Is 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Second Reading Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Mt 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea

during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11

R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. R

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. R

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. R

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. R

Gospel Acclamation Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; And have come to adore the Lord. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Cf Mt 2:2

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 42:1-4. 6-7**2nd Reading: **Acts 10:34-38**Gospel: **Mt 3:13-17**

Parish Priest

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

Priest in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari, Cor Bishop T. (02) 8723 9192 M. 0418 459 431

Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au Tues to Fri 9am -3pm T. (02) 9644 7787

Sacramental Co-ordinator

Gloria Kassis (0414 493 154) sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Youth Ministry

amanda.gahan@syd.catholic.edu.au susie.mravunac@syd.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

Pastoral Council

Karim Kassis (Chair)

T. 0408 404 130

Charlie Scully (Vice Chair, Project Manager) T. 0402 071 849

Maureen Hynes (Secretary, Parish Choir)
Jennifer Rush (Asst Secretary, Safeguarding)
Anthony Kasule, Arthur Doumit (Retreats),
Brenda Wendt-Hussein (Catechists), Amanda
Gahan (SVDP & Youth), Jenny Michael, Joji
Salar, Micheline Botham, Renee Salar, Rhia
Victorino, Vinita Nazareth, and Principals of
the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)

T. (02) 9644 8859

Joe Moses, Sylvia Jukic, Brendon Nazareth (Finance Controller)

Plenary 2020

Alicia Moore

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park T. (02) 9644 9083 Principal - Phil Townsend Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South T. (02) 9646 1434 Principal - Gai Melville Family Educator - Angela Finnane

Safeguarding Office. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office: Phone (02) 9390 5810
CatholicCare. Provides caring advice and advocacy to help families . CCareline 13 18 19 | CatholicCare.org

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

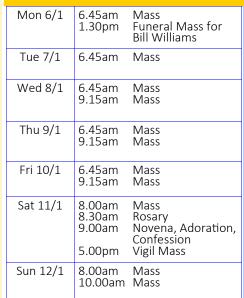
(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Healing After Abortion: 0400 092 555

Sara's Place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit

www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 9699 8190

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK





"Family that pray together stay together" PILGRIM STATUE

FROM ST PETER CHANEL at Montfort Family 16 Smith Street, Regents Park

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

To host the Pilgrim Statue and Rosary prayer please contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

From Legion of Mary, Berala at the Mayo Home To host the Rosary Statue Legion of Mary, Berala call Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.

12 JANUARY 2020		THE B	APTISM OF THE LORD	
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Charlie SCULLY	Trevor BREWTY	
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	Alannah KASSIS	Elmer's Group	
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Jenny MICHAEL	Sharon IACONO	
	Noelene DONNELLAN	William ANDREWS	Latisha ILBOUDO	
COMMENTATOR	Lawrence LOPEZ	Karim KASSIS	Rhia VICTORINO	
SP. MINISTER	Janet RYAN		Anna MANGANARO	
SP. MINISTER	Christine KENSEY		Amanda DOWDELL	
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	John SHANLEY	
GREETERS	Dante & Lynda AMORES	Loutoa OLIE	Alan THAM, Suly TAN, Gilbert KIM	

•	Altar & Sacristy: Group 6 Korina Kinda, Antoinette Boudaher
Hospital Communion Sun: Charlie & Kay Scully	
Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group	Children's liturgy: N/A

Saturday 8AM	11 JANUARY	
LECTOR FOR MASS	Christine KENSEY	

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Tony Draybi

Recently Deceased: Bill Williams, Emmanuel Florendo, Paul Scully

Deceased: Fr Pascal Chang, Dominador Tan, Josefina Tan, Theresita Sabayton, Oscar Villegas, Augusto Villegas, Theresita Villegas, Estefania Sarmiento

Anniversary: Patrick Lynch, Violet Lynch, Aidan Lynch, Siobhan Morris, Edith Amores, Maria Amores

Deceased Members and Friends of: Amores Family, O'Dwyer & Erwin

Families

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord; and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

In Time of Drought Prayer

O God, Lord of all creation, by whose power the whole earth came to be, look upon our parched land, we pray,

and bestow upon it abundant rain, That pastures, fields and paddocks may by your goodness thrive once more.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit One God, for ever and ever.

Reveal God in the Most Unlikely Situation

Two wheelie bins are side by side. After the bushfire inferno that raged through Cobargo, one of the wheelies was left intact next to the melted red bin making the shape of a pool of blood in a murder scene. It is difficult to understand the fury and the unpredictability of the terrible bushfire that is burning up houses, properties and lives. The Prime Minister rightly said that we cannot control the weather, but we can choose our response. Let us choose to help and support the affected people in this bushfire season, providing hope and support to the people who need it most at this time. In doing so, you are just showing our human charity to them, but in a way we show the face Christ to them. After all, our Lord and Saviour is not an ideology. Our Lord is the saviour, incarnate into human history. Jesus was not born just for those who were to be his disciples, but for all humanity. It is the disciples who make Christ present to those in apparently hopeless situations and in the most unlikely situations.

Epiphany means Showing forth of God. The showing forth of God, according to the story of the Magi, happened in the most unlikely situation. It is not normal for anyone to expect to see the revelation of God in a poor manger. Matthew, in his Gospel, states again and again that the birth of Jesus was the fulfilment of prophesies of a Messiah according to Jewish tradition and the Bible. Yet ironically, it is not the people of Jerusalem who were delighting in the birth of baby Jesus. In fact, the whole of Jerusalem and the Roman imperial power were oblivious to the divinity of the child. Through the story of Magi, Matthew makes one more point. It is the people from outside the territory of Israel, from the East, who followed the star of hope (David) to the place of the God incarnate. God's revelation is mysterious and to be expected in the most unlikely situations. There is also no boundary to God's revelation. People from all over the world are lead to where God is. Some acknowledge it and some do not. It also encourages us not to lose hope and trust in God even in unlikely and apparently hopeless situations. There is no situation God cannot transform. It all depends on whether you are prepared to follow the star of hope, to where it leads and not to the splendour and comfort of the elite. The wise people who visited the child Jesus went home a different way! With an encounter with Jesus these wise people were transformed into 'new people'. They were not the same. Therefore, the path they followed in their life thereafter was not the same. So will it be with you, too when you encounter Jesus and form an intimacy with him. At the conclusion of the Christmas season, celebrating the second Christmas in the Feast of Epiphany, show yourself as someone who has encountered Jesus and formed an intimacy with him. Let the world know that you are taking a new path in your life. Not even the natural disasters shall annihilate your journey of hope. You are the wise people leading others from all situations to meet the saviour who shares our human history with all its pains, sorrows and failures. Properties may be lost, but not the Lord. The magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to fulfil the prophesies of the OT. You bring the gifts of compassion, charity and fellowship to fulfil the command of Jesus Christ our saviour.

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 2:1-12

Have you thought? – Epiphany The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in In some translations, the 'wise men' a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

Historical Context – The Magi

of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Church Shop Drop by our Church Store and grab a gift for that special someone. We have a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The Church Shop is open on weekends before and after the 5.00pm Saturday Vigil and Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am masses. If you have any product enquiry, please contact the Parish Office.

The Lord has made his salvation known to the whole world

From a sermon of Saint Pope Leo the Great (5th Century)

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ.

A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judaea only, but in the whole world, so that his name may be great in all Israel.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, who has made us worthy, in the words of the Apostle, to share the position of the saints in light, who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you.

This is the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised.

This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name. Again, the Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognise and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

WHAT'S NEW?

Bill Williams Passes Away

Bill (William) Williams one of the long time parishioners is gone for his eternal reward on Christmas eve. He had been unwell for a short period. His funeral Mass will be celebrated at 1.30 PM on Monday 6 January. He was one of the dedicated volunteers of Housie and a handyman for the parish. He was also involved in a number of weekly parish activities. Now Bill is gone to be with his wife Marie who died in May 2019. May their souls rest in peace.



St Vincent de Paul

Thank You!

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank 'all' of you who donated and delivered Christmas Hampers to those in need. Personal contact where possible cannot be replaced. Without you it would not have been possible.

Special Appeal

To assist the drought affected areas of Inverell and Glenn Inness has attracted assistance/donations from our local Catholic primary and high schools, parishioners and The Saint Vincent de Paul Society in the Parramatta Diocese. Donations of canned food, toys and good, clean clothing will be welcomed and accepted up to and including Friday the 17th of January.

The intention is to have "Vinnies" trucks drive through Glenn Inness and Inverell on Sunday the 26th of January 2020 "Australia Day". Contact Arthur Doumit on 0417 270 923 if you require further information.

Pilgrimage of The Relics of Saints Therese, Louis & Zelie Martin

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most popular Saints of modern times, will visit Australia on a four-month pilgrimage along with the major relics of her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin.

From February to May 2020, the family's relics will travel across the country to 17 dioceses in city and rural areas, with major opportunities for devotees in Sydney. he pilgrimage is being coordinated by Catholic Mission, in partnership with InvoCare, and will link with InvoCare's funeral homes, including WN Bull Funerals and Guardian Funerals in Sydney. s part of the National Pilgrimage of The Relics of Saints Therese, Louis & Zelie Martin, we are privileged to have them visit our Church on Monday 16 March. We shall solemnly welcome the relics at 8.30 AM and they will be available for our veneration till 12.30 PM.

We require volunteers to carry the Reliquaries, sing at the prayer services and liturgies, set up place for the Relics, public relations and so on. I am looking forward to hearing from available volunteers. I have a Parish Guide to help the volunteers.

Saint Therese of Lisieux

Generations of Catholics have admired this Saint, referred to as the "Little Flower", and found in her short life more inspiration for their own lives than in volumes by theologians.

Thérèse was born in France in 1873, and died when she was 24, after having lived as a cloistered Carmelite for less than 10 years. She never went on missions, never founded a religious order, and never performed any explicitly great works.

The only book of hers, published after her death, was a brief edited version of her journal Story of a Soul. Collections of her letters and restored versions of her journals have been recently re-published. Within just 28 years of her death, the public demand was so great that she was canonised.

Saint Zélie Martin

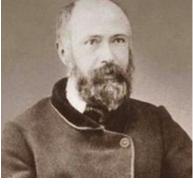
Zélie Guerin (1831 - 1877) was a lace maker. Born into a military family, Zélie described her childhood and youth as "dismal". Her mother and father showed her little affection.

As a young lady, she sought unsuccessfully to enter the religious life. Zélie then learned the Alencon lace-making technique and soon mastered this painstaking craft. Richly talented, creative, eager and endowed with common sense, she started her own business and became quite successful.



Notable as these achievements were, Zélie was yet to reveal the depths of the strength, faith and courage she possessed until she wholeheartedly undertook her life as a wife and mother.

Saint Louis Martin



Louis Martin (1823 - 1894) was a watchmaker by trade. He also skilfully managed his wife's lace business and was born too into a family of soldiers. Louis absorbed the sense of order and discipline that army life engenders, but his temperament tended toward things of the spirit.

At age 22, young Louis sought to enter religious life at the monastery of the Augustinian Canons of the Great St Bernard Hospice in the Alps. The Abbot insisted the young candidate learn Latin, which he found extremely challenging, and he eventually had to leave the monastery due to illness.

Fortunately, Louis' desire for holiness was realised through his love for his wife, his redemptive suffering, and his later years as a single father following Zélie's death. He is now venerated as a Patron Saint of mental health issues due to his struggles with dementia toward the end of his life.

Why should we read a book like God's Word on a Daily Basis?



I believe that reading and praying with the Word of God moves us towards a more personal relationship with Jesus. It also leads to lessons learned, hearts inspired and lives

profoundly moved to do good.

God's Word 2020 is available at our Church Shop for \$15 a copy. It is a wonderful book with daily readings for the entire year and a reflection at the bottom of each page which translates the readings for thought and prayer. Reading God's Word on a daily basis nourishes us for the day. It is a way in which we can adore God, praise Him, Thank Him and complain to Him!

You will love how easy it is to read and how it will deepen your prayer life. It is also a wonderful evangelising tool - gift one to a family member or friend and they'll thank you for it.

Get your copy now and start the New Year in a spiritually rewarding way.

You won't regret it!

ST PETER CHANEL AND ST JOSEPH PARISH PRESENTS

BERALA KIDS CAMP

19-21 January 2020 (10am-3pm daily) | St Peter Chanel Jubilee Hall



'Be brave! I have defeated the world!'

Come join us for THREE fun faith-filled days over the SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.

For children aged 6 – 14 YEARS OLD, this day camp is not to be missed!

Cost includes food and drink - great value for money!

One child \$30 | Second child \$20 | Third child \$10

We are also calling young people in or starting high school next year to be ${\sf CAMP\ LEADERS.}$

Book online to secure your spot www.trybooking.com/580441

For more info – ANGELA FINNANE angela.finnaneesyd.catholic.edu.au | BARBARA MUCHA barbara.muchaesyd.catholic.edu.au | PARISH OFFICE 9644 7787 infoestpeter-stjoseph.org.au

OTHER NOTICES

EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & RETREATS

Youth Leaders Evangelisation School 2020

From 25 January to 1 February, 2020, a week long live-in experience for youth leaders and young adults between 18 and 35 years old. The school will allow leaders to explore their call to discipleship through community life, daily prayer and through building a culture of responsibility for themselves and others in their daily lives. The program is developed to encourage leaders to exercise their call to evangelisation within the many contexts of their lives, including ministry. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pasion on (02) 9307 8152 or elizabeth.pasion@sydneycatholicyouth.org

SUPPORT & SERVICES

Catholic Care

For help finding help, call CCareline **13 18 19** connect@catholiccare.org open 8am – 8pm Monday – Friday.

PILGRIMAGE & TRAVEL

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr Thomas

Dates will be between Mid September – mid October 2020 (including school holidays).

COST: From AUD 3890 PP (All Inclusive Land Package) | \$150 per person tips & gratuities for guides and drivers additional (pre-collected) | Costing is based on a minimum of 25 pilgrims.

Optional Costs: Single room supplement: AUD 1050 | Return Economy Airfare#: Approx. \$1900 – \$2200 (To be confirmed.) | Cover More Travel Insurance: Quote provided based on D.O.B and Medical History disclosure.

Please contact the Parish Office to express your interest or obtain more information.

Just for Laughs

What would have happened if it had been three Wise Women instead of three Wise Men? They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought practical gifts.