

## St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

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

**3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**26 APRIL 2020**

### Emmaus Story and COVID



Do we continue the streaming of Mass online after the COVID-19 restrictions? Perhaps the answer to this question can be derived from a reflection on the story of the couple who were going to Emmaus. Luke speaks of two people going from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus; they could be husband and wife. What the Gospel narrates about the experience of this couple is the experience of any Christian initiated into the Body of Christ, the Church.

On the way, this couple were discussing the scriptures. Though they were learned about the scriptures, nothing made much sense to them and they were walking into 'darkness' and trying to find refuge in their own little world, 'home.' But when Jesus joined them on the way and interpreted the Scriptures for them their hearts were set on fire. The first step of the pilgrimage to faith is to read and interpret the Bible through the eyes of Jesus. That initiates such an intense desire for Christ.

Towards the end of their journey the couple become open and hospitable. The next step is the actual turning point. Jesus 'breaks bread' with them. As soon as they are initiated into the Eucharist and they receive the Body of Christ, they become true and joyous disciples. As delighted disciples, they come out of their home to share the good news with the world. It is the participation in the Eucharist (Breaking of Bread) that makes you a true disciple. Encountering Jesus in the participation in the Eucharist keeps you as a disciple. Coming together to join in the Holy Communion at Eucharist keeps you as part of the Body of Christ, the Church.

This celebration of our true discipleship cannot be done properly during this time of restrictions. Therefore, as a stopgap, watching the Mass online, you cherish the nostalgia and have spiritual communion with Christ and his Body, the Church. Therefore, we continue the live streaming of Masses until such times when we can come together and celebrate our faith properly. Let us look forward to the day we can delightfully come together, break bread and praise God.

After COVID-19, perhaps we can continue to use the technology to study the Bible in an effective way and 'set our hearts on fire.' Until then, do not let the fire of faith diminish in your hearts and life.

### WHAT'S NEW?

#### Archdiocesan Parish Volunteer Program

In response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP has called on all Parishes and CatholicCare to work together to support vulnerable parishioners - the frail, elderly, lonely and isolated. This program will assist those most in need to access groceries, medicine, meals and other support as requested.

If you or someone you know or someone you are concerned about need volunteer support, contact CatholicCare via CCareline on 13 18 19 to arrange for someone from the local community to assist further.

#### Parish Collections

A number of people have been inquiring about how to continue their support for the parish while the church doors are shut.



To make simpler here is a QR Code you can scan with your mobile device and follow the prompt to make a donation. The Support Us button on the parish website is another way to make donations remotely. Some of you have been getting the account details from the Parish Secretary (Lea) and transferring money. There are also some of you dropping envelopes in the parish letter box.

The second collection is for the running of the parish and the first collection for the upkeep of your priests.

*~Fr Thomas*



## Thank you for supporting Project Compassion 2020

Covid-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

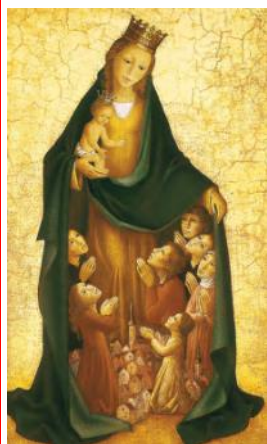
### Do you have PC boxes and cash to hand in?

You may drop off your Project Compassion donations into the Parish Office Mailbox at any time.

Did you know that you can go online at [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au) and securely donate with your credit card or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney, NSW 2001.

## PRAYER during the **coronavirus pandemic**

*(Adapted from the USCCB)*



Mary, Help of Christians, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of God's holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

## Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19

To help parishioners with any questions they may have around COVID-19 and its impact on sacraments such as weddings, baptisms and funerals, you may find the FAQs page on the Archdiocese of Sydney website helpful at this time: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/>

## Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here- <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

## Live Streaming of Liturgies

Remember to join us Monday to Saturday at 8.00am and Sunday at 10.00am. Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/BeralaParish>

## INTENTIONS for Fr Thomas to include in his Livestreamed Mass

**Sick:** Sr Tomsy

**Recently Deceased:** Nellie Maroun, Elias Khater, Kathleen Kensey, Fr Ray Farrell

**Anniversary:** Cindy Muscas (20/4), Dulcie Cullen,

**Deceased:** Joseph Portelli, Sylvia Portelli, John Ryan, Harold George Facer, Marie Kathleen Facer, Peter & Karime Michael, Joan Blefari, Simon Hitti, Tony & Mary Khater, Anthony Gomes

**Deceased Members and Friends of:** O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Michael & Baini Families

**Birthday:** Suzanne Gomesis (40th), Bertina Cumerlato

**Other Intentions:** For all those affected by the Corona Virus. For the intention of the Holy Father.

**Contact the Parish Office to include your intentions in the Mass by Fr Thomas.**

## ANTIPHONS & READINGS

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

### First Reading

Acts 2:14, 22-33

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,  
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad  
and my tongue cried out with joy:  
my body, too, will rest in the hope  
that you will not abandon my soul to Hades  
nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.  
You have made known the way of life to me,  
you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2. 5. 7-11. R. v.11

**R. Lord, you will show us the path of life.**

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: 'You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize.' **R**

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **R**

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **R**

### Second Reading

1 Pt 1:17-21

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

### Gospel Acclamation

See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:  
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

Lk 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have

been happening there these last few days.’ ‘What things?’ he asked. ‘All about Jesus of Nazareth’ they answered ‘who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.’ Then he said to them, ‘You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?’ Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. ‘It is nearly evening’ they said ‘and the day is almost over.’ So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?’ They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, ‘Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’ Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

### Communion Antiphon

Lk 24:35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

## REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 24:13-35

### Living the Gospel – Living the journey

The story of the road to Emmaus is a perfect model for our Christian life. It reminds us first of all that none of us walk the journey alone. Even when we don’t recognise his presence, Jesus joins us in the everyday realities of life. The breaking open and interpretation of scripture is essential to making sense of our life experiences and through the celebration of Eucharist and table fellowship we are nourished to not only continue the journey but to share the good news with others. Where do you find yourself in the events of this story?

### Gospel Focus – Hearts on Fire

The disciples recognised Jesus in the breaking of the bread and at that moment he disappeared. The immediate reaction of the disciples might have been to dismiss the notion that Jesus had been with them as wishful thinking. However, they remind each other that their hearts had been set on fire by Jesus as he spoke to them along the road. It is an extraordinarily powerful image; to set hearts on fire. Yet, that experience is not locked in the pages of the gospel; Jesus continues to set hearts on fire, inspiring everyday people to do extraordinary things.

### Have you thought? – Recognising Jesus

These two disciples, although not any of the Twelve, would have considered themselves close followers of Jesus. They are devastated by his death and so must have known Jesus quite well. However, they fail to recognise him when he joins them on the road. Whether they were prevented from recognising him or whether he was somehow transformed through the resurrection we don’t know. But two close followers were unable to recognise him walking beside them. Perhaps we shouldn’t feel too bad, two millennia later, when we fail to recognise Jesus as he continues to walk beside us.

### Next Week’s Readings:

1st Reading: Acts 2:14. 36-41

2nd Reading: 1 Pt 2:20-25

Gospel: Jn 10:1-10



## Anzac Day Livestream Mass

Saturday, 25 April at 8AM  
[www.YouTube.com/BeralaParish](http://www.YouTube.com/BeralaParish)

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn: At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, We will remember them. Lest we forget.*



## The celebration of the Eucharist

*From the first apology in defence of the Christians by Saint Justin the martyr*

No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.

We do not consume the Eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Saviour became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: Do this in memory of me. This is my body. In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: This is my blood. The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, "Amen." The Eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.

The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need.

We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our saviour Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration.

## FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

### ***Tuesday, 28 April - St Peter Chanel, Parish Patron (Memorial)***

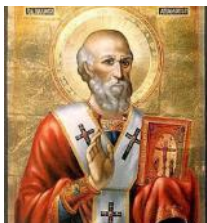
The protomartyr of the South Seas, St. Peter Chanel was born in 1803 at Clet in the diocese of Belley, France. His intelligence and simple piety brought him to the attention of the local priest, Father Trompier, who saw to his elementary education. Entering the diocesan Seminary, Peter won the affection and the esteem of both students and professors. After his ordination he found himself in a rundown country parish and completely revitalized it in the three year span that he remained there. However, his mind was set on missionary work; so, in 1831, he joined the newly formed Society of Mary (Marists) which concentrated on missionary work at home and abroad. To his dismay, he was appointed to teach at the seminary at Belley and remained there for the next five years, diligently performing his duties.

In 1836, the Society was given the New Hebrides in the Pacific as a field for evangelization, and the jubilant Peter was appointed Superior of a little band of missionaries sent to proclaim the Faith to its inhabitants. On reaching their destination after an arduous ten month journey, the band split up and St. Peter went to the Island of Futuna accompanied by a lay brother and an English layman, Thomas Boog. They were at first well received by the pagans and their king Niuliki who had only recently forbidden cannibalism. However, the king's jealousy and fear were aroused when the missionaries learned the language and gained the people's confidence; he realized the adoption of the Christian Faith would lead to the abolition of some of the prerogatives he enjoyed as both high priest and sovereign.

Finally, when his own son expressed a desire to be baptized, the king's hatred erupted and he dispatched a group of his warriors to set upon the saintly head of the missionaries. Thus, on April 28, 1841, three years after his arrival, St. Peter was seized and clubbed to death by those he had come to save. And his death brought his work to completion - within five months the entire island was converted to Christianity.



Saint Peter Chanel



### ***Saturday, 2 May - St Athanasius, bishop, doctor***

Born in 295. Buried on this day in 373 at Alexandria (Egypt). Attended the first ecumenical council of Nicaea as a deacon. Later, as bishop of Alexandria, he upheld that council's doctrine in the face of great opposition from Arians, including several emperors. Sent into exile a number of times. Venerated as the "Father of Orthodoxy" for championing the true and equal divinity of the incarnate Son of God.