



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](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) **YouTube:** [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/BeralaParish)

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am | **Holy Hour:** Saturday 8.30am-9.30am

Lord's Day Mass Berala: Saturday 5.00pm (Vigil), Sunday 8.00am & Sunday 10.00am

Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 8.30am - 9.30am. 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.

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19 JULY 2020

YOU ARE NOT INSIGNIFICANT

There are a number of people employed in the Catholic Schools who are counter witnesses to the Catholic Church. Some of them openly oppose some of the fundamental teachings of the Church. They do not care about the mission of the Church. These less than desirable elements in the school system is affecting the integrity of not just the Catholic Education system, but the Church at large. It is not only the Catholic Schools that have this problem. CatholicCare, other charities of the Church, Catholic Hospitals and other welfare agencies of the Church also have the same problem. How did these people enter the Church institutions in the first place? It cannot be any holy motivations and dynamics that got them into their current positions. It is not just the institutions that are faced with such problems. Parishes also can find people of disputed religious motives in the congregation. What is the best way to protect the Church and its integrity from the counter witnessing of such people? Purging these elements may be the solution many well-meaning Christians may propose. However, the Gospel would address such problems differently. The parable of the wheat and the darnel provides the Christian guidelines.



The farmer sowed only good seeds of wheat. But the enemy brought in the darnel. To protect all seedlings of the wheat, the farmer lets the darnel to grow with his crop. The sorting will happen at the harvest time, at the end. That is when the wheat is secured in the barns and the darnel destroyed.

When Christian witnesses are lacking, what can make the Kingdom of God flourish? It does not take a lot to enable the Kingdom of God to grow. Just like how a tiny seed can grow into a huge tree, the committed Christian life of a person like Mother Teresa of Kolkata, helped millions of people appreciate the presence of God in their lives. Your personal witness to Christ, if it is true, will help the faith of people around you grow like the yeast making the dough grow. Therefore, do not count yourself too small or insignificant in the face of all the counter witnesses you see in the Church and around you. Make the tiny seed of your faith commitment grow into a tree of hope and shelter for all who aspire for God's providence.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Tony Draybi, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Mirope Amores-Sumabat, Sandra

Recently Deceased: Gloria Collins, Leila Mitchell, Rini Tom, James Fitzpatrick, Joseph Kallungal

Deceased: Marie Santa Maria, Jeff Eagleson

Anniversary: Maria Beatriz Nazareth, Caterina Vocisano, Giulia Carrai, Caterina Mileto

Deceased Members and Friends of: O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Ross & Mitchell Families

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

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

**PLEASE DO NOT PUT THE BULLETIN
BACK IN THE CHURCH**



ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 53:6, 8

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading

Wis 12:13.16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **R**

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **R**

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **R**

Second Reading

Rom 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 13:24-30

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

Communion Antiphon

Ps 110:4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **1 Kgs 3:5. 7-12**

2nd Reading: **Rom 8:28-30**

Gospel: **Mt 13:44-52**

Planned Giving Request Form

Your financial contribution to the Planned Giving of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the financial year you will receive a receipt for your contributions. 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, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent)

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 13:24:30

Scriptural context – Matthew's explanation

In the gospel passage, following the presentation of the three parables, Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and darnel to his disciples. It is explained in terms of a final judgment. (Compare it with Matthew 25: 31-46.) The parable of the weeds, or darnel, and its explanation only appear in the gospel of Matthew – although the parable does occur in the non-canonical gospel of Thomas. The interpretation belongs to Matthew more than it belongs to Jesus. It is an unapologetic direction to his community that living a righteous life in the midst of wickedness will be rewarded.

Have you thought? – Leaven

The parable of the woman placing leaven in three measures of flour is an intriguing one. In some translations, the text reads, 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.' Whilst you might initially hide yeast in some dough, it doesn't take very long for the yeast to become apparent as it makes the dough rise. Such a large quantity of flour suggests the bread is being prepared for a festival – perhaps Passover when only unleavened bread was used? That would put a different spin on the woman's action!

Living the Gospel – Agents of change

We often hear that to fully live out the kingdom message of Jesus is to be counter-cultural. These parables are a perfect example of that call. Jesus himself acted in contrast to his cultural context and often used examples in his teaching that flew in the face of cultural expectation. What does it mean to be counter-cultural today? Our world is driven by an emphasis on the individual; an emphasis on acquisition; an emphasis on consuming. The kingdom parables of today's gospel call us to be the agents of change that 'irritate' in our own small way to make a difference in the world.

The sacrament that you receive is effected by the words of Christ

From the treatise "On the Mysteries" by St Ambrose (4th Century)

We see that grace can accomplish more than nature, yet so far we have been considering instances of what grace can do through a prophet's blessing. If the blessing of a human being had power even to change nature, what do we say of God's action in the consecration itself, in which the very words of the Lord and Saviour are effective? If the words of Elijah had power even to bring down fire from heaven, will not the words of Christ have power to change the natures of the elements? You have read that in the creation of the whole world he spoke and they came to be; he commanded and they were created. If Christ could by speaking create out of nothing what did not yet exist, can we say that his words are unable to change existing things into something they previously were not? It is no lesser feat to create new natures for things than to change their existing natures.

What need is there for argumentation? Let us take what happened in the case of Christ himself and construct the truth of this mystery from the mystery of the incarnation. Did the birth of the Lord Jesus from Mary come about in the course of nature? If we look at nature we regularly find that conception results from the union of man and woman. It is clear then that the conception by the Virgin was above and beyond the course of nature. And this body that we make present is the body born of the Virgin. Why do you expect to find in this case that nature takes its ordinary course in regard to the body of Christ when the Lord himself was born of the Virgin in a manner above and beyond the order of nature? This is indeed the true flesh of Christ, which was crucified and buried. This is then in truth the sacrament of his flesh.

The Lord Jesus himself declares: This is my body. Before the blessing contained in these words a different thing is named; after the consecration a body is indicated. He himself speaks of his blood. Before the consecration something else is spoken of; after the consecration blood is designated. And you say: "Amen," that is: "It is true." What the mouth utters, let the mind within acknowledge; what the word says, let the heart ratify.

So the Church, in response to grace so great, exhorts her children, exhorts her neighbours, to hasten to these mysteries: Neighbours, she says, come and eat; brethren, drink and be filled. In another passage the Holy Spirit has made clear to you what you are to eat, what you are to drink. Taste, the prophet says, and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who puts his trust in him. Christ is in that sacrament, for it is the body of Christ. It is therefore not bodily food but spiritual. Thus the Apostle too says, speaking of its symbol: Our fathers ate spiritual food and drank spiritual drink. For the body of God is spiritual; the body of Christ is that of a divine spirit, for Christ is a spirit. We read: The spirit before our face is Christ the Lord. And in the letter of Saint Peter we have this: Christ died for you. Finally, it is this food that gives strength to our hearts, this drink which gives joy to the heart of man, as the prophet has written.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, 22 July - St Mary Magdalene (Feast)



St Mary of Magdala was a disciple of Christ who was healed by him when he cast out seven devils. She stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus died, and went to the tomb to anoint his body on the morning of Easter Sunday. She was the first witness to Jesus' resurrection

when she found his tomb empty. In St Mark's Gospel, it is Mary Magdalene to whom the risen Jesus first appears and further to this, in St John's account, Jesus gives her a message to pass on to his brethren.

Saturday, 25 July - St James, apostle (Feast)



Born at Bethsaida in Galilee, a son of Zebedee. Died about 44, the first apostle to die, beheaded by Herod. A fisherman, summoned by Jesus together with his brother Saint John (27 December). They were called the "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17).

Remembered as a favoured apostle: with Saint Peter (29 June) and Saint John he was present at the transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony in the garden.

WHAT'S NEW?

New QR Code



Paying donations to the church is made easy by introducing a QR Code.

Using a smart phone camera scan the QR code. The phone will come up with prompting to open the donation App (using Commonwealth Bank security). Open the App and select the item from the pull down menu and enter the amount you wish to donate. This is a touch free and convenient way of donating to the church. This facility is also more versatile than Quest Tap on facility in the Church. The Tap on facility and cash donation facilities continue to be available for you to use.

For parishioners who are members of the Planned Giving, your new set of envelopes are available in the church foyer this weekend for you to collect. Please contact Lea should you require a copy of your receipt. The receipts will be emailed to those requested it as well as printed copies for those who prefer the hard copy.

Live Streaming Changed

The parish is now back to the normal schedule of Masses. The number of congregation is set to the maximum of 90. Therefore, the Vigil Mass on Saturday 5 PM is live streamed each week, for the benefit of those who are not able to attend the Mass in person.

If you are in the high risk category, due to your age or chronic sickness, you are advised not to attend the Mass with the congregation in the Church. Anyone feeling unwell are also advised not to attend the Mass. They should consult their GP. Once again be advised of the change of time of the Live Streaming. From now on Saturday 5 pm Mass is live streamed, which can be accessed on YouTube channel Berala Parish on Sunday as well.

ACBC Men's Gathering: 'Brothers, What Must We Do?'

Registrations are now open to attend the ACBC Men's Gathering at one of our satellite venues around Sydney. Each venue can hold approximately 40 men, and each will include Mass, Adoration, lunch and small groups in addition to the video talks from the ACBC, including our own Daniel Ang of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation. To register, please visit www.sydneycatholic.org/mensgathering20 and choose which venue you would like to attend. Registration costs \$15 to cover lunch, as well as morning and afternoon tea. If you would like to attend the virtual event from home, you can register at www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

Palms Australia is currently seeking office volunteers

Palms Australia is a registered Catholic charity that has been working to reduce poverty through long-term, skilled volunteering for 59 years. Here's a great opportunity to assist in part-time volunteer roles.

To find out more about these opportunities, call the Palms team on 02 9560 5333.



Relaxation of the COVID Restrictions

The number of people allowed inside the church will be determined by the 'one person per 4 square metre' rule, with no upper limit. This means we can have 90 people in our church. Going by previous weekends' observations, the demands for attendance at the Masses are far below 90. Therefore, no pre-booking is necessary. Mass attendance will be controlled by 1st come first served basis. In case of too many turning up to the church, after the first 90 entered the Church, the door will be closed. **Live streaming of the mass will now be on at 5PM Saturday Vigil rather than on Sunday 8AM.**

The Children's Liturgy and Communion Run will take some more time to resume. There will not be any Choir practices allowed for the time being.

Volunteers are welcome to monitor the church after Mass hours. We need to make sure all those who enter the Church are registering their name and contact details as well as sanitising their hands.

Now we are also starting to get to recommence other pastoral and liturgical activities as much as we can. Saturday devotion of the Holy Hour will be on from 8.30 AM – 9.30 AM, starting with Rosary prayer. Bookings for Baptisms, anointing of the sick, marriages are welcome. Schedule for Confessions will be on at 8.30 AM to 9.30 AM on Saturdays. But you are also welcome to call and make an appointment for any other time.

The Sacramental Programs are also modified according to the demands of the COVID19 situation.

Many of you have been supporting the parish financially through this time of restrictions. There has been an increase in the use of direct debits and the use of the tap facility. Electronic means of paying is the preferred way of the parish. It reduces many risks. The overall income is less than half of the normal. I would like to thank all contributors for their support.

Printed | Published

COVID-19 Safety Plan for the Parish is now available on the Parish Website.

Catholic Weekly has resumed printing and copies are available in the church for \$2 each.

Printed copies of the Parish Bulletin are available after each of the weekend masses.

~Fr Thomas Kurunthanam

OTHER NOTICES

Silent Retreat for Men 2020

This is a silent retreat weekend exploring the vocation of the Diocesan Priesthood as Servant of the Domestic Church. How does a Diocesan Priest in the Parish meet the spiritual needs of the faithful? Surrounded by the serene and peaceful bushlands of Mount Schoenstatt, this weekend will enable you to spend some time in prayerful silence with Daily Mass, Rosary, Prayer of the Church, Adoration and much more. **Friday 7 – Sunday 9 August 2020** | Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa (230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa NSW 2745) | Registration Cost: \$75 (*scholarship available if needed*) ***Limited to 18 participants only.** Note: Participants at this retreat must be 18 – 35 yrs old. *Every inquirer's/participant's details are kept confidential. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, 29 July 2020.** For more info: 02 9307 8424 or vocations@sydneycatholic.org.

New Dates for Plenary Council

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the National Plenary Council Assembly has been postponed to October 2021 (Adelaide) and April 2022 (Sydney). The discernment papers foundational to the development of the working paper and ultimately the agenda for the Assembly are available on the National Plenary Council webpage under the Discernment tab: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

Feast of Our Lady of Terzito

This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Terzito will not be open to the public. It will be live streamed from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Gladesville with Mass at 1.30pm on 26th July. This will be followed by the Rosary and Benediction. Link: <https://YouTube.be/eDPK0nkIKXk>. In these difficult times we need to be innovative in our devotions. May Our Lady of Terzito continue to bless us and our families."

Parentline

Many families are in the midst of or are facing serious challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and need extra support but don't know where to start. Parent Line can help parents by providing support and strategies to manage. Call us 7 days a week on 1300 1300 52.

CatholicCare

Are you struggling in this time of crisis? Depression. Anxiety. Loneliness. Conflict. Stress. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. For help finding help, call CCareline on 13 18 19

Encountering Christ

Join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a weekend retreat around the theme of Romans 12:12.



Date: 21-23 August 2020

Who: Catholic women ages 18-35

Where: Mount Schoenstatt

Retreat Centre (single or shared accomodation available)

For more information or to register,
contact the Sisters at
sydney@op-tn.org.



This retreat will include times for personal prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Daily Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Divine Office, Rosary, talks, discussion, fellowship, and individual conferences.

We will be guided by the retreat centre in following all COVID protocols.

nashvilledominian.org ~ [@dominicansistersaustralia](https://twitter.com/dominicansistersaustralia)

Parish Volunteer Program - lending a helping hand to those in need

Parishes and CatholicCare working together to support isolated and vulnerable parishioners and the local community.

Call CCareline to find out more

CCareline 131819

CatholicCare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday