

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 YouTube: 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.

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

16 AUGUST 2020

Jesus initiated a new trend in Lebanon

The nomination of Kamala Harris, daughter of a black man from Jamaica, to the Vice Presidential Candidacy of the Democrats in the United States made headlines lately all over the world including Australia. In the wake of the "Black Lives Matter" movement, there are issues to be solved in America. Such movements finding momentum in other countries like Australia is pointing to the issue of integration of people of different cultures, which is yet to be fully resolved. Another issue that is troubling the better off countries is the refugees. Should they be made welcome or not? A similar problem had to be addressed in the early Church. What



Jesus did in Lebanon is a Gospel response to the question of including gentile Christians in the Church. Tyre and Sidon were part of the present day Lebanon. The people of Lebanon, known as Canaanites or Syro-Phoenicians were not part of the Jewish people. In the early Church majority of the Christians were converts from Judaism. But there were also some converts from non-Jews. Inclusion of such gentiles in their fellowship was resisted by many Jewish converts. Addressing this problem, Matthew points out what Jesus did in Lebanon. Jesus argues that pets and children are to be treated differently in a household and the bread meant for children cannot be given to the pet dog. The counter argument by the Canaanite woman is that, living in the same household, the pet dog also has the right to be fed from the table of its master. By calling Jesus, 'Son of David', the woman acknowledges Jesus as the master. Jesus grants her requests because of her faith in him. Salvation came from the Jews, but open to all people who trusted in Jesus as their master. Irrespective of their heritage, whether converts from Judaism or gentile converts, all to be equally respected and accepted in the Church. Faith, not cultural or political background, is the only criterion for inclusion in the Church. This Gospel response to a crisis in the early Church also might help us formulate our response to other contemporary issues such as refugees and indigenous people.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Tony Draybi, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Sandra S.

Recently Deceased: Lourdes Tandigan

Deceased: Fr Spora, Fr Kings, Fatima Bolonia, Mamerto Bolonia Sr, Astrid Bolonia, Gloria Bolonia, Luis Arellano, Felixberto Ibardolaza, Winnie Guillena, Chona Victorino, Anavea & Pakalasio Maka, Petello V Fili, Talena, Loutoa Snr, Malia Seleti, Kilisitina Maka, Sr Dolores, Mele Alofi, Hasna Lahoud, Zenaida dela Cruz, Oreth Zorilla

Anniversary: Helen Sammut, Rafael Amarille Jr, Anney Nguyen, Editha Amores, Lilia Figueras, Ricardo Allarde, Scott Shapleigh, Pancho Parel & Avelina Florendo, Tadeusz Bukala, Jose Rene Jarque, Maria Portia Mariano

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

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

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

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 FOR THE SUNDAY 8AM & 10AM MASSES

Entrance Antiphon Ps 83:10-11

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading Is 56:1. 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. R

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. R

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. R

Second Reading Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

> **Gospel** Mt 15:21-28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the housedogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even housedogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

Communion Antiphon Ps 129:7

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: Is 56:1. 6-7

2nd Reading: Rom 11:13-15. 29-32 Gospel: Mt 15:21-18

This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Olivia, Winston & Lisha Kim

May they always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout their lives.

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 15:21-28

From the perspective of ... A disciple.

As we passed through a little village near Sidon this Canaanite woman suddenly started calling on the master to help her daughter. We all expected the master to help her out as usual but he really put her in her place! He told her that his ministry was not for pagans like her. That should have stopped her, but she kept on and on, even turning the master's words back on him! She was so rude. We were about to push her out of the way so that the master could move on when he suddenly told her that her faith was great and that her daughter was better. Great faith? A Canaanite? He never ceases to surprise us!

Historical Context ... Who were the Canaanites?

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the 'Promised Land' they sought was the land of Canaan (approximately the area of modern Israel, TransJordan, Syria and Lebanon). Here they were commanded to utterly destroy the Canaanites and to subdue the land. (Exodus 23:23-24) The Israelites never successfully removed all the Canaanites from the Palestine region. By the time of Jesus, the Israelites had established themselves in the region between Judea in the south and Galilee in the north, while the original inhabitants of the area had been 'squeezed out' – predominantly to the north. The Canaanites were dispossessed of their land by the Israelites and it is easy to see why there was tension between them.

Scriptural Context

This passage sits in the middle of a group of three stories that make up Chapter 15 of Matthew's Gospel. The first story deals with Jesus challenging traditional views of cleanliness and uncleanliness - one of the great separators between Jews and Gentiles. The story of this week's gospel follows with its account of the Canaanite woman's great faith being recognised. Finally, Matthew's gospel relates the story of the feeding of the four thousand – a dramatic sign by Jesus of the open invitation to receive his message and ministry. The three stories, taken together, form a powerful chapter that makes clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the Jews.

Your body is holy and glorious

The Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius XII on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In their sermons and speeches on the feast day of the Assumption of the Mother of God, the holy fathers and the great doctors of the church were speaking of something that the faithful already knew and accepted: all they did was to bring it out into the open, to explain its meaning and substance in other terms. Above all, they made it most clear that this feast commemorated not merely the fact that the blessed Virgin Mary did not experience bodily decay, but also her triumph over death and her heavenly glory, following the example of her only Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus St John Damascene, who is the greatest exponent of this tradition, compares the bodily Assumption of the revered Mother of God with her other gifts and privileges: It was right that she who had kept her virginity unimpaired through the process of giving birth should have kept her body without decay through death. It was right that she who had given her Creator, as a child, a place at her breast should be given a place in the dwelling-place of her God. It was right that the bride espoused by the Father should dwell in the heavenly bridal chamber. It was right that she who had gazed on her Son on the cross, her heart pierced at that moment by the sword of sorrow that she had escaped at his birth, should now gaze on him seated with his Father. It was right that the Mother of God should possess what belongs to her Son and be honoured by every creature as God's Mother and handmaid.

St Germanus of Constantinople considered the preservation from decay of the body of the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, and its elevation to heaven as being not only appropriate to her Motherhood but also to the peculiar sanctity of its virgin state: It is written, that you appear in beauty, and your virginal body is altogether holy, altogether chaste, altogether the dwelling-place of God; from which it follows that it is not in its nature to decay into dust, but that it is transformed, being human, into a glorious and incorruptible life, the same body, living and glorious, unharmed, sharing in perfect life.

Another very ancient author asserts: Being the most glorious Mother of Christ our saviour and our God, the giver of life and immortality, she is given life by him and shares bodily incorruptibility for all eternity with him who raised her from the grave and drew her up to him in a way that only he can understand.

All that the holy fathers say refers ultimately to Scripture as a foundation, which gives us the vivid image of the great Mother of God as being closely attached to her divine Son and always sharing his lot.

It is important to remember that from the second century onwards the holy fathers have been talking of the Virgin Mary as the new Eve for the new Adam: not equal to him, of course, but closely joined with him in the battle against the enemy, which ended in the triumph over sin and death that had been promised even in Paradise. The glorious resurrection of Christ is essential to this victory and its final prize, but the blessed Virgin's share in that fight must also have ended in the glorification of her body. For as the Apostle says: When this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the scripture will be fulfilled that says "Death is swallowed up in victory".

So then, the great Mother of God, so mysteriously united to Jesus Christ from all eternity by the same decree of predestination, immaculately conceived, an intact virgin throughout her divine motherhood, a noble associate of our Redeemer as he defeated sin and its consequences, received, as it were, the final crowning privilege of being preserved from the corruption of the grave and, following her Son in his victory over death, was brought, body and soul, to the highest glory of heaven, to shine as Queen at the right hand of that same Son, the immortal King of Ages.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Thursday, 20 August -St Bernard (Memorial)



Born near Dijon (France) in 1090. Died at Clairvaux on this day in 1153. Joined the

impoverished, reformed abbey of Citeaux at the age of 21. Soon became the founder and abbot of Clairvaux and pioneered the reform and expansion of the Cistercian Order. Remembered as the most influential churchman of his age, for his inspirational leadership, and for his devotion to the humanity of Christ and to the Blessed Virgin.

Friday, 21 August - St Pius X (Memorial)



Guiseppe Sarto was born into a poor family in 1835. From He was elected pope in 1903. He took as his

motto, "To restore all things in Christ". Pius X was remembered for advocating the frequent reception of holy communion; reform of church music and encouraging the use of Gregorian chant; the reform of Canon Law; the reorganization of the Roman curia; and the separation of church and state in France. He found some aspects of the Vatican's wealth and ceremony distasteful. Before his

WHAT'S NEW?

Letter to the Parishioners

Dear Parishioners

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our Church COVID safe. In a recent update on COVID, our Premier made a reference to using masks at religious gatherings. This may have caused some confusion for some people. So far it has not been a regulation to use masks in the Church. With physical distancing we practise in the Church, wearing masks is not necessary. All the same I respect your decision to wear a mask should you wish to do so.

If you should not attend Mass in the Church, if you feel unwell. Thank you for registering your contact details each time you enter the Church. If you come as a family (living in the same house), you can register yourself as family. That means one person can register for the whole family by providing one name and contact details and mentioning the number of family members attending. This will also reduce congestion at the door. While distributing Holy Communion, hereafter I shall be saying "Body of Christ" silently to reduce the chances of droplets.

A couple of weeks ago, at Zoom meeting on the COVID situation with the Archdiocese, it was suggested that the congregation should be advised not 'Parish Surf'. If the faithful choose to attend only one Church and avoid going to different churches, it will reduce the spread of virus, should anyone test positive.

We will continue to leave the Church open as long as there is someone to monitor the registrations. It is important to be accurate and prompt with the records of visitors to the Church. Any willing to spend sometime in the church and help monitor is welcome to contact the parish office. Should you want to make a visit and the church doors are closed contact the office to open the church door for you.

Let us work together to keep everyone safe from COVID. God bless you!

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.



 \sim Fr Thomas

death in 1914, Pius X wrote in his will, "I was born poor, I have lived poor, and I wish to die poor."

Saturday, 22 August - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Memorial)

This feast was established by Pius XII in 1955 and was celebrated on 31 May. Since 1969 it has been observed on 22 August to stress its relationship to the Assumption (15 August): taken up into glory, Mary became queen of heaven and earth.



Joyce and Sergio to Receive Dempsey Medal



It is with great joy that I received the message from the Archbishop Anthony that two or parishioners, Joyce McDonald and Sergio Eamiguel are selected for the Dempsey Medal. This medal seeks to encourage and to recognise outstanding contributions and service by members of the Sydney Archdiocesan community to the local Catholic church. The medal is awarded for outstanding service and witness to parish by Joyce and Sergio who have made substantial contribution to the parish over many decades.



Normally the Archbishop would have presented this medal in person at the Cathedral. But given the current pandemic situation, I will be making the

presentation of the medals to Joyce and Sergio on behalf of the Archbishop on Saturday, 22 August at the Vigil Mass. I congratulate the recipients on this recognition. *~Fr Thomas*

Reception of Rosalind Evans

Congratulations to the newest member of our Faith Family anointed with the Chrism of Salvation and received into the Church, Rosalind Evans. She was brought up as Methodist Christian and was going through RCIA program for many months.

I thank our RCIA team Andrew Tham and Katrina Yip for the catechetical preparation of her and Jenny Michael for being the faith companion. Because of the restrictions on social gatherings we cannot gather to congratulate her. But you may greet her personally make her welcome to our faith family.



Sacramental Updates

firmation We now officially have a date....

Sacrament of Confirmation - Wednesday, 18 November 2020 at 7.00pm at St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Parish, Berala by The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney

Jesus commanded us to "WAIT for the promise of the Father". Just like the apostles did at Pentecost, as you wait for this day to draw near let your waiting be active, active in prayer and preparation and in return know that, the Holy Spirit will guide your way and help you to grow stronger in your faith and love each day.

We the sacramental team are working towards the preparations of this program and looking forward to guiding each one of you on this journey.

Registration: To obtain the form go to the Parish Website www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, click on Sacraments, the link will be under the heading 'Confirmation'.

Mass and Commitment ceremony for Parents and the candidates: 19 September 2020 at 7.00pm. (Kindly note, this is a special mass organised just for the Confirmation children and their families. Thanks to Fr Thomas for making this personal and possible).

Classes: 14 Oct, 21 Oct, 28 Oct, and 04 Nov – Wednesday @ 7.00pm – 8.00pm. Could you kindly lock in all these dates in your calendars.

I encourage each one of you to logon to our parish website and register at your earliest. Please feel free to contact me via email to sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au if you need further information. Have a blessed Sabbath! ~ Sophia Brewty, Sacramental Co-ordinator

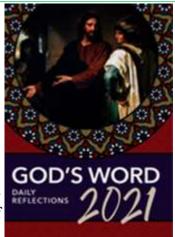
God's Word Daily Reflections 2021

You can pre order for \$19.95. Available in November.

Bible readings and reflections for each day of the Liturgical Year. These daily reflections are prepared by a group of eminent spiritual guides and are the fruits of their personal reflection and prayers.

Designed to guide you to keep the Word of God close to your heart and be nourished by the life-giving Word, to help you to meditate, to pray and to grow in God's love in all circumstances.

The beautiful icons, art and use of colours based on the Liturgical Season make it an attractive and easy to read Bible diary and a life changing gift to your dear ones that will last for the whole year. No wonder God's Word remains one of the bestselling Bible Diaries for many years.



Liturgical readings of the day from the Jerusalem Bible | Liturgical information for the day | Prayer for Healing | Prayer for Covid19 | Prayer for Plenary Council | Prayer Before Communion | Chaplet to the Divine Mercy | Space to note down important events and reflections of the day | Produced in the popular flexi-cover format, full colour throughout





Our Pastoral Council has been very active. At a meeting towards the end of 2019, the Parish Pastoral Council proposed to reconstitute the Council with a revised vision. This is nothing new. Each year since 2012 there has been a special meeting of the general body of the

parish, or the ministry teams or of the Council members which revised the pastoral plan for the year. A number of new initiatives in the life of the parish can be credited to such discernment meetings. This year's special deliberation was to happen in June. Because of COVID-19 restrictions that did not eventuate. At a BBQ gathering of the available members of the Pastoral Council on Saturday 11 July the present council is dissolved. This is done in view of reconstituting a new one, after the COVID restrictions, with a new vision. Meanwhile, I would like all parishioners to asses our pastoral initiatives and come up with suggestions for more effective plans for the future. To help you put the Pastoral Council in context I including the relevant parts from a document Vatican has released on Monday, 20 July 2020. (The numeric are the paragraph numbers in the original document)

- 10. It is noteworthy how such cultural changes and the evolving territorial ties are fostering within the Church, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, a new discernment around community, "which consists in seeing reality with the eyes of God, with a view to unity and communion". The whole People of God must urgently embrace the Holy Spirit's invitation to begin the process of "renewing" the face of the Church.
- 11. In virtue of this discernment, the Parish is called upon to read the signs of the times, while adapting both to the needs of the faithful and to historical changes. A renewed vitality is required that favours the rediscovery of the vocation of the baptised as a disciple of Jesus Christ and a missionary of the Gospel, in light of the Second Vatican Council and subsequent Magisterium.
- 19. Over and above places and reasons for membership, the Parish community is the human context wherein the evangelising work of the Church is carried out, where Sacraments are celebrated and where charity is exercised, all with missionary zeal, which, apart from being an intrinsic part of pastoral action, is a litmus test of its authenticity. In this present age, marked at times by marginalisation and solitude, the Parish community is called to be a living sign of the proximity of Christ through fraternal bonds, ever attentive to new forms of poverty.
- 25. The 'culture of encounter' is conducive to dialogue, solidarity and openness to others, as it is person -centred. Naturally, a Parish must be a place that brings people together and fosters long-term personal relationships, thereby giving people a sense of belonging and being wanted.

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- 109. The theological significance of the Pastoral Council is inscribed in the constitutive reality of the Church, that is, in her being "the Body of Christ", that generates a "spirituality of communion". In the Christian community, in fact, the diversity of charisms and ministries that derive from incorporation into Christ and from the gift of the Holy Spirit may never be homogenised until they become "uniformity, the obligation of doing everything together and all as equals, of always thinking the same thing in the same way". On the contrary, in virtue of the baptismal priesthood, every member of the faithful is created for the building up of the whole Body and, at the same time, the whole People of God, in the reciprocal co-responsibility of its members, participates in the mission of the Church, that is, discerning in history the signs of the presence of God and becoming witnesses of His Kingdom.
- 110. Far from being simply a bureaucratic organ, the Pastoral Council highlights and realizes the centrality of the People of God as the subject and active protagonist of the evangelising mission, in virtue of the fact that every member of the faithful has received the gifts of the Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation: "Rebirth to the divine life of baptism is the first step; next comes conducting ourselves as children of God, namely, by conforming ourselves to Christ who works in Holy Church, letting ourselves be involved in her mission in the world. To that end, the anointing of the Spirit is provided: 'without your strength, we have none' (cf. Pentecost Sequence). As Jesus was animated by the Spirit for his whole life, so also the life of the Church and of each of her members is under the guidance of the same Spirit"[166].

In light of this fundamental vision, the words of St Paul VI come to mind, "It is the function of the pastoral council to investigate everything pertaining to pastoral activities, to weigh them carefully and to set forth practical conclusions concerning them so as to promote conformity of the life and actions of the People of God with the Gospel", in the awareness that, as Pope Francis recalled, the purpose of such a Council "should not be ecclesiastical organization but rather the missionary aspiration of reaching everyone".

111. The Pastoral Council is a consultative body, governed by the norms established by the diocesan Bishop, to define the criteria of its composition, the methods of election of its members, its objectives and manner of functioning. In any case, in order not to distort the nature of this Council, it is best to avoid defining it as a "team" or "équipe", that is to say in terms that are not suitable to express concretely the ecclesial and canonical relationship between the Parish Priest and the rest of the faithful.

Should any parishioner desire to receive the full version of the document (20 pages) send the parish office an email with the request and I shall send you a copy. $\sim Fr$ Thomas



Archdiocese of Sydney '*Of Life & Love'* Marriage Preparation Course

Session dates for final 2020 course: October 17, 22, 29 and November 5 To Book Online Visit: www.trybooking.com/BGRCR. Cost: \$310 per couple. Please note that this course consists of 4 sessions and where engaged couples must attend all sessions to gain completion certificate.

For further information, please contact: The Life, Family and Outreach team on (02) 9307 8480 or e-mail steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org

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Join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a weekend retreat around the theme of Romans 12:12. We will be guided by the retreat centre in following all COVID protocols.

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. In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to

"Take fresh courage."

This year is the ten year anniversary of Mary's canonisation. During the challenging times we all face, please pray and support Mary MacKillop Today, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vitals works and carry on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross.

> For more information please call 02 8912 2777 or visit marymackilloptoday.org.au

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