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.

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Child Protection Sunday 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

FORGIVE BUT DO NOT FORGET



I have a crafted Christmas nativity scene on the wall of my presbytery, a gift on the 25th anniversary of my ordination. The artwork of Jilumol Mariet Thomas. But this creation is not the work of her hands, she does not have hands. The amazing piece of art was created with her legs alone. When I met Jilumol she was a school girl in an institution run by the Sisters of the Destitute, where my cousin Sr Christine was in charge. Now she has a university degree in graphics and animation and works as an animation artist. Jilu, though she does not have any hands, can drive a car and look after herself. In a recent interview she said, "People see me not having hands. They don't think I can do things like them." Then she started to acknowledge the many people who helped her realise her potential and express her gratitude for them. Jilu remembered as a child her aunt throwing a book on the floor and stepping on it, and opening it with her leg. That was the start of a new education for her. She is grateful to her parents who made sure she had a proper education. She went on to name many more people and institutions she is grateful for helping her to grow up to what she is now. You might say she is motivational. It is more than that. Her sense of gratitude can be seen blossoming into joy and peace.

Most people do not have such limitations and such challenges. Yet many find it hard to enjoy that kind of joy and peace in life. If you can't see how you are provided for, you won't know how to be grateful in life. You will then end up in self-pity and a miserable life. The exercise could start with simple things like your breakfast.

In the morning when you sit down to your bowl of cereal consider this. Our provident God puts into one acre of grain 180 thousand litres of water, 3 thousand kilos of Oxygen, 2 thousand kilos of carbon 70 kilos of nitrogen, 55 kilos of potassium, 35 kilos of sulphur, 20 kilos of magnesium, a similar amount of calcium and phosphorus and such other elements. To lose sight of such wonders in everyday life is to lose a sense of appreciation and gratitude.

You are indebted to a lot of people. Most of all your gratitude should be to God who has forgiven your sins and failures. Remember it is gratitude that makes life. The more you are grateful, the more compassionate you will be to others. The more compassionate you can be, the more joy will be coming your way. Therefore, forgive those who are indebted to you, but do not forget the relief it brought. God has gifted you with the ability to forgive others and be grateful for the goodness you enjoy. It is the willingness to forgive and the heart full of gratitude that makes the life of a Christian.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Tony Draybi, Antoinette Draybi, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Marissa, Rosario Poli, Angelia Nicole dela Cruz

Recently Deceased: Willie Isaac, Sandra S, Kamle Fajloun

Deceased: Mamerto Bolonia Sr, Felixberto Ibardolaza, Winnie Guillena, Donald Ibardolaza, Luis Arellano, Abelardo Arellano, Edilberto Arellano, Tadeusz Bukala

Anniversary: Mark Man-Wah Chiu, Engracia M. Amores,

Herminio Figueras, Ruth Amores, Editha Amores, Maria Amores, Carmern F. Garcia, Antonio Festejo, Apolonio Festejo

Birthday: Norman Sanchez, Philip Skerritt

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

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



PLEASE DO NOT PUT THE BULLETIN BACK IN THE CHURCH

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Sir 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading Sir 27:30 – 28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour illwill; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

R The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. R

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. R

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. R

For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. R

Second Reading

Rom 14:7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and

came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf Ps 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 55:6-9** 2nd Reading: **Phil 1:20-24. 27** Gospel: **Mt 20:1-16**

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 18:21-35

Have you thought?

The parable sees the unforgiving servant putting his fellow servant in prison 'until he paid back the debt'. This is almost exclusively what prisons were used for until only a few hundred years ago. When a person could not repay a debt, they were held in prison until the debt was paid. Of course, being in prison, they had little opportunity to repay the debt themselves and relied on friends and relatives to repay the debt on their behalf. To pay someone's debt was to 'redeem' them. The earliest ideas of Christ as a 'Redeemer' were based on the idea of Christ paying a debt on behalf of humankind.

Living the Gospel – Just like Peter

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes it up with his next breath. His question in this week's gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what's right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that blows this out of the water by relationship.

Gospel Focus – How many times?

Peter asks, 'How many times should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Peter probably thought that he was being pretty generous. The religious law of his time required people to forgive three times, so by suggesting seven times, Peter would have thought that he was really going the extra mile. To forgive someone seven times is a pretty big call. But the number seven has great significance in scripture; it is regarded as a number of perfection. Peter is suggesting that there is an ideal number of times that one should forgive. Jesus saying, take that perfect number of times and multiply it by seventy. There is no perfect number of times to forgive.

The cross is Christ's glory and triumph

Monday 14 September is the feast of the Triumph of the Cross. This discourse by Saint Andrew of Crete is a fitting spiritual reading for the day.

We are celebrating the feast of the cross which drove away darkness and brought in the light. As we keep this feast, we are lifted up with the crucified Christ, leaving behind us earth and sin so that we may gain the things above. So great and outstanding a possession is the cross that he who wins it has won a treasure. Rightly could I call this treasure the fairest of all fair things and the costliest, in fact as well as in name, for on it and through it and for its sake the riches of salvation that had been lost were restored to us.

Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing. The legal bond of our sin would not be cancelled, we should not have attained our freedom, we should not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor hell despoiled.

Therefore, the cross is something wonderfully great and honourable. It is great because through the cross the many noble acts of Christ found their consummation – very many indeed, for both his miracles and his sufferings were fully rewarded with victory. The cross is honourable because it is both the sign of God's suffering and the trophy of his victory. It stands for his suffering because on it he freely suffered unto death. But it is also his trophy because it was the means by which the devil was wounded and death conquered; the barred gates of hell were smashed, and the cross became the one common salvation of the whole world.

The cross is called Christ's glory; it is saluted as his triumph. We recognise it as the cup he longed to drink and the climax of the sufferings he endured for our sake. As to the cross being Christ's glory, listen to his words: Now is the Son of Man glorified, and in him God is glorified, and God will glorify him at once. And again: Father, glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world came to be. And once more: "Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." Here he speaks of the glory that would accrue to him through the cross. And if you would understand that the cross is Christ's triumph, hear what he himself also said: When I am lifted up, then I will draw all men to myself. Now you can see that the cross is Christ's glory and triumph.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK



Monday, 14 September - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Feast)

Originally this day commemorated the dedication of Constantine's Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in the fourth century; after the celebration, the wood of the cross was venerated. The feast spread in the West after the recovery of the relics of the cross from Persia in the seventh century. A feast of the Lord, it celebrates the "lifting up" of the Son of Man on the cross, into glory, and the paradox of the cross as a sign of humiliation and death, yet the source of victory and life.

Tuesday, 15 September - Our Lady of Sorrows (Memorial)

This commemoration originated in the medieval devotion to the seven sorrows of Mary. Approved for the Servite order in the seventeenth century, it was extended to the whole Western Church in 1814 by Pius VII in thanksgiving for his release from captivity under Napoleon. In the light of Simeon's prophecy about a sword piercing Mary's soul (Luke 2:35), the feast celebrates Mary, first disciple and first to share in the pain and triumph of the cross.



Wednesday, 16 September - Sts Cornelius & Cyprian (Memorial)



St Cornelius was elected as pope in 251 AD; a time when Christians were being persecuted. He faced much opposition within the church over the issue of reconciling those who had distanced themselves from the church (apostates) during these dangerous times. St Cyprian was the bishop of Carthage. He supported the pope's view that apostates should be pardoned and welcomed back into the church. A few letters written by Cornelius to Cyprian survive today, including those which were written after he was banished from Rome in 253 AD. Cornelius died in exile most probably from poor health, although it was Cyprian who called him a martyr to the faith.

WHAT'S NEW?

From the Pastor's Desk

Last weekend was Fathers Day. Thanks to the many people who contributed to the Retired Priests Foundation. The collection was encouraging. But I cannot say the same about the number of people at the Mass. Being Fathers' Day I was expecting more people at 10AM Mass, but surprisingly the congregation was smaller than usual. I have been looking at the responses to my recent letter to parishioners about the Mass Schedule and other pastoral concerns. Only a dozen people bothered to respond to it. I am at a loss to understand the phenomena. Does it mean "I can't be bothered syndrome" or "You do not deserve my comment syndrome"? In either case I feel called to appraise my pastoral ministry. Community building activities are restricted in this COVID pandemic. But Sacraments, faith celebrations are not hindered, though there are conditions imposed. I understand people in a high risk category should avoid any gatherings including the church gatherings for Mass and other celebrations. But I want assure you that should anyone wish to have the sacraments, including Holy Communion, I can provide them. The viability of the parish depends on parishioners wanting pastoral care and their interest in Eucharistic celebrations. It also depends on your support of the parish personally and financially. No electronic streaming is substitute for personal involvement in the parish life. What is your vision for the future of your parish? I am keen to hear from you.

Should anyone be in need of financial assistance, especially for grocery shopping, in this COVID time, let me know, I may be able to help. Should anyone be troubled with relational or domestic issues, I may be able to organise help for them. You can make confidential contact with me through pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. Otherwise organise to meet with me.

Praying God's blessings!

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.



More info: www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday and www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding

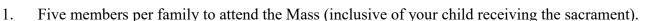
Sacramental Updates

We have finalised the dates for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

- Group 1 Saturday 17th October 2020 at 11.00 am
- Group 2 Saturday 14th November 2020 at 11.00 am

Please read the instructions below carefully as there's a few changes and guidelines due to COVID-19

Restrictions:



- 2. If your immediate family members consist of more than 5 members, please get in touch with me.
- 3. You will need to provide a list of each person attending once you finalise your date.
- 4. You are welcome to take photos before and after Mass.

Please note that selection of the date is dependent on the families completing the preparations that have been set up via google classroom, zoom meetings and one on one meeting with Father Thomas. Hence, I encourage each one of you to get on board as we are close to the finish line.

For those of you who have missed the first two Zoom faith talks, kindly get in touch with me. Looking forward to our final Zoom talk on Monday, 14 September at 7.00pm.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information and please keep this intention in your prayers. God bless!

~Sophia Brewty, Sacramental Co-ordinator

ZOOM Bible Study

Topic: Matthew Chapter 14 Time: 7pm-8pm on Tuesday

To join send and email request to info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

and the link will be send to you.



Recommencing Group Masses

Some of the Group Masses will be recommencing in the month of September. The Ugandan Community Mass will be on First Sunday of each month and the Malayalam Mass for Marian Japamala Sakhyam will be on the fourth Sunday of each month. They both will be in the afternoon.

For more information on either of these Masses, please contact the Parish Office.



Priests' Retirement Foundation Father's Day Appeal 2020

On behalf of this parish, we thank you for supporting last week's appeal. Through your gift, we are able to continue in our mission to provide care for our growing number of sick and retired priests in the Archdiocese of Sydney.



Holy Places Appeal this Weekend

This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to the local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land rely on assistance from the Holy Places Appeal.

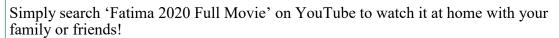
A collection box will be available in the church where you can drop off your donations.

Current Church COVID Restrictions

- Number of people allowed in the church 90 (one person per 4 square metre rule). Church doors will be closed when the 90th person enters for the Mass.
- The church doors will be left open as long as there is someone to monitor the registrations. Should you wish to make a visit and the church doors are closed, contact the office to open the church door for you.
- The use of face mask when attending church is recommended but not mandatory.
- Parish Bulletins are sent by email. Printed Bulletin can be collected AFTER Mass, and not to be put back in the church.
- Vigil Mass (Saturday 5 PM) will be Live streamed, and it will be available on demand thereafter on YouTube Channel BERALA PARISH.
- ♦ 8am and 10 am Masses will continue to be celebrated. Holy Hour and Confessions on Saturdays 8.30 am − 9.30 am.
- Bookings for Baptisms, anointing of the sick and marriages are welcome. Schedule for Confessions will be 8.30 am to 9.30 am on Saturdays. But you are also welcome to call and make an appointment for any other time.
- If you are unwell consult your GP, and you should not attend the church.

Fatima Movie

The highly acclaimed Fatima movie is currently available to watch in High Definition for free on YouTube.





Support Your Parish

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.



New QR Code

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 please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or email info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au to obtain the Parish Census Form & Direct Debit Form (for those who are opting to donate automatically by credit card) so that your details can be added in our system.



Fathers Day Podcast Maximus podcast – Where are all the men? With Daniel Ang

This week on the podcast Daniel Ang of the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation joins us to answer one of the most critical questions the Catholic Church faces today: Where are all the men?!

Join us on our Facebook page this Friday the 18th of September at 4 pm!

Marriage Enrichment Weekend



Learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

November 20 - 22, 2020 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Book online at www.wwme.org.au

encounter Alternatively contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au | Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Online Catholic Women's Group

The Feminine Genius

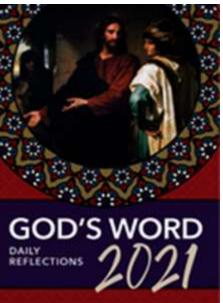
Join the Catholic Women's Group on Fridays at 1:30 pm on Zoom as they tackle the difficult questions about what it means to be a woman, femininity, vocations, and more!

Zoom link: https://notredame-au.zoom.us/j/91086734679



God's Word Daily Reflections 2021

Available Now for only \$20.00!



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

Catholic Weekly DIGITAL EDITION S1 Be the first to read the latest news from your week mobile, tablet or desktop CATHOLICWEEKLY.COM.AU/SUBSCRIPTION

Just for Laughs

Never criticize someone until you have walked a mile in their shoes.

That way, when you criticize them, you'll be a mile away, and you'll have their shoes.



OTHER NOTICES

CatholicCare supporting seniors

CatholicCare Home Care services for seniors can help parishioners navigate the complicated My Aged Care system and provide services for seniors so they can live life to the full. Call 13 18 19 to for one of our Home Care Specialists to talk you through the process.

Parent Line: 1300 1300 52

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: Can you picture yourself being a foster carer? Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer. To book a one on one appointment call CCareline connect@familyspirit.org | 13 18 19 | 8am – 6pm, Monday – Friday

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare, through its CCareline 13 18 19 number and the Parish Volunteer Program in partnership with the Archdiocese of Sydney, is working together as the 'hands and feet of Christ in the community' reaching out to those most in need in our parishes and beyond. To register or learn more about the Parish Volunteer Program call CCareline on 13 18 19. If you are struggling and need help or support, or you are worried about someone else, please call CCareline on 13 18 19 today.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is a journey of spiritual healing to help women and men overcome the painful effects of an abortion experience. The retreat offers a sanctuary in which to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion in

a safe, supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment. The weekend retreat is facilitated by professionally trained spiritual counsellors and priests.

We anticipate the next retreat to be held on 4 - 6 December 2020. With Covid19 we need to remain flexible, however we are optimistic and we are taking registrations.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Ministries offers a confidential phone line (0400 092 555); weekend healing retreats; an informative website: www.rachelsvineyard.org.au; and pastoral support with a trained counsellor or a priest.

Maximus E-News for Men

As part of our Maximus apostolate for men, we have begun a fortnightly E-Newsletter that provides details of every men's group in Sydney, as well as advertises our podcast and the challenges our podcast guests issue to the audience. Even despite the restrictions and lockdowns, great things are happening in men's ministry in Sydney. If you'd like to sign up to the newsletter, please email chris.dasilva@sydneycatholic.org to be added to the list.

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.



stjwauburn.catholic.edu.au

(02) 9646 1434

Prayer for Child Protection Sunday

Lord

You asked that the little children be allowed to come to you; for it is such as these that the Reign of God belongs.

You entrust them to the care and protection of our communities of faith. Guide us as we strive to ensure that our Catholic communities provide a safe environment for each child. We pray especially for all those who have been harmed in their childhood. Give them courage in facing the past and lead them to your healing protection.

Amen

Can you picture yourself being a foster carer?

Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer.

To learn more about becoming a carer register for our next online information on Thursday, 24th September 2020; 12.30pm – 1.30pm.

To register call

CCareline 131819

FamilySpirit.org

- connect@familyspirit.org
- 8am 6pm Monday Friday