



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.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20 SEPTEMBER 2020



The Last Will Be the First

Bakhita, her name means 'the fortunate'. That is not the name her parents gave her. She was snatched as child from her parents by Arab slave traders. The trauma she suffered as a slave made her forget her own name. Bakhita, the name the slave masters gave her, even as they tortured her terribly, was proved true and fitting for her life by God. You wouldn't call Bakhita lucky who was sold and bought five times before completing her teenage years, in the latter half of nineteenth



century. But her life was like the people hired by the land owner in the parable told by Jesus. In 1888, when she ended up with the Canossian Sisters in Italy, at the age of nineteen or twenty, it was like waiting for the Lord's call to his vineyard till the 11th hour. She who was forcefully made a Muslim by her captors, became a Catholic. She eventually joined the Canossian Sisters. Most of the Sisters of the order were cradle Catholics, and can be likened to the people who were hired in early hours of the day according to the parable of workers hired for the vineyard. Those who were hired earlier considered luckier and expected greater reward compared to the last comers. Bakhita, though a late comer to the faith and the least expected in a religious congregation with mostly Europeans, was rewarded by the Lord. Our Lord rewarded her with the fruits of the Kingdom of God, peace and joy in full measure. During the Second World War (1939-1945) she shared the fears and hopes of the town people, who considered her a saint and felt protected by her mere presence. Bombs did not spare Schio, but the war passed without a single casualty. The Lord did not make her wait till her death to reward her with the fruits of the Kingdom. In her earthly life itself she could show forth the joy and peace of the Kingdom of God. In the life of Bakhita we see the last becoming the first in the Kingdom. It is human nature to complain about a miserable past life and when you feel left out by humanity and God. But Bakhita's response to her past must be eye opening for us. A young student once asked Bakhita: "What would you do, if you were to meet your captors?" Without hesitation she responded: "If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For, if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian and a religious today." Bakhita was canonised as a saint on 1 October 2000.

Like Bakhita, perhaps you can recall a moment of great need, when you were at the receiving end of someone's generosity, a time when you recognised you had done nothing to 'deserve' that response. The life of Saint Bakhita and the parable of the land owner hiring workers has the message that God's love is a free gift and not earned. Recall moments when you were particularly conscious of the gift that God's love is to you. The parable we reflect on today tells us that where love is involved, it is never too late. Can you recall times when you got a positive response after taking action when you thought it was "too late"?

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Rosario Poli, Monsignor Antonio Mortillero

Recently Deceased: Jordan Afa Ainiu, Willie Isaac, Kamle Fajloun

Deceased: Mr & Mrs Buckman, Beatrice Rozells, Emily de Souza, Mario Capellan

Anniversary: Mark Man-Wah Chiu

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

Other Intentions: 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.

SUPPORT US

Scan the QR Code to make a donation.
Thank you for your generosity!



ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading

Is 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

R The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured. **R**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R**

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. **R**

Second Reading

Phil 1:20-24. 27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Communion Antiphon

Ps 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: Ez 18:25-28

2nd Reading: Phil 2:1-11

Gospel: Mt 21:28-32

Are you struggling during this Covid situation?

If you are struggling financially, Fr Thomas may be able to help you. Contact him over the phone or directly email him at pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. Anyone struggling with personal or domestic issues also is welcome to contact Fr Thomas and he may be able to organise help for you.

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 20:1-16

Historical Context – Labourers for hire

Jesus' parable describes a situation that would have been very familiar to his audience. At the time, there were many quite wealthy landowners who controlled large vineyards, orchards and crop fields. They would have employed a certain number of permanent workers but come harvest time there was a need for more workers and, much like today, they sought to employ part time workers for a short period of time until the rush was over. Men looking for work would gather in the marketplace of a village and landowners would select workers and send them to their property to work.

Scriptural context – Kingdom parables

A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging 'shift' to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn't. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This 'shift' is sometimes called a 'discombobulating shift'.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our 'normal' relationships.

Have you thought? Equality or Equity?

How would you feel if you had done a full day's work and were paid the same as someone who had only worked for one hour? Is the landowner in the parable being unjust? He pays the workers exactly what he promised them – but he promised everyone the same amount, regardless of when they started work. The workers who started at 6.00 am complain. How do you think the workers who started later in the day felt? The landowner claims the right to be generous – is generosity unfair? There is a difference between treating people equally and equitably. What has the landowner done here?

St Augustine On Weak Christians

You have failed to strengthen the weak, says the Lord. He is speaking to wicked shepherds, false shepherds, shepherds who seek their own concerns and not those of Christ. They enjoy the bounty of milk and wool, but they take no care at all of the sheep, and they make no effort to heal those who are ill. I think there is a difference between one who is weak (that is, not strong) and one who is ill, although we often say that the weak are also suffering from illness.

My brothers, when I try to make that distinction, perhaps I could do it better and with greater precision, or perhaps someone with more experience and insight could do so. But when it comes to the words of Scripture, I say what I think so that in the meantime you will not be deprived of all profit. In the case of the weak sheep, it is to be feared that the temptation, when it comes, may break him. The sick person, however, is already ill by reason of some illicit desire or other, and this is keeping him from entering God's path and submitting to Christ's yoke.

There are men who want to live a good life and have already decided to do so, but are not capable of bearing sufferings even though they are ready to do good. Now it is a part of the Christian's strength not only to do good works but also to endure evil. Weak men are those who appear to be zealous in doing good works but are unwilling or unable to endure the sufferings that threaten. Lovers of the world, however, who are kept from good works by some evil desire, lie sick and listless, and it is this sickness that deprives them of any strength to accomplish good works.

The paralytic was like that. When his bearers could not bring him in to the Lord, they opened the roof and lowered him down to the feet of Christ. Perhaps you wish to do this in spirit: to open the roof and to lower a paralytic soul down to the Lord. All its limbs are lifeless, it is empty of every good work, burdened with its sins, and weak from the illness brought on by its evil desires. Since all its limbs are helpless, and the paralysis is interior, you cannot come to the physician. But perhaps the physician is himself concealed within; for the true understanding of Scripture is hidden. Reveal therefore what is hidden, and thus you will open the roof and lower the paralytic to the feet of Christ.

As for those who fail to do this and those who are negligent, you have heard what was said to them: *You have failed to heal the sick; you have failed to bind up what was broken*. Of this we have already spoken. Man was broken by terrible temptations. But there is at hand a consolation that will bind what was broken: *God is faithful. He does not allow you to be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it*.

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.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 21 September - St Matthew (Feast)



Matthew, also known as Levi, was a Jew who collected taxes for the Romans at Capernaum in Galilee. Here Jesus met him and called him to be an apostle (Luke 5:27-28). Venerated as the author of the gospel which highlights Jesus' role as Messiah and underlines the presence of the kingdom of God in the Church.

Wednesday, 23 September - St Pius of Pietrelcina (Memorial)



Born on 25 May 1887 in Pietrelcina (Italy). Died on this day in 1968 at San Giovanni Rotondo (Italy). Raised in a deeply religious rural home, Francesco Forgione became Padre Pio when he was ordained in the Capuchin order in 1910. A

mystic who received the marks of the stigmata in 1918, a renowned holy man, and a charity worker who founded a hospital (the House for the Relief of Suffering). His ascetic life of pain led to special compassion for the suffering. Remembered as an extraordinary confessor and spiritual director.

WHAT'S NEW?

Pastor on Holidays

I will be taking my annual holidays from 28 September till 8 October. With the COVID19 restrictions, I will have to miss my annual trip to visit my mum and siblings. But I am prepared to settle on destination country Australia. While I am away, Fr Simon Kitimbo from the Seminary and Fr Ruan Premaraja from Lidcombe will supply Masses on weekdays and weekend. Please make them feel welcome. Lea will be minding the Parish Office, as always, these days.

There is some maintenance of painting the ceiling of the church to be attended. During my holidays, which is also school holidays, there will be workers in the church.

ZOOM Bible Study

Topic: Matthew Chapter 15—Conflicts RE Pharisees & Gentiles

Time: 7pm-8pm on Tuesday, 22 September

To join send an email request to info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au and the link will be send to you.



Priests' Retirement Foundation & Holy Land Appeals

On behalf of this parish, we thank you for supporting the past couple of week's appeal.

In total we have raised **\$2,100** for the Priest Retirement Foundation and **\$637** for the Holy Land Appeal.

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



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

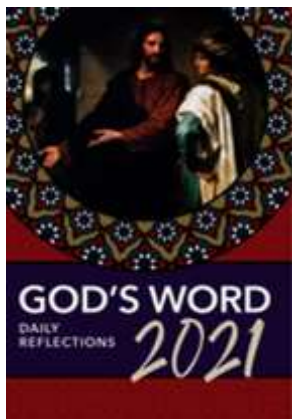
Orla Rose Macduff & Supileo Jr Kata

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



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.



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.

*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*



Virtual Healing Conference 2020

If you or anyone you know is struggling with addiction, anxiety, depression, marital difficulties, or any other struggle, this FREE online conference on experiencing the healing of Jesus, from 25-27 September is just for you!

Register here: <https://www.virtualcatholicconference.com/healing2020>

Pray for Life – Holy Hour 26 September



Parishes are invited to hold a 'Pray for Life' Holy Hour on the 26th of September to remember the 1st Anniversary of the passing of the NSW Abortion Bill in both houses of our state Parliament.

For more information, please contact Steven Buhagiar at the Life Family and Marriage team on 0415600290.





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

Due to technical issues, our podcast featuring Daniel Ang will now happen on the 25th of September at 4 pm on our Facebook page. 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?!

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>



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.

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.



To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop

We invite you to order your free copy of *Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer*

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to **"take fresh courage..."** as Mary did so often.

These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to:
www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book
or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777

MARY MACKILLOP
today