



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.

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4 OCTOBER 2020

Good Wine requires Hard Work

HOMILY by Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord Jesus Christ loved a good wine. In fact, in one of the Gospels his opponents call him 'a drunkard and a glutton'. Of course, it was malicious defamation but our Lord certainly loved gathering around the table with his followers and those who were despised by the elites of his time. He would eat well and drink wine – and enjoy it. Why?

Firstly, Jesus was a shrewd judge of human character. He knew that a good wine makes people happy, loosens them up, helps sociability, encourages companionship. Our Lord wants us to be happy, not sour-faced killjoys. Secondly, Jesus had a theatrical bent. One of his favourite images of Heaven was of a great wedding banquet, and every banquet or feast needs a good wine. (Think of Cana.) So, the meals he shared with people were like street theatre, little rehearsals of the great wedding feast of Heaven, a foretaste of Heaven where He will be our Divine Companion.

To have a good wine, one needs a well tended vineyard. And that is what today's Gospel is about. In the Jewish scripture, Israel is spoken of as the Vineyard of God. We can say that now the Church is the vineyard of God. God is the Landlord, we are the tenants. The vineyard is not ours to do with as we will. It is our job to faithfully tend to it and make sure it bears good fruit, the fruit that God intends.

If we are unfaithful, then, as is said in today's Gospel, God will find other people to carry on his plan, other tenants to tend his vineyard. Certainly, we see that within the Universal Church. With the decline of the Eurocentric church, who has God turned to to be new tenants for his vineyard? Look at the surging numbers of Catholics in sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria, and in Asia. Pope Francis recently visited the seven million Catholics in Korea. The persecuted Church in Vietnam and China is surviving and growing despite the severity of oppression. I think we may agree that the vineyard of the Church in Australia is not as fruitful as it could be. But I am not totally pessimistic about the situation.

The tradition of the Catholic Church is being transmitted generation to generation, but more weakly than previously in our schools, and so depending to a large degree on faithful parents and on our parishes which need to become more missionary in approach to our own lapsed, disaffected and alienated, and to seekers after spiritual truth. So, the challenge is to become effective workers in our own local vineyard. At every Mass the priest recites these words: 'Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.'

Our Lord Jesus Christ wants to give himself totally to us under the appearance of wine, but that depends not only on the grape but on the work of human hands, i.e. collaboration between the creative power of God and human beings in their various exertions in the service of the Kingdom. In anticipation, He gives us a real foretaste of the great banquet, which is Heaven.

Take up that privilege and duty to work in the vineyard of the Church. Help prepare for the satisfaction, the slaking of the thirst, of all the thirsts, of the whole of humanity.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Recently Deceased: Jordan Afa Ainiu, Zivko Zrilic

Deceased: Nellie Lim, Dulcie Cullen, Fr Mark Spora, Fr Graham Kings

Anniversary: Lucila Amores, Samuel Amores, Ricardo Allarde, Cesar Sumabat & Macaria Andino, Santina Baudille

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.



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bulletin back in the church.

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ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Est 4:17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

First Reading

Is 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

R The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R**

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R**

Second Reading

Phil 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much

greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

Communion Antiphon

Lam 3:25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 25:6-10**

2nd Reading: **Phil 4:12-14. 19-20**

Gospel: **Mt 22:1-14**

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 21:33-43

Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

Matthew's whole recount of this parable is dependent upon the reader/listener's familiarity with earlier writings within the Old Testament. We are fortunate that the designers of the lectionary have included the relevant passages as the first reading and psalm for this Sunday's readings. The original audience would have drawn on their own familiarity with the texts and recognised Jesus' words as echoing those of Isaiah and the psalmist. Matthew's gospel was particularly keen to cast Jesus in the image of fulfilling the prophecies of the Jewish tradition. Throughout Matthew's gospel we see the author placing the words of prophecy in Jesus' mouth or using the narration to confirm that Jesus performed actions to fulfil the words of the prophets.

Have you thought? The benevolent landowner

One of the images from this gospel that would have been puzzling to the audience, and may have tipped them off that Jesus was telling a parable with a particular message, is the image of the landowner being incredibly benevolent and tolerant of his rebellious tenants. Jesus' audience would have known that the law was always on the side of a landowner over his tenants. Any misdeed by a tenant farmer would have been dealt with swiftly and severely and yet the landowner in Jesus' story (God) is almost unbelievably patient and prepared to give the tenants every opportunity to do the right thing.

Living the Gospel – Different View: Using scripture to justify hatred

This text is one that has been used by some Christians to justify their hatred and persecution of Jews. They point to the parable Jesus told as evidence that Jesus blamed the Jewish people for his death. It is a strange fact that some people believe that the only way to justify their own beliefs is to try to destroy the beliefs (and believers) of other faiths. For hundreds of years Christians abused and tormented Jews, driving them out of cities and even countries. The terrible treatment of Jews in World War II was drawing on a long history of Christians persecuting Jews.

Fight the good fight of faith

St Gregory of Nyssa

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation; the old has passed away. Now by the "new creation" Paul means the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in a heart that is pure and blameless, free of all malice, wickedness or shamefulness. For when a soul has come to hate sin and has delivered itself as far as it can to the power of virtue, it undergoes a transformation by receiving the grace of the Spirit. Then it is healed, restored and made wholly new. Indeed the two texts: *Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new one*, and: *Let us celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth*, support those passages which speak about the new creation.

Yet the tempter spreads many a snare to trap the soul, and of itself human nature is too weak to defeat him. This is why the Apostle bids us to arm ourselves with heavenly weapons, when he says: *Put on the breastplate of righteousness and have your feet shod with the gospel of peace and have truth around your waist as a belt*. Can you not see how many forms of salvation the Apostle indicates, all leading to the same path and the same goal? Following them to the heights of God's commandments, we easily complete the race of life. For elsewhere the Apostle says: *Let us run with fidelity the race that has been set before us, with our eyes on Jesus, the origin and the goal of our faith*.

So a man who openly despises the accolades of this world and rejects all earthly glory must also practise self-denial. Such self-denial means that you never seek your own will but God's, using God's will as a sure guide; it also means possessing nothing apart from what is held in common. In this way it will be easier for you to carry out your superior's commands promptly, in joy and in hope; this is required of Christ's servants who are redeemed for service to the brethren. For this is what the Lord wants when he says: *Whoever wishes to be first and great among you must be the last of all and a servant to all*.

Our service of mankind must be given freely. One who is in such a position must be subject to everyone and serve his brothers as if he were paying off a debt. Moreover, those who are in charge should work harder than the others and conduct themselves with greater submission than their own subjects. Their lives should serve as a visible example of what service means, and they should remember that those who are committed to their trust are held in trust from God.

Those, then, who are in a position of authority must look after their brothers as conscientious teachers look after the young children who have been handed over to them by their parents. If both disciples and masters have this loving relationship, then subjects will be happy to obey whatever is commanded, while superiors will be delighted to lead their brothers to perfection. If you try to outdo one another in showing respect, your life on earth will be like that of the angels.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, 7 October - Our Lady of the Rosary (Memorial)



This commemoration was established in 1573 in thanksgiving for a Christian victory over the Ottoman forces at Lepanto. It entered the general calendar in the eighteenth century.

It is a memorial of the Virgin Mary as honoured in the rosary, a form of prayer combining the salutation of the angel (Luke 1:28) with meditation on the saving mysteries of Christ. Originally the rosary was the laity's "psalter," the Hail Marys replacing the 150 psalms.

Things to Do: Pray the Rosary, or 5 decades of the Rosary tonight with your family. Continue this practice through October, the month that is especially *dedicated to the Rosary*.

1. Sign of the Cross Apostles Creed

2. One Our Father
3. Three Hail Mary's
4. One Glory Be

First Mystery

5. One Our Father
6. Ten Hail Mary's
7. One Glory Be

Second Mystery

8. One Our Father
9. Ten Hail Mary's
10. One Glory Be



Third Mystery

11. One Our Father
12. Ten Hail Mary's
13. One Glory Be

Fourth Mystery

14. One Our Father
15. Ten Hail Mary's
16. One Glory Be

Fifth Mystery

17. One Our Father
18. Ten Hail Mary's
19. One Glory Be
20. Hail Holy Queen

WHAT'S NEW?

Holy Father's Appeal



The **Holy Father's Appeal is on this weekend**. The appeal highlights the global charitable causes of Pope Francis and is aimed at alleviating the suffering of those affected by natural disasters, wars, the refugee crisis and poverty, to name a few. It is an opportunity for us to get involved in an important initiative of the Catholic Church on a local level, and we ask you to give what you can.

To give, please use the appeal envelopes provided or phone the Fundraising Office on during office hours on 1800 753 959. Thank you.

Pastor on Holidays

I am on annual leave until 8 October. While I am away, Fr Simon Kitimbo from 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, Tuesday-Friday from 9.00am-3.00pm.

~Fr Thomas

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*)

Unbroken Chain of Rosary

Why October is the Month of the Rosary?

Because of the COVID19 pandemic, October, the rosary month this year is especially significant to all of us. Let us not underestimate the power of Rosary prayer in this time of need.

The dedication of the month of October to the Rosary devotion comes from the aftermath of the Christians of Western Europe resisting the expansion attempt of the Islamic Ottoman Empire, in 16th century

On October 7, 1571, the Holy League of Christians confronted Ottoman Turks in a pivotal maritime battle. The fate of western Europe depended upon the success of Christians in this navy battle, which involved more than 400 warships.



Image credit: catholictradition.org

Pius V, the Pope then, knew he needed more than just military strength to defend Christian Europe, so he asked that all the faithful pray the rosary, requesting the intercession of the Blessed Mother. At the end of the Battle of Lepanto, the Holy League was victorious and the maritime expansion of the Ottoman Empire was permanently prevented. The next year, Pius V established a feast on October 7 in honour of the Blessed Mother, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

The rosary is a living prayer form and used as family prayer in many cultures. I grew up praying the rosary with parents and siblings daily.

The rosary is an invitation to experience the grace of Mary's spiritual motherhood as she leads us to her Son, Jesus. In 2002 Pope John Paul II added a new set of five reflections called the Luminous Mysteries which encourage additional meditations on the life of Jesus.

A group of mostly young parents have come forward to do an unbroken chain of rosary in the month of October. They are happy to welcome all interested people to join the roster for the October Rosary. By messaging your preferred time to Brobin on +61 410 065 253 or emailing kuttan.f@gmail.com, you too can join the unbroken chain of Rosary in the Month of October. Let us pray for the intercession of Our Lady, especially for those who are affected by the COVID19 pandemic.

Following on from Archbishop Fisher's consecration of the Archdiocese to Our Lady, Help of Christians in May, in the month of the Most Holy Rosary – our Archbishop is encouraging families to pray the Rosary together with renewed fervour.

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.

OTHER NOTICES

World Mission Day - Sunday 18th of October

World Mission Day, or Mission Sunday, reminds Catholics about their commitment and support for the missionary work of the Church through prayer and sacrifice. On Pentecost Sunday, May 31, Pope Francis released his message for this year's celebration and said that the Covid-19 pandemic is an opportunity for mission and service to others. While the present circumstances are a challenge for parishes, your support for the needs of the missionary churches would be very much appreciated.

Dating, Drugs, Rock'n'Roll



REGISTER HERE

All young adults are invited to participate online in Macquarie University Catholic Society's Mission Week themed "Sex, Drugs, Rock'n'Roll"! With an amazing line up of speakers including Jason Evert, Fr Rob Galea, Monica Doumit and Patrick Langrell, this is the opportunity to ask those controversial questions you've always wanted answered. Held at 1-2pm from the 6th – 9th of October

on Zoom. Register here for more details: <https://forms.gle/RuNe9n2auRK53NUo9> or follow our Facebook page for updates: <https://www.facebook.com/mqcatholics> or scan the QR code.

Got your wedding plans under control?

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. For further information visit: www.engagedencounter.org.au. Choose any of the coming weekends: Nov 7-8, Feb 20-21.

e-Petition to proclaim Modern Slavery Act 2018

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is encouraging people to sign an e-Petition calling on the Premier and the NSW Government to take immediate steps to proclaim the state's Modern Slavery Act 2018. Despite this law having passed parliament over two years ago, it still hasn't been brought into law, thanks to stalling tactics which have failed some of our state's most vulnerable citizens. You'll find a link to the petition here: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/epetitions-list.aspx>. The closing date for signing the e-Petition has been extended to 3 November 2020.

Over 9000 people have so far signed the petition and with the securing of 20,000 or more e-signatures, a debate on the subject of the e-Petition will be activated in the Legislative Assembly.

The Catholic Weekly has gone Digital!

With The Catholic Weekly returning to print, some of you might prefer to read it electronically on your desktop, tablet or mobile. Subscribe to The Catholic Weekly Digital Edition at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/product/the-catholic-weekly-digital-edition/> and be the first to receive the latest Catholic news and opinion.

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

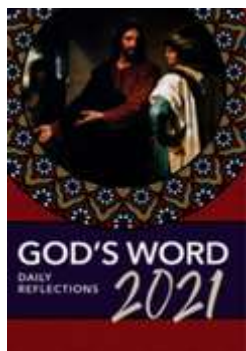
CatholicCare, through its CCareline 13 18 19 number and the Parish Volunteer Program in partnership with the Archdiocese of Sydney, is working together as the 'hands and feet of Christ in the community' reaching out to those most in need in our parishes and beyond. To register or learn more about the 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.

Research study on worship practices during COVID19 pandemic

Monash University is inviting practicing Catholics aged over 18 across Australia to participate in a research study on religious practice before and after COVID-19 lockdowns. The anonymous study is exploring possible relationships between religious orientation, worship choices and post-pandemic spiritual wellbeing. If you'd like to participate in the study, you'll find more information here: https://monash.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_43f3xmKU1xa0S1

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.