



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 & 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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

20 DECEMBER 2020

Be prepared to burst out in Joy



"*You don't like me*" is a tactic children use to gain favour from their parents. The words may not always be exactly the same, but some variant of this expression, in words or in gestures, is a powerful tool that can bend the hearts of the loving parents. The caring parent soon works on showing the unhappy child that he or she is their favourite one. There is nothing more uplifting in life than knowing how favoured you are.

Mary was told by the angel that she had found favour with God. Because of that she bore God Himself in her. Though she did not understand everything that was happening in her life and around her, the knowledge that she was God's favourite was enough for her to say "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.*" This was the decisive moment which made it possible for God to incarnate for your salvation and mine.

More than anyone else's you are the favourite of God. There were times through friends, strangers, or family, God's messenger nudged this message to you. Can you recollect such God experience in your life? Who were the people who acted as the messenger of God, bringing such great news to you especially in your vulnerability or confusion? God the saviour is just about to be incarnate in your life, if He hasn't done it yet in you. Be prepared to burst out in joy.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Ann Bechiom, Grazyna Lukasiewicz, Lourdes Zabala, Ray Jarque, Brillo Amores

Recently Deceased: George Lettich, Tony Draybi

Deceased: Anthony Louis Gomes, Angelita Galapon, Emiliano Galapon, Ana Riza Boado, Jose Romeo Advincula, Paul Gomes, Jirmine Gomes, Percy Baptiste, Michael Baptiste, Betty Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Carmena Portelli, Bert Portelli, Anthony Spiteri, Carmela Spiteri, George Spiteri,

Fatima Bolonia, Gloria Bolonia, Mamerto Bolonia Sr, Astrid Bolonia, Winnie Guillena, Marylou Geronca

Anniversary: John Rockliff, Frank Debrineat

Special Intention: Arlen & Arshi Gomes

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

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



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Graciana Haddad & Jai Baeta

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



Please do not put the
bulletin back in the church.

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Thank you for your generosity!



ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

R For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R**

I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **R**

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. **R**

Second Reading

Rom 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Communion Antiphon

Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

2nd Reading: Col 3:12-21

Gospel: Lk 2:22-40

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 1:26-38

Scriptural context

Throughout the gospel of Luke, great importance is placed on the people in society who were regarded as the 'lesser ones'. The mission of Jesus, as described in Luke's gospel, is directed towards those who were unimportant in the eyes of society. In first century society, women were regarded as much less in status than men. So it is significant that the first revelation of Jesus is made to a woman, Mary. The angel Gabriel announces that Mary has won God's favour. For a woman to win God's favour would have been unimaginable to many Jews at the time, yet, through this woman God was revealed in human form.

Have you thought? What about Joseph?

Luke's account of the Annunciation (and indeed much of the infancy narrative) focuses its attention on Mary. But what of Joseph? How does he react to the news that his betrothed wife is pregnant? By Jewish Law and tradition, Mary could well have been stoned to death if Joseph had denounced her. Even if Joseph allowed people to think that he was the father of her child, this would have caused an enormous scandal – a breach of the sanctity of the betrothal vow. However, foreshadowing the compassion of Jesus himself, Joseph acts purely out of compassion and continues with his marriage to Mary.

Different View – Virgin births

Some critics of Christian tradition argue that the account of the virgin conception and birth of Jesus is merely a literary device used to give status to Jesus' birth. At the time, it was not an uncommon device to accord a significant figure a heroic or even virginal birth. In Greek, Egyptian and even Roman legend, several characters are credited with virgin births. Some authors point to the fact that it is only the gospels of Matthew and Luke and none of the earlier writings that portray Mary as a virgin. The argument suggests that assigning Jesus a virgin birth was an attempt to place Jesus alongside other historical and legendary figures as a person of great status.

The whole world awaits Mary's reply

From a sermon of St Bernard of Clairvaux

You have heard, O Virgin, that you will conceive and bear a son; you have heard that it will not be by man but by the Holy Spirit. The angel awaits an answer; it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for your word of compassion; the sentence of condemnation weighs heavily upon us.

The price of our salvation is offered to you. We shall be set free at once if you consent. In the eternal Word of God we all came to be, and behold, we die. In your brief response we are to be remade in order to be recalled to life.

Tearful Adam with his sorrowing family begs this of you, O loving Virgin, in their exile from Paradise. Abraham begs it, David begs it. All the other holy patriarchs, your ancestors, ask it of you, as they dwell in the country of the shadow of death. This is what the whole earth waits for, prostrate at your feet. It is right in doing so, for on your word depends comfort for the wretched, ransom for the captive, freedom for the condemned, indeed, salvation for all the sons of Adam, the whole of your race.

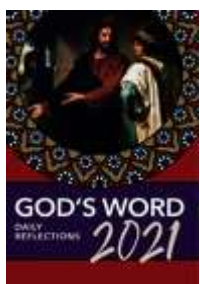
Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. Answer with a word, receive the Word of God. Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. Breathe a passing word, embrace the eternal Word.

Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise, your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *Behold the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.*

Give the gift of Christmas that lasts the whole year! 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.



FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK



Saturday, 26 December - St Stephen (Feast)

Died in Jerusalem about 35. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service (diakonia). Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Remembered for preaching with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).

WHAT'S NEW?

Christmas Luncheon

All are invited (with or without their families) to join Christmas Luncheon on 25 December at 11.30AM. You may invite other people also to dine together on Christmas day at Berala.

This year Christmas Lunch will be served at the tables. In the previous years it was buffet where the participants served themselves. But this time we want to be COVID safe. To organise we need volunteers.

Following is the list of tasks for you consider volunteering.

- Greeters. These are the people who welcome the guests as they arrive and make them register and sanitise their hands.
- Setting up the Jubilee Hall and preparing dinner accessories. This could be done on 24th December after 4PM.
- Dishing up meals in the kitchen and making them ready to serve. This is done mostly after 9AM on Christmas Day.
- Volunteers to serve plates of food to the tables. These volunteers should be ready to go from 11.30AM on Christmas day.
- Serving drinks – (Volunteer already assigned).
- Cleaning the Hall – this will be done with all available volunteers after the lunch.



Mass Schedules for Christmas



Thursday, 24 December

7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

12.00 midnight Solemn Mass

Friday, 25 December

8.00am Christmas Mass,

10.00am Christmas Mass

Saturday, 26 December

8.00am Mass (Fr Thomas Ordination & Feast of St Luke)

5.00pm Vigil (Sunday) Mass

Are you struggling financially?

If you or you know anyone needing financial assistance during this time may contact Fr Thomas. He may be able to help you. Please contact the Parish Office to book an appointment or send a confidential email to pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.

Christmas Pageant

Christmas Vigil Mass at 7PM on 24 December will have a special focus on families with children. It will be celebrated outdoors (weather permitting) this year. There will be a Christmas Pageant as part of the Mass.

All children are invited to dress up as characters in the nativity scene. Options are to dress up as angel, shepherd, wise men, Joseph, Mary, and infant Jesus. There will be a parade of the Characters at the Vigil.



The Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph, Berala
would like to invite you and your family to a

Christmas Luncheon

Friday, 25 December

11.30am to 2.00pm

Jubilee Hall

62 Kingsland Road

BERALA 2141



*The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence.
May God bless you and your family this Christmas!*

Church Shop

Come and grab some items perfect gifts for Christmas: Nativity statues, prayer books, Religious Christmas Cards, decorations, glass angels AND SO MUCH MORE!

Drop by our Piety Stall and grab a gift for that special someone. We have a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The Church Shop is open on weekends before and after the 5.00pm Saturday Vigil and Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am masses. If you have any product enquiry, please contact the Parish Office.



Just for Laughs

Santa was having problems with his legs and was unable to walk so he went to the hospital to ask the doctor if he could recommend something for him. What did the doctor give to Santa to help him to walk? Answer: A candy cane

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.

OTHER NOTICES

Summer Nights 2021

The Summer Schools of Evangelisation that have been running around Australia for over 30 years have responded to the challenge of Covid, and are combining to run a program for young people at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre in Varroville in January 2021. There are two options (the retreat is run twice during the week): Mon 11 - Wed 13 January (3pm to 9pm) & Thu 14 - Sat 16 Jan (3pm to 9pm) COVID safe dinner is provided each day. For age 16-35 year old. The retreat will feature excellent quality talks and teaching, night sessions with praise and worship, drama, preaching, testimonies, and prayer. Mass, adoration and reconciliation are available each day.

It will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat centre. A stage will be brought in to hold all the sessions. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. For more information and to register: www.summerschool.org.au

Parish Missionary Internship for young Catholics: Seattle, USA

Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, on the outskirts of the US city of Seattle is seeking young adult Catholics (10-30) who wish to spend a one year internship spreading the gospel to youth and young adults, while gaining valuable experience serving in a vibrant parish environment.

Missionary interns will live and work in a team setting with other parish interns participating in daily prayer, Mass and evangelisation efforts in the parish and greater community. If you're interested in the program, please contact Sr Maria Caeli OP- Director of Missionary Internship Program at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Email: smcparmeter@starofthesea.net

Job Opportunity with Caritas Australia- Youth Participation Coordinator

The aid agency, Caritas Australia is looking for an energetic person who can implement an Australia-wide Caritas Youth Participation Strategy. A signature program is our walking 'With God Program' or faith inspiring bush walks in groups around Australia, and this is the key focus along with helping to animate the stories of Caritas' work through virtual engagements with schools.

Ideally this is a full time role based in Sydney however we understand that for some youth they may be studying or have other part-time jobs therefore flexibility in location and work hours will be considered for the right person. More information is available online at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/about/jobs/positions-vacant#YouthParticipationCoordinator>

Home Care Services for Seniors

CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently with comfort and confidence and to remain connected to your parish community. To learn more call our Home Care Team 13 18 19 or connect@catholiccare.org

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.

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. Next session: Feb 20-21.

The 2021 Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation course, Of Life and Love

Will be held on Saturday 27 February commencing at 10am and then Thursday evenings 4, 11, 18 March 2021 Saturday 14 August commencing at 10am and then Thursday evenings 19, 26 August & 02 September 2021 To Book Online - <https://www.trybooking.com/BMTLF> For further information, please contact - The Life, Marriage and Family team on (02) 9307 8480 or e-mail steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org.

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.

JRS Appeal for Foodbank Donations

The Jesuit Refugee Service mobile food bank is a huge and growing operation. Since 1 April, they have collectively fed more than 5,000 women, children, and men who have lost jobs, been excluded from Federal Government financial support and cannot return home. Their stocks of rice, pasta, oil, tuna, and long life milk are RUNNING LOW. If you can donate these items we have drop off spots around Sydney here. In the absence of Federal Government support for people in need, we continue to need your help. Please visit: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/jesuit-refugee-service/> and learn how you can support people who have no other means to buy these basics for their families.

27 DECEMBER 2020

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Bob KENSEY	Dom PANGILINAN
LECTOR/S	Noeline DONNELLAN	Michael CHOW	Renee SALAR
	Roshan SEBASTIAN	Jenny MICHAEL	Latisha ILBOUDO

Cleaners SPC: Malia & Mefiposeta Pei	Altar & Sacristy: Lynette	Group 4 Anita Yip: Catherine Naidu-Narayan, Francis
Saturday 8AM	26 DECEMBER	
LECTOR FOR MASS	Jann ROCKLIFF	