



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

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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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

27 DECEMBER 2020

Holy Family



With or without a house, children are normally reared in families. We all are, to a great extent, products of our own families. I remember, my **parents' insistence on an hour of family prayer each evening.** They also made sure their children did not miss out on Sunday Masses. Walking about two kilometres to and from the parish church in the tropical sun was not an issue then. Such a strong religious upbringing shaped my view of life and plans for my future. My aspiration to become a missionary priest started there. Though my parents proposed a career oriented education for me, I was set on my priestly vocation. I am glad that I did it, because the joy and the sense of fulfilment I have by being at the service of a variety of people from cradle to grave is amazing. The foundation for such a way of life for me was laid from my home formation. Like me, you too may recollect how much your family formation has impacted what you have become.

Child Jesus was raised as a pious Jew by his devoted parents. As good parents do, Mary and Joseph thanked God for the gift of their child, Jesus. The circumcision of the child and the offering they made in the temple marked the beginning of a religious formation for Jesus. Therefore, the child Jesus grew not only in stature, but in enlightening divine wisdom as well.

Parents of present times may be confused by competing moral and religious teachings. To make matters worse, some agencies and ideologies may even try to steal the parental role of formation of the kids from them. Be vigilant therefore that your children grow not only in stature, but also in divine wisdom. The stronger the foundation you lay for them, the greater the height your children will reach.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Recently Deceased: Elena Figueras, Cecil Scharenguivel, George Lettich, Tony Draybi

Deceased: Ted Duffy

Special Intention: Soane Loloa

Deceased Members and Friends of: O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Ross & Mitchell Families, Michael & Baini Families, Scully & Lynch Families, Amores, Florendo & Domingo Families

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

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.



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ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Lk 2:16

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

First Reading

Gen 15:1-6. 21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'.

'My Lord', Abram replied, 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be one of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

R Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **R**

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **R**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! **R**

Second Reading

Heb 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation

Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 2:22. 39-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Communion Antiphon

Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 60:1-6**

2nd Reading: **Eph 3:2-3. 5-6**

Gospel: **Mt 2:1-12**



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Jayden Celestino

May he always know the love of God
and feel His guiding hand throughout his life.

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 2:22. 39-40

Historical Context – Ritual

The ritual of purification referred to in today's passage would take place 40 days after childbirth. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph.

Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

The writer of the gospel of Luke uses this presentation event to announce or forecast the ministry of Jesus. The explicit identification of the poverty of Mary and Joseph is an indicator of the emphasis that Jesus will give to the poor throughout his ministry. The gospel writer also makes plain the link between the Temple (the Jewish tradition) and the ministry of Jesus. Tying these events into the prophecies of both Simeon and Anna reinforce the prophetic nature of this whole episode. Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as the fulfilment of the prophecies of scripture.

Living the Gospel – Faithful

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hallmark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people.

The flesh revealed Life itself

From a treatise by St Augustine on the first epistle of John

We announce what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our own eyes, what we have touched with our own hands. Who could touch the Word with his hands unless the Word was made flesh and lived among us?

Now this Word, whose flesh was so real that he could be touched by human hands, began to be flesh in the Virgin Mary's womb; but he did not begin to exist at that moment. We know this from what John says: *What existed from the beginning*. Notice how John's letter bears witness to his Gospel, which you just heard a moment ago: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God*.

Someone might interpret the phrase the Word of life to mean a word about Christ, rather than Christ's body itself which was touched by human hands. But consider what comes next: *and life itself was revealed*. Christ therefore is himself the Word of life.

And how was this life revealed? It existed from the beginning, but was not revealed to men, only to angels, who looked upon it and feasted upon it as their own spiritual bread. But what does Scripture say? *Mankind ate the bread of angels*.

Life itself was therefore revealed in the flesh. In this way what was visible to the heart alone could become visible also to the eye, and so heal men's hearts. For the Word is visible to the heart alone, while flesh is visible to bodily eyes as well. We already possessed the means to see the flesh, but we had no means of seeing the Word. The Word was made flesh so that we could see it, to heal the part of us by which we could see the Word.

John continues: *And we are witnesses and we proclaim to you that eternal life which was with the Father and has been revealed among us* – one might say more simply "revealed to us."

We proclaim to you what we have heard and seen. Make sure that you grasp the meaning of these words. The disciples saw our Lord in the flesh, face to face; they heard the words he spoke, and in turn they proclaimed the message to us. So we also have heard, although we have not seen.

Are we then less favoured than those who both saw and heard? If that were so, why should John add: *so that you too may have fellowship with us*? They saw, and we have not seen; yet we have fellowship with them, because we and they share the same faith.

And our fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ his Son. And we write this to you to make your joy complete – complete in that fellowship, in that love and in that unity.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office: phone (02) 9390 5810 or email safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 28 December - The Holy Innocents (Feast)



In an attempt to kill the child Jesus, Herod ordered the massacre of all male children, two years old and under, in and around Bethlehem. The Holy Innocents have been honoured as martyrs for Christ since the fourth century and their feast has been celebrated on this day since the sixth century. In remembering them, the Church laments the suffering and death of children everywhere and honours all who die in innocence.

Friday, 1 January - Mary the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)



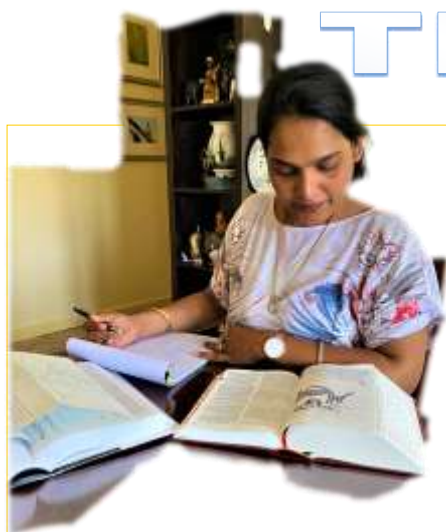
Venerated as Mother of God from ancient times, the Virgin Mary was acclaimed Theotokos (God-bearer) in 431 by the Council of Ephesus, and commemorated on this day in Rome in the seventh century. Soon eclipsed by other feasts of Mary. Restored to the liturgical calendar in 1931, and to this day in 1969. Celebrates Mary's role in the mystery of the incarnation, enriches the octave of Christmas with a Marian perspective, and provides a solemn beginning to the New Year.



Saturday, 2 January - Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen (Memorial)

Basil: Born about 330 at Caesarea (Turkey). Died there on 1 January 379. First a hermit, then bishop of his native city. Remembered for his pioneering monastic rule, and for writings which developed the doctrines of the incarnation and of the divinity of the Holy Spirit. Gregory: Born at Nazianzus (Turkey) in 329. Died there in 389. Also a hermit before becoming bishop of Constantinople. Remembered as the "Theologian" because of his wisdom and acumen in maintaining orthodox doctrine against the Arians. Basil and Gregory are commemorated together because of their friendship in life and their enduring influence on the Church, especially in the East.

WHAT'S NEW?



The GOSPEL of MARK TODAY

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Commencing after Easter

Registration opens on 30 January 2021

3 JANUARY 2021

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

| Mass | VIGIL | 8AM | 10AM |
|---------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| ACOLYTE | Charlie SCULLY | William ANDREWS | Roland JAVIER |
| LECTOR/S | Mai NGUYEN | Joe MOSES | Sharon IACONO |
| | Joy SKERRITT | Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL | Amanda DOWDELL |
| CHURCH SHOP | Joseph LAHOUD | Jenny MICHAEL | John SHANLEY |
| Cleaners SPC: Uisa Family | | Altar & Sacristy: Group 5: Carol Mabon & Maria Wood | |
| Saturday 8AM | | 2 JANUARY | |
| LECTOR FOR MASS | | Jann ROCKLIFF | |