



## 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](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](http://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.

**2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**17 JANUARY 2021**

### Come and See



The defiance of Donald Trump has resulted in an impeachment, a second one for a president for the first time in the history of USA. It is his unwillingness to put the good of the State before his self-centred interests that caused this to happen. Democracy and trust in a government are essential for the polity of the nation to be lively and healthy. Only leaders who are totally committed to serve their nation selflessly, not self-serving individuals, can make a nation great.

Let me move on from self-centeredness to self-sacrifice. There are parents and benefactors who want to offer their young people opportunities for a bright future. For the parents in countries with inefficient and corrupt political systems, it means parting with their children for long period of time, as the young aspirants pursue careers and studies in foreign countries. In addition to the pain of parting, many of these parents and benefactors also make sacrifices to finance their children pursuing brighter future in foreign lands. These parents know that their self-sacrifice is the key to a fuller life for their children.

In the Gospel of John there is a beautiful scene presented. *"The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'"* (John 1:35-36). John the Baptist had a large following which made him prominent and famous. But John, not being interested in self-glorification, pointed Jesus to his disciples so that they may have fullness of life with the Lord. John's approach was very different to that of the self-centred people who manipulate everything to their own personal glory.

Jesus on his part quickly did a very simple interview to determine whether the two nominated people were fit to be his disciples. He asked them, *"What are you looking for?"* Their answer to this question was the key to their admission into the company of Jesus. The seekers of Jesus' fellowship said that they want to have a life experience with Jesus; They said, *"Rabbi, where are you staying?"* This intense desire was the best of qualification to be a disciple of Christ. It should make us ask ourselves *'how intense is our desire to experience life with the Lord'*.

After inquiring about what they were seeking, the Lord invited them to a life with him, saying, *"Come and see"*. It was an invitation to know Jesus as the Lamb of God that was to be sacrificed for the sin of the humanity. The Israelites who ate the pascal lamb in Egypt, in the land of captivity, did so for the strength to pass over the sea and the desert to a promised land where they could settle down with freedom and dignity. Jesus the pascal lamb offers much more than what the original paschal lambs did. Jesus the pascal lamb, shared at the Eucharistic table, provides strength to pass from the fallen-ness of human nature to a life of salvation. Jesus the lamb nourishes his disciples to reach fullness of life, in a way nothing else can.

John the Baptist was humble enough not to consider his own glory, but to direct his disciples to the true saviour. In Jesus we see greater humility; in him God has humbled himself to be with his faithful and to be spiritual nourishment in the fellowship of the disciples.

### USE QR CODE

I have been advised that the Government wants everyone to use NSW QR code to sign in. Therefore, please bring your smartphones (with NSW App) and scan the QR code (provided at the entrance of the church) to sign in. That will make the signing more efficient. For those who do not have a smartphone, you can still sign in using the paper form. But that will be an exception, rather than norm. **It is mandatory to wear face mask in the church.** Therefore, please come prepared.

~Fr Thomas



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

Ps 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

### First Reading

1 Sm 3:3-10.19

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am'. Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv. 8,9

**R Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord. and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **R**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **R**

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **R**

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **R**

### Second Reading

1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you since you have received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Jn 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Jn 1:35-42

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

### Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 22:5

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

### Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Jon 3:1-5. 10**

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 7:29-31**

Gospel: **Mk 1:14-20**

## REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 1:35-42

### Living the Gospel – Vocation

These days, the word 'vocation' seems to be applied to whatever job someone happens to find themselves in. More traditionally, the word carries with it a sense of undertaking work that has a deliberate purpose about it and that is outwardly focused. Usually, there is a sense that there is 'importance' to the work and that it is linked to God's dream for the world. The Church has tended to use vocation in reference to religious life. The word comes from the Latin, *vocare*, meaning call or name. Realising to what it is we are called can be one of the great challenges of life.

### Have you thought? Why disciples?

Why did Jesus call a group of people to follow him closely and share in his ministry? Certainly, it was not uncommon at the time that a charismatic leader might attract a group of followers and 'hangers-on' but Jesus appears to have deliberately called some people to travel with him and share in what he was about. So much of what Jesus spoke about was living in right relationships: with God; and with one another. Rather than simply being a 'back-up group' for Jesus, the disciples provided a lived example of trying to live in right relationships. They didn't always get it right, but they were on the way.

### From the perspective of ... The Disciples

We'd been following John the Baptist for nearly a year. He was a great man doing great work. He had called us to repent and baptised us in the river. We were so impressed with him that we began to follow him. There'd been plenty of other healers and preachers to follow but John seemed to be something special – some had talked about him being the messiah! Then all of a sudden John pointed out Jesus and called him the lamb of God. There was something different about this man and it just seemed right to leave John behind and go with Jesus.

## The harmony of unity

*From St Ignatius of Antioch's letter to the Ephesians*

It is right for you to give glory in every way to Jesus Christ who has given glory to you; you must be made holy in all things by being united in perfect obedience, in submission to the bishop and the presbyters.

I am not giving you orders as if I were a person of importance. Even if I am a prisoner for the name of Christ, I am not yet made perfect in Jesus Christ. I am now beginning to be a disciple and I am speaking to you as my fellow-disciples. It is you who should be strengthening me by your faith, your encouragement, your patience, your serenity. But since love will not allow me to be silent about you, I am taking the opportunity to urge you to be united in conformity with the mind of God. For Jesus Christ, our life, without whom we cannot live, is the mind of the Father, just as the bishops, appointed over the whole earth, are in conformity with the mind of Jesus Christ.

It is fitting, therefore, that you should be in agreement with the mind of the bishop as in fact you are. Your excellent presbyters, who are a credit to God, are as suited to the bishop as strings to a harp. So in your harmony of mind and heart the song you sing is Jesus Christ. Every one of you should form a choir, so that, in harmony of sound through harmony of hearts, and in unity taking the note from God, you may sing with one voice through Jesus Christ to the Father. If you do this, he will listen to you and see from your good works that you are members of his Son. It is then an advantage to you to live in perfect unity, so that at all times you may share in God.

If in a short space of time I have become so close a friend of your bishop – in a friendship not based on nature but on spiritual grounds – how much more blessed do I judge you to be, for you are as united with him as the Church is to Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ to the Father, so that all things are in harmony through unity. Let no one make any mistake: unless a person is within the sanctuary, he is deprived of God's bread. For if the prayer of one or two has such power, how much more has the prayer of the bishop and the whole Church.

### 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](mailto: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

**Thursday, 21 January - St Agnes (Memorial)**



Died at Rome, perhaps in the early fourth century. One of the most widely venerated of the Roman martyrs. She was a young Roman girl who promised her life to God. Because of her beauty many men wanted to marry her, but she always refused, saying "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse." One of them became so angry when she refused him, he turned her in for being a Christian. She was then tortured and killed for refusing to deny her faith. She was only thirteen years old when she was martyred. She is the patron of young girls.

Remembered in Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon)

## PARISH NOTICES



### **Bishop Geoff Robinson Gone for Eternal Reward**

Bishop Geoff Robinson, retired Auxiliary bishop of Sydney, died on Tuesday, 29 December. Bishop Geoff had just celebrated his 60th Anniversary as a priest, and was receiving palliative care in Concord Hospital. Bishop Peter Ingham and other friends were with Geoff when he died. Bishop Geoff Robinson's funeral was held on Wednesday, 6 January at St Joseph's Enfield. This location was very much Geoff's preference as Enfield parish was his home for so many years.

### **Live Streaming Mass**

Thanks to Greg Facer, we have never failed a week in Live streaming our Weekend Masses. Promptly every Saturday before the Vigil Mass, Greg is ready to stream the service. Christmas Mass was the 100<sup>th</sup> streamed Mass for our Church. Cameras, other equipment, and technical support are courtesy of Greg. Now he is installing more professional cameras to make our good streamed videos better. This service is a great help for many faithful who are home bound during the pandemic. You can access the videos on YouTube by searching for Berala Parish. It will be good if all parishioners subscribed to our parish YouTube.



## **Zoom Bible Study**

*An introduction to Bible*

**2, 9, 16 February 2021**

*The Gospel of Mark Today*

**20 April to 31 August 2021 (20 weeks)**

Zoom Lectures will be on Tuesdays at 7PM to 8PM.

Contact the Parish Office for Registration Forms.



### **Church Shop**

Drop by our Church Store 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.





## New Direction for Ash Wednesday

Last Tuesday, 12 January, The Congregation for Divine Worship (Rome) has issued a directive concerning the Imposition of Ashes in this time of pandemic. Accordingly Ash Wednesday, 17 February 2021, Ash ceremony in our parish will be modified. Instead of the normal practice of daubing the ashes on the forehead, the minister with mask on, will sprinkle the ashes on the head of the faithful. That will ensure a contact free and COVID safe practice.

Fr Don Richardson, Liturgy Office Director of Sydney Archdiocese, has made the following comments.

- a. The act of putting on ashes symbolizes fragility and mortality, and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, it symbolizes that attitude of internal penance to which all the baptized are called during Lent.
- b. The placing of ashes on top of the head is the more ancient practice; It is the common method in many parts of the world;
- c. In time of Covid-19 it has the advantage of not requiring the priest to contact the skin of many people one after another, risking inadvertent infection;
- d. The fact that the ashes are not readily visible to others is of no concern, since they are principally intended as a sign for the person receiving them and not for others.

## Be COVID Safe

Following is an excerpt from NSW Health Department.

### All religious services

- The person leading the wedding, funeral or other religious service does not need to wear a mask. This is because they need to be clearly understood by congregants.
- The congregation needs to wear masks indoors, unless exempt.
- The congregation must not exceed one person per 4 square metres of publicly accessible space.

### Weddings

- During a wedding service, the person leading the service does not need to wear a mask, nor does the wedding party. This includes the wedding couple whilst they say their vows.
- If a wedding occurs in a place of worship as part of a religious service, attendees at the service need to wear a mask indoors, unless exempt.
- Up to a maximum of 100 people can attend a wedding.

### Funerals

- The person leading the funeral service does not need to wear a mask, nor does anybody while delivering a eulogy or similar as part of the funeral service.
- Attendees at the service need to be wearing a mask indoors, unless exempt.
- Up to a maximum of 100 people can attend a funeral.

### Music performances during religious services, weddings and funerals

- Where music performance is part of a service (religious, weddings or funerals), masks do not need to be worn by the performer if impractical for the performance such as wind instruments or singing.

### Singing and chanting advice

- No more than 5 performers should sing indoors, with 1.5 metres between performers and 5 metres between performers and the audience.
- In indoor areas, audience members and congregants should not participate in singing or chanting.

In our Church, St Peter Chanel, as good citizens, we too shall comply with the regulations. We do it for the good of the community at large. To assist with protocols, we have five volunteers acting as COVID Marshals. The parish is grateful to Joseph Lahoud, Robert McGinn, Solomone Funaki, Charlie Scully, and William Andrews for volunteering. They will be encouraging the use of QR code to sign in as you arrive. Therefore, please remember to bring your smartphone with you. If you are not equipped to use the QR code, you can sign on the paper form at the door. Should you forget your face mask, (which can easily happen) there will be a few spare ones available at the entrance for your use. The dispenser on the wall is to help you with touch free sanitisation of your hands before Mass.

The doors of the Church will be closed at the start of the Mass so that the Marshals can also join the congregation to celebrate Mass. Unattended doorway will risk people wandering in without complying with the protocols. We shall all consider the care for each other as our Christian charity and do it seriously.



## OTHER NOTICES



Ash Wednesday is just over a month away (17 February) so don't delay in placing your order for our **Comfort—Lenten Program 2021** containing short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) and longer-form Sunday reflections, questions and prayer—perfect for Lenten groups and individual devotional reading. Bulk pricing starts from only \$5 per copy!

**MP3 digital download** version of the Triple CD Resource is now available to purchase.

**Comfort** is a 68-page full colour book (240x170mm) containing short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) perfect for individual devotional reading in addition to the longer-form Sunday Scripture readings and reflections, prayers and questions that traditionally form part of Lenten group gatherings.

The program is sourced from **Monsignor Graham Schmitzer** reflecting on the Sunday Gospels (through the beautiful art of the Masters including: Le Brun, Duccio, El

Greco, Gaiquinto, Veronese, van Dyck and Burnand.) and the wisdom and talents of **Sr Susanna Edmunds OP** (from our parish).

To order call Diocese of Wollongong on (02) 4222 2411 or Email. [orders@dow.org.au](mailto:orders@dow.org.au)

### 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](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

### CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare, through its CCareline 13 18 19 number and the Parish Volunteer Program is working together as the 'hands and feet of Christ in the community'. If you are struggling and need help or support, or you are worried about someone else, please call CCareline on 13 18 19 today.

### 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](mailto:steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org).

## 24 JANUARY 2021

## 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Bob KENSEY	William ANDREWS
LECTOR/S	Sharon SEBASTIAN	Rosalind EVANS	Renee SALAR
	Roshan SEBASTIAN	Daniel BOLAND	Latisha ILBOUDO
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Margaret THAM

Cleaners SPC: Roland & Aida Javier

Altar & Sacristy: Group 1 Gloria De Alkstrandt & Anna Manganaro

Saturday 8AM

23 JANUARY

LECTOR FOR MASS

Christine KENSEY

## 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. Send a confidential email to [pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au).

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Sick:** Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Ann Bechiom, Grazyna Lukasiewicz, Jill Skerritt, Lydia Amores, Ben Villanueva, Edna Rahmat

**Recently Deceased:** Domingo Castro, Antonio Javier, Anthony Rodrigues

**Deceased:** Noel F Gabrielle, Guia Ribeiro

**Anniversary:** Consuelo Quindipan, Dominga Quinoy, Ivan Buterin, Patrick Lynch, Violet Lynch

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

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