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 YouTube: BeralaParish

Holy Mass: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am | Holy Hour: Saturday 8.30am-9.30am Lord's Day Mass: Saturday 5.00pm Vigil - LiveStreamed, Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am Reconciliation: 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 OF LENT

28 FEBRUARY 2021

Mountain Top

A few days ago, with some of my priest friends, I went up Mount Gibraltar in Southern Highlands to various lookouts. After a period of introspection in a retreat centre, viewing the panorama from a mountain top was a fitting finale for the program. The amazing views remind you the glory of God. After marvelling at the wonders from the mountain top, we drove down the mountain and headed home, with images in mind as well as in our cameras to continue reminiscing the experience.



A Mountain Top event narrated in the Gospel of Mark provided a wider and far more reaching vision to the disciples of Jesus. Peter, James, and John saw Jesus in his glory accompanied by Moses and Elijah. The vision was so seductive that Peter wanted to continue living in the vision. More importantly the truth about Jesus was revealed to his disciples.

The Law of Moses, the first five books of the Bible, were the foundation of the Biblical religion. The Israelites organised their community and celebrated their religion according to the Law of Moses. At the top of Mount Sinai Moses received the Ten Commandments for the people of God. Moses represented the foundation of religion. Elijah and other prophets were Godsent people, with messages of hope, and agents of reconciliation with God. They revealed God's love and compassion for the people even when they were ungrateful to God and disloyal to him. Elijah standing on the top of Mount Carmel, provided a wider and more far reaching vision for the people ravaged by drought and famine that God may punish his people to assist their conversion, but will not abandon his people. The prophets were instrumental in the rebuilding of the Israelites whenever that was necessary. Thus they became the second foundation of the religion. Both the Law of Moses and the prophets were guidance for the people on how to be faithful to the God of Covenant. But they could not provide the reign of God which they were promised.

In the person of Jesus the promise of the reign of God has come true. He is the beloved Son of God. His words can created the people anew in a way no other can. Therefore, listen to him. This is the revelation the disciples had at the mountain top of transfiguration. If the set of rules and regulations provided by Moses and the prophets helped the bonding of the community in the name of God, a personal relationship with Jesus the Son of God provides the reign of God. Listening to Jesus is a personal bonding with him.

Now though the physical presence of Jesus as a man is not available for us to make bonding with him, the body of Christ formed by the Holy Communion of the faithful forming the Church, provides the continuing presence of Jesus. Listening to the word of the Holy Church is listening to Jesus in person. With Jesus you will be able to look at the panorama of life from the mountain top of Calvary, with a vision so far and wide that nothing else would match. To be with the Church is to be with Jesus and vice versa. Climb the mountain top of Calvary with Jesus this lent through fasting, prayer and acts of compassion.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Ann Bechiom, Grazyna Lukasiewicz, Edna Rahmat, Clarisse Naumanen, John Rodrigues, Joseph Anthony Gabrielle, Zekia Al-Asady, Raymond Kassis, Erlinda Filarca-Amores, Aida Florendo Garcia, Josephine Attard

Recently Deceased: Sr Salve Stuart, Eloisa Cruz Jocson **Deceased:** Nellie Lim, Gus Wong, Shelton Lawrence Gabrielle

Anniversary: Cynthia de Souza

Birthday/Thanksgiving: Patrick Gabriel

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. The intention of the Holy Father.

USE QR CODE TO SIGN IN

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.

SUPPORT US

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



ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading

Gen 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18 9:8-15

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up. Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. R

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. R

Second Reading

Rom 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Mk 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Communion Antiphon

Mt 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Ex 20:1-17** 2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1:22-25 Gospel: Jn 2:13-25

REFLECTIONS ON MARK 9:2-10

Scriptural context – Not quite Throughout the gospel of Mark, it is important to look at the stories that lie either side of important events to pick up the subtlety of the gospel writer's message. In this instance, the passage that immediately follows the Transfiguration is a story of the disciples trying unsuccessfully to heal a boy and Jesus having to intervene. It reinforces the message of the mountaintop in which the disciples still only partially understand Jesus' purpose and presence. They still haven't fully mastered who Jesus is and so they have not fully mastered the ability to heal.

Have you thought? Mountaintop Gospel Focus – A new vision **Moments**

Throughout the Bible there are instances of important encounters with God on mountaintops. Even this week's first reading, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, occurs on a mountaintop. It is not the potential sacrifice, but the new relationship between God and Abraham that is a mountaintop moment. In modern language, we often speak about 'peak experiences' - moments of exceptional clarity, intense emotion or extraordinary accomplishment. Sometimes, like Peter, we are tempted to try to remain 'in the moment' rather than using the peak experience as a motivator for when we go back down the mountain to our normal (if perhaps changed) existence.

Part of Peter's mistake is to see the appearance of Elijah and Moses as a confirmation that Jesus has come to continue the work of the great prophets of the past. Rather than placing Jesus in the old tradition of the prophets, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, together with the voice of God, is to endorse the new direction that Jesus' ministry is taking. Jesus' new vision for the world is informed by the relationships forged between God and the prophets of the past, but it is a vision of a completely different way of relating to God: a much more personal relationship that calls us to respond from the heart to those around us. .

The Law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ From a sermon of Saint Leo the Great

The Lord reveals his glory in the presence of chosen witnesses. His body is like that of the rest of mankind, but he makes it shine with such splendour that his face becomes like the sun in glory, and his garments as white as

The great reason for this transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the cross from the hearts of his disciples, and to prevent the humiliation of his voluntary suffering from disturbing the faith of those who had witnessed the surpassing glory that lay concealed.

With no less forethought he was also providing a firm foundation for the hope of holy Church. The whole body of Christ was to understand the kind of transformation that it would receive as his gift: the members of that body were to look forward to a share in that glory which first blazed out in Christ their head.

The Lord had himself spoken of this when he foretold the splendour of his coming: Then the just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Saint Paul the apostle bore witness to this same truth when he said: I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not to be compared to the future glory that is to be revealed in us. In another place he says: You are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

This marvel of the transfiguration contains another lesson for the apostles, to strengthen them and lead them into the fullness of knowledge. Moses and Elijah, the law and the prophets, appeared with the Lord in conversation with him. This was in order to fulfil exactly, through the presence of these five men, the text which says: Before two or three witnesses every word is ratified. What word could be more firmly established, more securely based, than the word which is proclaimed by the trumpets of both old and new testaments, sounding in harmony, and by the utterances of ancient prophecy and the teaching of the Gospel, in full agreement with each other?

The writings of the two testaments support each other. The radiance of the transfiguration reveals clearly and unmistakably the one who had been promised by signs foretelling him under the veils of mystery. As Saint John says: The law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. In him the promise made through the shadows of prophecy stands revealed, along with the full meaning of the precepts of the law. He is the one who teaches the truth of the prophecy through his presence, and makes obedience to the commandments possible through grace.

In the preaching of the holy Gospel all should receive a strengthening of their faith. No one should be ashamed of the cross of Christ, through which the world has been redeemed.

No one should fear to suffer for the sake of justice; no one should lose confidence in the reward that has been promised. The way to rest is through toil, the way to life is through death. Christ has taken on himself the whole weakness of our lowly human nature. If then we are steadfast in our faith in him and in our love for him, we win the victory that he has won, we receive what he has promised.

When it comes to obeying the commandments or enduring adversity, the words uttered by the Father should always echo in our ears: This is my Son, the beloved, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

PARISH NOTICES

Rite of Election - RCIA

Last Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent, four of our catechumens were elected and enrolled for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter this year. **Christina Kailhai**, **Prescila Mafi**, **Christopher Hayes** and **Edwin King** were sent off at the 8am Mass Last Sunday to the Cathedral for their election and enrolment.



Accompanied by their catechists Andrew Tham and Katrina Yip, and their sponsors, family, and Fr Thomas, they were received at St Mary's Cathedral Sydney. They joined 160 catechumens, 30 candidates and their sponsors from all over the Archdiocese. They were presented to the Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, who formally enrolled them and blessed them. The ceremony was seventy five minutes of prayers and singing. The newly enrolled catechumens will have the ceremony of scrutinies during the Lenten Sundays before they will be presented for Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil. Rosalind Evans, who was a candidate, was formally received into the Catholic Church last year, in the middle of the COVID restrictions. Some other participants of the RCIA program had to delay their preparation due to COVID restrictions. Hopefully they will be able to join the next program after Easter. All parishioners are invited to keep all four catechumens and the RCIA Program in their prayers.

New Pastoral Council

There was no Pastoral Council in last year. The first meeting of the newly constituted Pastoral Council met on the Thursday, 11 February. The meeting commenced discussions on the evangelisation plans based on the Archdiocesan program 'GO MAKE DISCIPLES'. The next meeting of the Council is to happen on Thursday, 4 March. Since COVID is no longer as disruptive as last year, it is time to start normalisation of the parish life, perhaps to work more earnestly. Slowly we shall also resume all ministries.

COVID19 Restrictions Eased

As per the easing of restrictions on 12 February, two hundred people can attend each Mass at SPC following the **one person per 2m² rule**. Now that the 2m² rule has been reinstated, Archbishop Anthony has lifted **the dispensation from our Sunday Mass obligation**. The Catholic faithful are once again obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation when this is reasonably possible. Those who are of great age, have health conditions or are otherwise anxious about the risks of COVID-19 are free to remain at home and find another way of keeping the Sabbath holy.

The Church will be left open during the day for personal prayer. You are welcome to come and pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament during daytime.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday of Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7PM in church. After the prayers, at about 7.30 PM I will also be available in the confessional for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Absolution from sins will be a good way of observing Lent. A proper Lenten observance with renewal of the Parish as the intention can work miracles.



Lenten Penance Explained

THE Church's Canon law reaffirms the obligation to do penance – to interrupt the usual comforts of life, to rediscover in prayer the saving love of God, and to practice charity and justice towards those in need. During Lent and on the Fridays of the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choices. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

Days of Penance

- 1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.
- 2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - (a) prayer for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.
 - (b) self-denial for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
 - (c) helping others for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday (February 17) to the Mass of the Lord's Supper (April 1) exclusive. On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed.

Paschal Precept

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, February 17 and Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2021 unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

First Reconciliation Group 1

The parish would like to invite all children in Year 4 who have received their baptism and missed out on the sacrament of Reconciliation last year due to COVID-19.

The sacrament of First Reconciliation (Group 1) will be celebrated this year at St Peter Chanel Church on Wednesday 31 March 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Information Packs have now been sent out to the schools and have been handed to the kids. Thank you to all the parents who have taken the initiative and enrolled.

Kindly note if you are considering on receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion in 2021, you will need to have completed this Sacrament (Reconciliation) at this given time to be eligible.

Please take the time to complete your registration **online** before the due date 1 March 2021.

If you were not able to secure a pack and would like to obtain one, please phone me on 9644 7787 on Tuesday or Wednesday or email me at sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.

Looking forward to journeying along with each one of you.

~Sophia Brewty, Sacramental Co-ordinator

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SPC Lenten Groups

All parents welcome! Lenten groups will be held every Wednesday during Lent at 9.00AM in the back garden of the convent. If rain prevents us meeting there, the session will be held on Zoom.

Email barbara.mucha@syd.catholic.edu.au if you plan to attend. Thank you!

~Barbara Mucha, SPC Family Educator

OTHER NOTICES

Position Vacant: Administrative Assistant- Ryde Gladesville Catholic Parish

Ryde Gladesville parish is looking to recruit a part-time Administrative Assistant, working 20 hours per week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information, contact Mrs Judy Raumer, Executive Assistant to Fr Greg Morgan fmvd by email: judy.raumer@rgcp.org.au by 8 March 2021.

CatholicCare Sydney Hiring Community Support Workers

CatholicCare Sydney is seeking Greek or Italian speakers to join the team as Community Support Workers. For more information please call 13 18 19.

MenAlive Men's Parish Retreat

This is a fantastic opportunity for men to have their faith ignited or reignited. Venue: John the Baptist Church, 45 Mount St, Bonnyrigg Heights | Registration: www.trybooking.com/BNMJB | Contact: Branko Poljak on 0411 281 299 for further information.

Day of the Unborn Child – 21 March

The Day of the Unborn Child is an annual Mass and procession for the dignity of every human life! Each year we hold this special event as a witness to the sacredness of life and especially as a voice for the unborn! 10.30am Mass 12.00pm Angelus and Procession for more information: www.lifeandfamily.com.au

Maximus Men's Breakfast—St Joseph & the Masculine Genius

Our first men's breakfast this year will celebrate the Year of St Joseph as a model of the Masculine Genius. Join us for a fantastic morning of prayer, formation, fellowship and food! 13 March from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm | Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers | Presentation by Steven Buhagiar | Register: www.sydneycatholic.org/maximus1 | All Enquiries: chris.dasilva@sydneycatholic.org

Weekly Online Lenten Group - Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion

Join Fr Noel Custodio, host of The Furnace podcast, as he leads an online Lenten Group which will use Receive the

Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion. Dates: Wednesdays of Lent | Time: 7:30pm – 8:15pm Register: www.gomakedisciples.org.au. For more information: contact the Parish Renewal Team at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or on (02) 9390 5330

Open Days at Eileen's Place

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor is hosting a monthly Open Day, throughout 2021, the centenary of the death of Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor, inviting pilgrims to Eileen's tomb at Dudley Street in Coogee. The next open day is Sunday 7 March, with two sessions from 10:30am-12pm and 12:30pm-2pm. Registrations are available online: https://eileenoconnor.com.au/open-days

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on April 16-18, 2021 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW – a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au

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.

Palms - The need is acute!

Low-income communities are not asking us for money or gifts. They want you to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to enquire now. Visit palms.org.au, call Palms on 02 9560 5333 or email palms@palms.org.au.



Second Sunday of Lent 28th February





Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security. Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or call 1800 024 413.

7 MARCH			3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Dom PANGILINAN	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
LECTOR/S	Noeline DONNELLAN	Michael CHOW	Joshua LU
	Katrina YIP	Maris MARSH	Hilary RIOFRIO
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY	Jenny MICHAEL	Margaret THAM

Cleaners SPC: Uisa Family	Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Gwen Bergstedt
Saturday 8AM	6 MARCH
LECTOR FOR MASS	Jann ROCKLIFF



St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School

43 Regent Street Regents Park 2143 02 9644 9083

Email: info@spcregentspark.catholic.edu.au www.spcregentspark.catholic.edu.au



OPEN DAY

Tuesday, 23 March 2021 4.00pm-7.00pm

Enrolling girls and boys for Kindergarten - Year 6







At St Peter Chanel, our teaching and learning is about:

- Making connections
- Successful Collaboration
- Differentiation and Engagement
- Creative and Reflective Thinking



Saturday 27 March 10am-11am



St Joseph the Worker

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
AUBURN SOUTH

Principal Tours

Monday 22 March at 3.30pm-4.00pm Wednesday 24 March at 4.30pm-5.00pm

Virtual Tour available on the school website



We invite you...

Called & Chosen

Fellowship, prayer, and learning for the whole family

When: 11 March 2021, 6PM - 8PM

Where: St. Peter Chanel & St. Joseph Parish,

Berala

RSVP: sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

(by 8 March)

We hope your whole family can join us for this event. The evening will consist of dinner (6PM), breakout faith formation sessions (6:30–7:15), and Eucharistic Adoration.



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.

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.

Just for Laughs

At our weekly Bible study, the leader asked an elderly gentleman, Walt, to open the meeting with prayer. Walt did so in a soft voice.

Another man, straining to hear, shouted, "I can't hear you!" Walt replied, "I wasn't talking to you."

