



## 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:** 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.

### 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

14 MARCH 2021

## Let Your Life Be The Pure Gospel

"What touched me most was the testimony of a mother in Qaraqosh," Pope Francis said last Monday, on his flight returning home after visiting the ISIS destructions of Christian centres in Iraq. Pope Francis met Doha Sabah Abdallah, the mother who lost her son, in the Syriac Catholic Immaculate Conception Church in Qaraqosh which was occupied by ISIS from 2014 to 2016.



Abdallah shared the story with the pope and those gathered in the church of the bombing of the town in August 2014 that killed her son, his cousin, and a young neighbour. "Our strength undoubtedly comes from our faith in the Resurrection, a source of hope. My faith tells me that my children are in the arms of Jesus Christ our Lord. And we, the survivors, try to forgive the aggressor, because our Master Jesus has forgiven his executioners. By imitating him in our sufferings, we testify that love is stronger than everything." the woman said.

Doha Abdallah, who experienced the atrocities of ISIS lifted up her loss and passion on the cross of Jesus with him. Just as Jesus, hanging on the Cross, forgave his persecutors by saying, "they do not know what they are doing" this woman of faith also could say "I forgive."

The Israelites wandering in Sinai were terrified by the poisonous snakes that killed many of them. As per God's direction Moses made a bronze snake as a remedy. Looking at the bronze snake was therapeutic for them. The faith in the providence of God saved the people from the disaster of snake bite as they looked at the bronze snake on the stake. John reflects on the death of Jesus on the Cross and sees a similar happening. "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15).

People of faith have the ability to lift their sufferings, persecutions, and their failures with Jesus on the stake of the Holy Cross. It is your faith in Jesus and your strength to forgive your enemies that helps you to turn the evils in your life into life giving grace.

Reflecting on the story of great witness by Doha Abdallah Pope Francis said: "I forgive. This is a word we have lost. We know how to insult big time. We know how to condemn in a big way ... But to forgive, to forgive one's enemies. This is the pure Gospel. This hit me in Qaraqosh."

In this Lent, do not give in to vengeance, retribution and insult. Look at Jesus on the Cross who forgave his persecutors, making your life a saving act for yourself and for others. Let your life be the pure Gospel in a world in need of it.

### 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, Josephine Attard

**Recently Deceased:** Ernesto Avila, Br Mark Ryan, Gwen Jago

**Deceased:** Emily De Souza, Stanley Gabrielle, Mary Gabrielle, Joseph Portelli, Sylvia Portelli, John Ryan, Paula Attard, Anna Chong, Fatima Bolonia, Mamerto Bolonia

Sr, Gloria Bolonia, Astrid Bolonia, Wennie Guillena, Marylou Geronca, Percy Baptiste, Michael Baptiste, Saturnina A Velasquez, Angelo Attard, Tadeusz Bukala

**Anniversary:** Elena Latorre, Rocco Cavaleri

**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.**

### DONATE

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



## ANTIPHONS & READINGS

### Entrance Antiphon

**Cf. Is 66:10-11**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

### First Reading

**2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23**

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 136. R. v.6**

**Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!**

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. **R**

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. ‘Sing to us,’ they said, ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ **R**

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **R**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **R**

### Second Reading

**Eph 2:4-10**

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Jn 3:16**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

**Jn 3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:  
‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

### Communion Antiphon

**Cf. Ps 121: 3-4**

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

### Next Week’s Readings:

**1st Reading: Jer 31:31-34**

**2nd Reading: Heb 5:7-9**

**Gospel: Jn 12:20-33**

## REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 3:14-21

### Have you thought? God in popular culture

Think for a moment of the last time you saw or heard a reference to God on a television program, in a song, or some other popular medium. Chances are, the reference was one of a judging, vengeful, punishing God. This sort of image plays particularly well with a modern audience. It's easier to dismiss God as irrelevant if we can paint God in that sort of image. TV sitcoms do it particularly well with thunderclaps, bolts of lightning and booming, disapproving voices from above. It's much harder to dismiss a God of love who will go to extremes to demonstrate that love.

### Gospel Focus – Not to condemn

The gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, 'so that through him the world might be saved'. It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe 'is already condemned'. God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative!

### Historical Context – Babylonian Exile

In the book of Leviticus (25:4), it is commanded that every seventh year, the land was to be allowed to have a 'Sabbath year' – no tilling soil, no planting, no harvesting. The people failed to observe this command and the prophet, Jeremiah, interprets the destruction of the Temple and exile into Babylon as God's opportunity to enforce the period of Sabbath rest for the land. The people were in exile in Babylon for 70 years, ending about 537 BCE when the Persian emperor, Cyrus, conquered the Babylonians and agreed to return the Israelites to their land. He also returned to them all of the treasures looted from the Temple so that it may be rebuilt.

### Christ is the way to the light, the truth and the life

*From a treatise on John by St Augustine*

The Lord tells us: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* In these few words he gives a command and makes a promise. Let us do what he commands so that we may not blush to covet what he promises and to hear him say on the day of judgement: "I laid down certain conditions for obtaining my promises. Have you fulfilled them?" If you say: "What did you command, Lord our God?" he will tell you: "I commanded you to follow me. You asked for advice on how to enter into life. What life, if not the life about which it is written: *With you is the fountain of life?*"

Let us do now what he commands. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Lord. Let us throw off the chains that prevent us from following him. Who can throw off these shackles without the aid of the one addressed in these words: *You have broken my chains?* Another psalm says of him: *The Lord frees those in chains, the Lord raises up the downcast.*

Those who have been freed and raised up follow the light. The light they follow speaks to them: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness.* The Lord gives light to the blind. Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth to anoint the man born blind. We are of Adam's stock, blind from our birth; we need him to give us light. He mixed saliva with earth, and so it was prophesied: *Truth has sprung up from the earth.* He himself has said: *I am the way, the truth and the life.*

We shall be in possession of the truth when we see face to face. This is his promise to us. Who would dare to hope for something that God in his goodness did not choose to promise or bestow?

We shall see face to face. The Apostle says: *Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face.* John the Apostle says in one of his letters: *Dearly beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. We know that when he is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.* This is a great promise.

If you love me, follow me. "I do love you," you protest, "but how do I follow you?" If the Lord your God said to you: "I am the truth and the life," in your desire for truth, in your love for life, you would certainly ask him to show you the way to reach them. You would say to yourself: "Truth is a great reality, life is a great reality; if only it were possible for my soul to find them!"

### 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, 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

### *Wednesday, 17 March - St Patrick, bishop (Solemnity)*



St. Patrick was born in Britain c.385 and as a young man was captured by Irish pirates and sold into slavery. After six years in Ireland he escaped, returned to his family and trained for the priesthood in Gaul. In c.435 he returned to

Ireland as a missionary bishop. Through his work, Christianity flourished and the church became organised. Although not extensively learned, St Patrick was known for his sincerity and pastoral care, and was largely concerned with abolishing paganism and idolatry and encouraged monasticism. There are many legends about Ireland's most beloved saint, including his use of the shamrock for explaining the trinity, and his banishing of all snakes from Ireland.

*Mass of the Feast at 6.45am.*

### *Friday, 19 March - St Joseph, husband of Mary (Solemnity)*



St Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary and adoptive father of Jesus, was a descendant of King David and a carpenter by trade. During his betrothal to Mary he became distressed when he heard that she was with child, but an angelic vision reassured him that this was

all part of God's plan. After Jesus' birth he was warned in a dream to flee with his family to Egypt, in order to escape from King Herod. Joseph showed great faith in his willingness to do whatever God asked of him. St Joseph is the patron saint of many causes including families, expectant mothers, workers and people in doubt.

*Mass of the Feast at 6.45am*

## PARISH NOTICES

### Year of St Joseph



Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

There are two great feast days of St Joseph coming soon; March 19 is the Solemnity of St Joseph and May 1 is the Feast of St Joseph the Worker.

May 1st is the major celebration for our parish as one of our patrons. We shall have a solemn consecration of the Parish to St Joseph on a day closer to the 1st May. Next week a Novena will be launched to be prayed from March 19 till the Consecration. In our consecration we will be joining a world-wide initiative of consecration.

### *Novena Prayer*

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

## Parish Collections

Our parish provide a place for people to gather and worship. It is made possible because of the generosity of those who financially support the parish. Some of you may be still unsure of the different collections.

### *The 1st Collection*

Money received from the first collection supports the needs of your Parish Priest.

- Monthly stipend
- Household costs like food, utilities, and cleaner.
- A percentage of it goes to cover the expenses of the Archbishop and the care of the retired priests.

Easter and Christmas offerings made through the special envelopes during those feast time and donations received at weddings and baptisms also are added into the 1<sup>st</sup> Collection.

Any surplus is placed into a Central Fund, and any deficit is reimbursed to the parish to ensure that all priests receive sufficient funds to cover their living expenses.



### *The 2nd Collection*

Money received from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection supports the maintenance of the parish buildings, administration and pastoral programs. This includes:

- Parish running costs like liturgical expenses, insurance, utilities, maintenance of the church, and presbytery.
- Parish staff salaries including superannuation.
- Priest's car expenses.

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection combines income from planned giving (envelopes & direct debits) and other cash donations.

There has been a substantial drop in the collections, understandably, during the COVID period. Now though the parish is back to near normality in its activities and attendance, the collections have not picked up.

Your generosity in supporting the priests and good works of the Church is greatly appreciated. Each person's capacity to give is different depends on individual circumstances and you are not expected to give anything more than is reasonable. However, your contributions help the vitality of the parish. Though there are no plates passed around during the Masses, Collections Jars, Tap on facility, and QR Code are provided for touch free donations. Electronic means like QR Code, and Direct Debit can also help alleviate difficulties associated with cash handling. Therefore, I appreciate, if you are able to, cashless transfers. If not help with your cash donations.

God bless you!

*Fr Thomas*

## 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.



## Parish Choir

Choir members, please make an effort to come to the remaining regular practices before Holy Week at 8 Wallace Street, Sefton on 11, 18 & 25 March.

*~ Maureen Hynes*



Congratulations to the newlywed  
*Alec Evanson & Gabrielle Manganaro*  
 May the One who brought you together bless your marriage, enrich  
 your lives and deepen your love throughout the years.



This week we welcomed into the Catholic faith  
**Miguel Fernandez & Malia Kata**  
 May they always know the love of God  
 and feel His guiding hand throughout their lives.



## Zoom Bible Study

The Gospel of Mark Today Bible Study will be held from 20 April to 31 August 2021 (20 weeks). Zoom Lectures will be on Tuesdays at 7PM to 8PM. Register through the Parish Website or office.

PROJECT COMPASSION  
**BE MORE**

## Third Sunday of Lent 14 March



Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet at home and was often sick due to the practice of open defecation. Through Caritas Australia's support, Arsad and his community improved hygiene and sanitation, and funded their own toilets.

**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](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or call 1800 024 413.

## Church Shop

Drop by our Church Shop 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.



## 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).

## Planned Giving Request Form

our 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](mailto: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.

21 MARCH			5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Roland JAVIER	William ANDREWS
LECTOR/S	Noeline DONNELLAN	Daniel BOLAND	Renee SALAR
	Jann ROCKLIFF	William ANDREWS	Latisha ILBOUDO
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Winnie CHIU	Margaret THAM
Cleaners SPC: Roland & Aida Javier		Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Anita Yip; Catherine Naidu-Narayan, Francis Lynett	
Saturday 8AM			20 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](mailto:info@spcregentspark.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.spcregentspark.catholic.edu.au](http://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

## OPEN DAY

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



[stjwauburn.catholic.edu.au](http://stjwauburn.catholic.edu.au)

## OTHER NOTICES

### CatholicCare – We're hiring!

We are seeking applicants with a Certificate III in Aged Care (or similar) and relevant experience. The role includes assisting Seniors with the following service requirements: Accompanying clients on errands and appointments | Domestic assistance | Meal preparation | Personal care | Social support

We are also recruiting Greek and Italian speaking Care Support Workers.

We are looking to grow our team of Greek and Italian speaking Community Support Workers. If you are a carer with the relevant qualifications, and speak one or both of these languages, we encourage you to apply.

Find out more by visiting [www.catholiccare.org/jobs](http://www.catholiccare.org/jobs)  
Or call our CCareline team - 8am to 6pm weekdays on 13 18 19.

### St Patrick's Day Mass

Bishop Terry Brady warmly invites you to the celebration of St Patrick's Feast Day Mass on Wednesday, 17 March at 10:30am at St Mary's Cathedral. RSVP to [kym.newman@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:kym.newman@sydneycatholic.org)

### Aid to the Church in Need Australia

Across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith. Could you help stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and help ease their heavy burdens? Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/refugees](http://www.aidtochurch.org/refugees)

### Men's Weekend

The menALIVE Men's Weekend will be held on 20-21 March at John the Baptist Catholic Church, Mount Street, Bonnyrigg, NSW, 2177. For more info, contact Branko Poljak on 0411 281 299/[b.poljak@projectvision.com.au](mailto:b.poljak@projectvision.com.au) or

Fortunato Foti on [fortunato.foti1@gmail.com](mailto:fortunato.foti1@gmail.com)/0419 221 947. Register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BNMJB> | \$50 per person + 50c booking fee.

### 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. Wednesdays of Lent | Time: 7:30pm – 8:15pm  
Register: [www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au). For more information: contact the Parish Renewal Team at [parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org) or on (02) 9390 5330.

### Day of the Unborn Child – 21 March

10.30am Mass | 12.00pm Angelus and Procession for more information: [www.lifeandfamily.com.au](http://www.lifeandfamily.com.au)

### CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

If you are struggling and need help or support, or you are worried about someone else, please call CCareline on 13 18 19.

### JRS Lenten Program – 400 minutes 4 Refugees

This Lent, join Jesuit Refugee Services Australia in our Lenten challenge by offering moments of your day to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in solidarity with refugees. Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17, the goal is to reach 400 minutes of solidarity by Easter Sunday, April 4. That's 10 minutes each day for the 40 days of Lent. Pope Francis has called us to encounter those who have been forcibly displaced, but what does that mean as we all continue to social distance? Why not use these minutes as moments of solidarity with refugees? For more details, please visit: <https://aus.jrs.net/en/news/lenten-prayer-program/>

### JRS Australia's Lenten Foodbank Appeal: "6 Weeks of Lent – Give 6 Things."

A chance for our parish to join to help those who need it most in our community. Right now, JRS is feeding 1000 people a week and the demand for help keeps growing. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the lives of people seeking asylum and temporary migrants in Australia, as they remain excluded from all forms of Federal government support. This has meant that people who were once working and self-sufficient have had to rely on charities, like JRS, for rent, medication, bills and food.

To help keep everyone fed, we are asking parishioners to donate one item a week (1 or 2 Kg bags of Basmati Rice, Tuna in oil, Cooking Oil (750ml/1L/2L bottles), tinned tomatoes, tinned lentils, chickpeas, red kidney beans, pasta (spaghetti, penne, spiral but not tinned spaghetti). At the end donations can be dropped at the JRS office at 10-12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta between 12 - 15 April or 3 - 6 May. To drop off items, please email: [foodbank@jrs.org.au](mailto:foodbank@jrs.org.au) or call 9098 9336. Please be sure to book a date/time in advance as we have limited parking and storage space at our new office.

### 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](http://www.wwme.org.au) or call Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 | [nswbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:nswbookings@wwme.org.au)



### Just for Laughs

During our priest's sermon, a large plant fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the ground. Acknowledging his reputation for long-windedness, he smiled sheepishly and said, "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep."