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.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

21 MARCH 2021

Fall on the Ground and Die for the Life of Glory

Lin Htet left his home in Mandalay early morning, 11 March, to join the Mya Taung protest group. He died when the regime forces attacked his protest column near Koe Lone Tagar pagoda on 90th street. The military who took his body, told his family and others that they did not have the body. "I just want to see my son's face. I just want to give him a burial," his father, Zaw Lin said. But what he said after that is more remarkable; "I don't feel sad for my son. I'll be proud of him forever," he added. The strong conviction of this father and his son is that any inaction in the face of the brutal coup of the military will not help them in their pursuit of dignity and prosperity. Sacrifices are required to regain the dignity of life and democracy from the evil of the military junta. "Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest." (John 12:24).

A repressed political situation may require such self-sacrifices for its liberation. In a world gripped by sins, self-sacrifice is all the more important. Yet no man could adequately offer a sacrifice that would liberate the world from its sinfulness. Therefore, Jesus, the Son of God, sacrificed himself on the cross for the salvation of the world. It became the ultimate expression of the love of the Father for us. On the cross we see Jesus who was totally obedient to his Father for our sake.

Just as the convictions of the political martyrs are written in their heart rather than in any manifesto or legislations, so the spiritual intent for self-sacrifice also originates from the heart of a Christian. Only love of God and his Kingdom can help you to bend your heart towards the cross of Jesus. Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour". (John 12:24). Yes, if we love Jesus, we will follow him to his cross so that we will be with him in glory as well.

In Jesus we have a new beginning, similar to the new beginning Jeremiah spoke of after the Israelites were freed from the Babylonian exile five centuries before. About the new Covenant of God which will re-establish the people of God who lost their Temple and their religion, Jeremiah prophesied God's words "I will write it on their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:33). Yes, you and I have a new religion, a new beginning, based on the love of God and the Cross of Salvation written on the hearts. If these are not in our hearts, but remain only in our prayer books, the glory of resurrection promised also will elude us. "Unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest". The glory and dignity of your life, which is to be continued beyond your grave depends on your preparedness to 'fall on the ground and die' as Jesus did. Take this to your heart.

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, Jacinta Moses

Recently Deceased: S A Lee, Corazon Johnson

Deceased: Stjepan Matasic, Ivan Matasic, Leong Heng

Lin, Archie Chan, Tony Draybi, Pierre Draybi

Anniversary: Kurian Kurunthanam, Pat McManus

Deceased Members and Friends of: O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Ross & Mitchell Families, Eamiguel Family, Mari Family, Yburan Family, Gonzales Family

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. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and

First Reading

Jer 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. R

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. R

Second Reading

Heb 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Jn 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Communion Antiphon

Jn 12: 24

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: Is 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel: Mk 14:1-15:47

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 12:20-33

Gospel Focus – Love of life Jesus says, 'Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.' This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the 'things' of this life. Are we concerned about the labels on our clothes; the number of our friends; how much money we have; the sort of house we live in? If this is the 'life' that we place meaning on, then we will surely lose it. However, if we put aside the world's focus on material things and focus our attention on others then we are assured of eternal life.

Have you thought? Why Greeks?

The gospel reading begins with some Greeks wanting to meet Jesus. Why is it significant that they were Greeks? The Jews were very clear about the distinction between Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles). Regardless of their intentions and goodwill, a Gentile was simply not a Jew. Greeks, who worshipped an entire pantheon of gods, were regarded as almost as far from Jewish belief in one God as was possible. Yet Jesus made clear that his message was for everyone: Jew and Gentile alike. His death and resurrection would bring a 'rich harvest' of belief among Gentiles as well as Jews.

Scriptural context – The Final Days

Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

Keep the coming feast of the Lord through deeds, not words

From an Easter letter by Saint Athanasius

The Word who became all things for us is close to us, our Lord Jesus Christ who promises to remain with us always. He cries out, saying: "See, I am with you all the days of this age." He is himself the shepherd, the high priest, the way and the door, and has become all things at once for us. In the same way, he has come among us as our feast and holy day as well. The blessed Apostle says of him who was awaited: "Christ has been sacrificed as our Passover." It was Christ who shed his light on the psalmist as he prayed: "You are my joy, deliver me from those surrounding me." True joy, genuine festival, means the casting out of wickedness. To achieve this one must live a life of perfect goodness and, in the serenity of the fear of God, practise contemplation in one's heart.

This was the way of the saints, who in their lifetime and at every stage of life rejoiced as at a feast. Blessed David, for example, not once but seven times rose at night to win God's favour through prayer. The great Moses was full of joy as he sang God's praises in hymns of victory for the defeat of Pharaoh and the oppressors of the Hebrew people. Others had hearts filled always with gladness as they performed their sacred duty of worship, like the great Samuel and the blessed Elijah. Because of their holy lives they gained freedom, and now keep festival in heaven. They rejoice after their pilgrimage in shadows, and now distinguish the reality from the promise.

When we celebrate the feast in our own day, what path are we to take? As we draw near to this feast, who is to be our guide? Beloved, it must be none other than the one whom you will address with me as our Lord Jesus Christ. He says: "I am the way." As blessed John tells us: it is Christ "who takes away the sin of the world." It is he who purifies our souls, as the prophet Jeremiah says: "Stand upon the ways; look and see which is the good path, and you will find in it the way of amendment for your souls."

In former times the blood of goats and the ashes of a calf were sprinkled on those who were unclean, but they were able to purify only the body. Now through the grace of God's Word everyone is made abundantly clean. If we follow Christ closely we shall be allowed, even on this earth, to stand as it were on the threshold of the heavenly Jerusalem, and enjoy the contemplation of that everlasting feast, like the blessed apostles, who in following the Saviour as their leader, showed, and still show, the way to obtain the same gift from God. They said: "See, we have left all things and followed you." We too follow the Lord, and we keep his feast by deeds rather than by words.

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. 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, 25 March - Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)



The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person

of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of

Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

She is the virgin-mother who fulfils Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38). Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

Mass of the Feast at 6.45am.

PARISH NOTICES

Welcome New Christians

Four of our brothers and sisters will be initiated into the Church at Easter Vigil. Christina Kailhai, Prescila Mafi, Christopher Hayes, and Edwin King will be baptised, Confirmed, and offered Holy Communion on 3rd April, the Easter Vigil. At the conclusion of the vigil service, all parishioners will be invited to gather in the Jubilee Hall for a light supper in honour of the newly initiated Christians as well as Rosalind Evans who was received into the Church recently. You are welcome to bring slices or finger food to share at the supper.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Monday 29 March

6.45am Mass

Tuesday 30 March

6.45am Mass

7.00pm 2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 31 March

6.45am Mass

Holy Thursday 1 April

10.30am Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Last Supper,

Washing of feet, Adoration

Good Friday 2 April

10.00am Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Passion Service and veneration of the

Cross

Holy Saturday 3 April

8.00am Morning Prayer & Blessing of Easter

Food

7.00pm Easter Vigil, blessing of Fire & Water

Easter Sunday 4 April

8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass



Fifth Sunday of Lent 21 March





Halima is raising two children in a Bangladeshi refugee camp while caring for her mother, who has a disability. A Caritas Australia-supported program helped her with a shelter, cooking equipment and hygiene training. Halima now earns a small income as a trainer, helping to maintain the health and cleanliness of her community. Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or call 1800 024 413.

28 MARCH 2021	PALM SUNDAY PASSION OF THE LORD		
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Bob KENSEY	DOM PANGILINAN
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR		
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Amanda DOWDELL
	Lawrence LOPEZ	Joe MOSES	Sharon IACONO
PASSION NARRATIVE			
GOSPEL NARRATOR	Phirum DUCH		Susie MRAVUNAC
GOSPEL CROWD			
GOSPEL OTHER			

L	Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica & Teresa Escobar	Altar & Sacristy: Group 5 Carol Madon, Maria Wood
	Saturday 8AM	27 MARCH
LECTOD FOD MASS		Iann DOCKLIEE



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.

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. All parishioners are invited to pray a Novena to St Joseph before the 1st of May. You may use either the prayer printed in the bulletin or from the prayer card that was put out by the Archdiocese. 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.



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.

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 1st 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 2nd 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.

2nd 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

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

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 to obtain the Parish Census Form & Direct Debit Form (for those who are opting to donate automatically by credit card) so that your details can be added in our system.

OTHER NOTICES

Volunteer Opportunity - St Bahkhita's Centre

St Bakhita's Centre is a pastoral care centre and meeting place for the Sudanese Australian Catholic Community in Sydney. We are looking for a volunteer who can provide Administrative Assistance to the Centre and its community members from 9:30am – 11:30am on Wed & Fri.

If you have administrative experience, understand and are committed to the Catholic ethos and values and want to contribute some of your free time, we would welcome your support. A valid NSW Working With Children Check is required. To apply or for more information, contact Kylie Cullen via email at immigration@sydneycatholic.org or by phone on 9390 5923, during office hours Tuesday to Thursday.

6 Day Retreat 23-29 April 2021 - "Become Like Water" Fr John Armstrong

This retreat will notice how we are called to be participants in the life of grace by reflecting on the Mysteries of Light and where we notice the waters of baptism welling up within us, inviting us to enter the river of life. Cost for 6 day Retreat: \$870 (Prayer Weekend 23-25 April: \$290) St. Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park. Download the Form from our Website: http://towersretreat.org.au or RSVP Ph:4630-0233 or Email contact@towersretreat.org.au

Disciples School of Mission | 7th - 11th April

Are you aged between 16 - 40 and searching for an adventure in 2021? If so, then join us for the Disciples

School of Mission. This five day live-in training course calls young people from across Australia to be equipped in youth ministry and evangelisation. You then have the opportunity to put into practice what you have learnt and dive into an optional three-week mission experience. For more information, contact: therese.mgl@gmail.com or disciplesschoolofmission.com.au

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. For more information: contact the Parish Renewal Team at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or on (02) 9390 5330.

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.

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

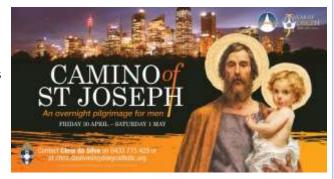
Camino of St Joseph

Men, it's time to take up a challenge to honour our Spiritual Father on his Feast of St Joseph the Worker in the Year of St Joseph!

The Camino will begin with Mass celebrated by Bishop Umbers at 8 pm on Friday the 30th of April at Holy Family, Menai.

During our walk we will stop at several churches: St Patrick, Sutherland; Our Lady Star of the Sea, Miranda; St Finbar, Sans Souci; and St Thomas More, Brighton-Le-Sands.

Each stop will feature a reflection on St Joseph and a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



We will conclude with a sunrise Mass and breakfast at Brighton-Le-Sands, finishing up at 7 am on the 1st of May. To register, visit www.sydneycatholic.org/camino

Church Shop

Kids Bibles have just now become available at our Church Shop! An ideal gift for any child celebrating the Sacrament this year. Drop by our Church Shop and grab a gift for that special someone. 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.





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

