



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](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) **YouTube:** [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBeralaParish)

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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

18 APRIL 2021

Sin is not of Niceties

You may still remember a much discussed comment by Pope Francis, "*It is not necessary to believe in God to be a good person.*" It was a paraphrased version of a homily by the Pope in May 2013 which made headlines in the following year. If there are good people among non-believers, does that mean the sacraments and concept of sin are irrelevant? To me it seems that some of the parents, students, and even some of the teachers of the Catholic Schools consider philanthropy is the only purpose of religion. To them a speeding ticket is sin, but blasphemy does not count. Such an erroneous attitude is creating lapsed Christians to whom fellowship gatherings and sacraments are irrelevant.



What is sin? Every Christian knows that stealing, killing, violence, abuse of any kind, and sex outside marriage constitute sin. In addition to them, there seems to be a belief that the lack of politeness is the worst of sins. The importance people place on politeness and etiquette is so great that in many minds they equate to holiness. For such people it is more important to be politically correct than to go to Church.

Another development is the increase in the so called "*good Christians*" thinking that co-habitation before marriage is religiously okay because civil society approves '*de facto*' relationships. They do not see this as an aberration of the sacramental life of a religious Christian.

'*Loving God and our neighbour as ourselves*' is the defining factor of a Disciple of Christ. Anything that goes contrary to this basic precept of Jesus is sinful. Loving thy neighbour means to reach out to all people in need. Thanks to the humanitarian society we live in, this part of the commandment is understood easily. But when it comes to loving God, the same cannot be said.

If we love God, we will be in constant touch with God. It is like a '*mum and babe*' dynamic. When we pray we are in communication with God. When we use the Word of God for reflection and prayer we are communicating with God. But as the Disciples of Christ we have a special and privileged way of communicating with Christ. We come into a union with the Body of Christ through the reception of blessed bread and blessed wine at the Eucharist. By becoming one with Christ's Body, you yourselves become the Body of Christ. Being part of the Body of Christ, you are Holy People as well. The Apostle Paul in his letter to Colossians calls Christians "*God's Holy People*" (Ref Colossians 1:1-2). Also praying the First Eucharistic prayer, the priest says, "*we your servants and your holy people*" (Ref. The order of Mass #92). Becoming part of the Body of Christ through the Holy Communion is not an optional extra for Catholic Christians, because at the Last Supper Christ commanded, "*Do this in memory of me*" (Ref Luke 22:19). Therefore, any failure in making Holy Communion with the Body of Christ through the Eucharist is a failure in your love for God. Remember that failing to love God is a sin (Ref 1 John 2:1-5).

In our Eucharistic celebration, we are preaching therefore repentance for the forgiveness of sins, just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus were told, according to the Gospel (Luke 24:48). Sin is not neglecting niceties. Sin is failure to love God and our Neighbour. By the virtue of Christ's resurrection, we can seek forgiveness for our sins through the Body of Christ, the Church.

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.

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ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! **R**

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **R**

'What can bring us happiness?' many say. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **R**

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **R**

Second Reading

1 Jn 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by

keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

Gospel Acclamation

See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

Communion Antiphon

Lk 24:35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: Acts 4:8-12

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 3:1-2

Gospel: Jn 10:11-18

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.

Scriptural context – Post-resurrection accounts

All four gospels include post-resurrection appearances of the risen Jesus. The gospel of Mark – historically, the first written – gives the briefest account of the resurrection discovery and it is only in a later addition to the gospel that a post-resurrection account appears. However, by the time the gospel of John was written, some 20-30 years later, the theological importance of the resurrection had gained more significance as it became more obvious that Jesus' return to the world was not going to happen within the foreseeable future. The gospel of John devotes two whole chapters to the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus.

Have you thought? Is 'Literal' wrong?

Is there really something intrinsically wrong about a literal interpretation of scripture? Not at all! It is indeed an essential tool of any scriptural interpretation. It is of course important that we first and foremost understand the text as it is written – we have to have a literal understanding of the words that are used and what they mean. The problem arises when this is as far as we go. If we stop at this stage then we are shutting ourselves off from the richness of the scriptures. If we fail to dig below the surface then we are denying ourselves the opportunity of scrutinising our lives in the light of the scripture.

Gospel Focus – Peace be with you seen

When Jesus appears in the midst of the disciples, his first words to them are, 'Peace be with you!' His appearance among them obviously agitated the disciples who were already hiding, in fear of their lives and devastated by the loss of their leader days earlier. Jesus' calming and reassuring words, 'Peace be with you!' recognise the reality of what state the disciples are in. The words demonstrate that Jesus is meeting the disciples 'where they are' – he recognises their distress and fear and responds with words that accept what they're feeling but reassure them of his love and care. They are words that Jesus speaks to us too!

The celebration of the Eucharist

From the first apology in defence of the Christians by Saint Justin, martyr

No one may share the Eucharist with us unless he believes that what we teach is true, unless he is washed in the regenerating waters of baptism for the remission of his sins, and unless he lives in accordance with the principles given us by Christ.

We do not consume the eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink, for we have been taught that as Jesus Christ our Saviour became a man of flesh and blood by the power of the Word of God, so also the food that our flesh and blood assimilates for its nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus by the power of his own words contained in the prayer of thanksgiving.

The apostles, in their recollections, which are called gospels, handed down to us what Jesus commanded them to do. They tell us that he took bread, gave thanks and said: *Do this in memory of me. This is my body.* In the same way he took the cup, he gave thanks and said: *This is my blood.* The Lord gave this command to them alone. Ever since then we have constantly reminded one another of these things. The rich among us help the poor and we are always united. For all that we receive we praise the Creator of the universe through his Son Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.

On Sunday we have a common assembly of all our members, whether they live in the city or the outlying districts. The recollections of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as there is time. When the reader has finished, the president of the assembly speaks to us; he urges everyone to imitate the examples of virtue we have heard in the readings. Then we all stand up together and pray.

On the conclusion of our prayer, bread and wine and water are brought forward. The president offers prayers and gives thanks to the best of his ability, and the people give assent by saying, "Amen." The eucharist is distributed, everyone present communicates, and the deacons take it to those who are absent.

The wealthy, if they wish, may make a contribution, and they themselves decide the amount. The collection is placed in the custody of the president, who uses it to help the orphans and widows and all who for any reason are in distress, whether because they are sick, in prison, or away from home. In a word, he takes care of all who are in need.

We hold our common assembly on Sunday because it is the first day of the week, the day on which God put darkness and chaos to flight and created the world, and because on that same day our saviour Jesus Christ rose from the dead. For he was crucified on Friday and on Sunday he appeared to his apostles and disciples and taught them the things that we have passed on for your consideration.

PARISH NOTICES

Pastoral Council

Parish Pastoral Council will be meeting at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 22 April. The agenda for the meeting includes the feast of St Joseph the Worker (1 May) and Dedication of the Parish to St Joseph, marking the Year of St Joseph.



The last weekend to register

The Gospel of Mark Today Zoom Bible Study

Registration form is available on the Parish Website or office.

Registration for the First Holy Communion is now open!

If your child was baptised at **St Peter Chanel Church** or **St Joseph the Worker Church**, you do not need to submit a copy of the baptism certificate. However, if baptised elsewhere, you will need to email a copy of the baptism certificate.

Payment of the \$30 Registration Fee can be made by bank transfer to our account under St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala Parish Account, BSB: 062 784 A/C: 4665001.

Kindly email copy of baptism certificate and remittance for payment of registration fee to sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. (In your bank transfer, please put reference as FHC Child's Firstname Initial Surname, eg FHC S BREWTY).

Registration closes 30 April. Click on link below to register:

<https://us8.list-manage.com/survey?u=65b2124a8202060424c7ed0b0&id=1843ad5233&e=|UNIQID|>

New RCIA

There are always people making inquiries about becoming Catholics. A new program of RCIA will be commencing in the Parish this year.

Anyone interested in the Catholic Church and faith is welcome to contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.

Fr Thomas will be meeting with the applicants before a suitable program of instructions is presented.



BARM—Berala Association of Rosary Makers

A number of parishioners have expressed a desire to make CORDED ROSARY BEADS as pictured) for various missions. All are invited to join this group which will meet one Thursday a month in St Peter Chanel Church foyer or hall from 10AM to 11.30AM.

No experience is necessary - only a desire to encourage the praying of the Rosary in missions and schools. All supplies will be provided as well as a 'cuppa'. This will be a wonderful spiritual and social ministry.

If you would like to be involved, please call Jenny Michael on 0413 679 931 and leave your name and contact details or email jenny@psmichael.com.au. This could really grow into something amazing to honour our Blessed Mother.

Liturgy Roster

A printed copy of the current roster may be collected from the Parish Office. For those who wish to volunteer to serve morning tea after the Sunday 8AM and 10AM masses, please contact the Parish Office.

Holy Land Good Friday Collection

Thank you for your generosity, our Parish collected the total sum of \$3,221 in cash and credit card donations.



Year of St Joseph & Pastoral Council



The Pastoral Council team last met on the 25th of March 2021. Some of the agenda items focused on consideration of ways to increase parish participation in initiatives and improve relationships. As Covid restrictions continue to ease, we look forward to welcoming back our morning tea sessions, the Called and Chosen program will be extended as well as a new monthly rosary bead making initiative started. Keep an eye on the bulletin for upcoming announcements.

The main focus for our meeting was preparations for the St Joseph The Worker feast day, Sat 1st May. We look forward to the unveiling of a new St Joseph statue and plaque on the St Joseph the Worker Primary School in Auburn South school grounds and a combined school and parish mass on Saturday 1st at 5pm. Both school and parish members welcome to celebrate this event together which will be followed by refreshments in the hall.

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.

Playgroup

St Peter Chanel Playgroup will be starting in Term 2!

It will be held every Friday morning from 9.00am to 11.00am in the Donovan Room of the Parish Hall.



Please email Barbara Mucha, Family Educator at barbara.mucha@svd.catholic.edu.au for further details and to register your child.



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney



Child sexual 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 by phone at (02) 9390 5810 or 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Ann Bechiom, Grazyna Lukasiewicz, Joseph Anthony Gabrielle, Josephine Attard, Jacinta Moses, Kathleen Cassie Resuello, Melchor dela Cruz Jr, Angelia dela Cruz, Clarita Naumanen, Jane Aquino, Corazon Lopez, Kathleen Goh

Recently Deceased: Flo Tozer, Judith Mary Whiteside, Les Thomas Sullivan

Anniversary: Kathleen Kensey

Deceased: Albert Wheeler, Mark Man-Wah Chiu, Betty Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Carmena Portelli, Anthony Spiteri, Carmela Spiteri, Bert Portelli, George Spiteri

Birthday Thanksgiving: Tamara Brewty, Marlyn Mortillero

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.



Morning Tea

Our usual Morning Tea after the weekend Masses has been suspended during the pandemic. Now we can resume it. Let us recommence our fellowship around a 'cuppa' after Mass. It is time to commence it.

Therefore, all those who are ready to help with Morning Tea including those who used to help contact the parish office so that we can prepare a roster.

OTHER NOTICES

40 Hours for Vocations

St Joachim's parish in Lidcombe is hosting 40 Hours for Vocations from 7:30pm on Friday 23 April until 9am on Sunday 25 April. You are invited to pray for an hour during this time to help young men and women answer God's call to a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life.

The event will conclude with a Mass for Vocations celebrated by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP at 10am on Sunday 25 April which is Good Shepherd Sunday. There will be opportunities for Confession, communal and personal prayer and guided reflections before the Blessed Sacrament.

Sign up for an hour of prayer here: <https://www.vocationcentre.org.au/events/40-hours-for-vocations-5/> and invite your family and friends to participate via the dedicated Facebook page: <https://fb.me/e/1hRJOo4qu>

For more information, contact the Vocation Centre for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney via email: vocations@sydneycatholic.org or 02 9307 8424.

The 2021 Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation course, Of Life and Love

Saturday 14 August commencing at 10 am and then Thursday evenings 19, 26 August & 02 September 2021 To Book Online - <https://www.trybooking.com/BMTLF> For further info, please contact - The Life, Marriage and Family team on (02) 9307 8480 or e-mail steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org.

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.

25 APRIL - ANZAC DAY		FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Bob KENSEY	Dom PANGILINAN
MUSIC & SINGING			
LECTOR/S	Phirum DUCH Renee SALAR	William ANDREWS Daniel BOLAND	Amanda Gahan Susie MRAVUNAC
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	MARGARET THAM
Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica & Teresa Escobar		Altar & Sacristy: Group 3 Helen Le Mottee & Jann Rockliff	
Saturday 8AM			24 APRIL
LECTOR FOR MASS		Christine KENSEY	