



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

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Parish Website: www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, **facebook:** [stpeterstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) **YouTube:** [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/BeralaParish)

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

22 AUGUST 2021

Bread from Heaven



I have seen many people stopping in front of the closed doors of the Church and praying. The online Mass is very popular. Are they satisfactory? Surely not. The faithful are missing the Holy Communion and many approach me for the Sacrament. If it were not for the Eucharist, nobody would have missed the Church in this lockdown. If it was inspiring preaching that made them the church, it is very well replaced by presentations on social media, thanks to the advancement of technology.

But the truth is that ultimately it is not learning the Bible that keeps one with Christ; it is the Eucharist. While Christians can pray at home, listen to homilies or read them online, they are no **substitute for their hunger for the real food, the Eucharist. We can't wait for the day when we can come together again for the real food.**

In the name of reformation, many Christians left the Catholic Church and formed communities based on preaching the Word of God. They may call the community to use the Bible for moral precepts and inspiration. They believe that can make them good Christians. For them the Eucharist has only symbolic value. To call the consecrated bread and wine the Body and Blood of Christ is abhorrent, at least ignorant.

Then again it is nothing new. Some of those who attended the Eucharist with Jesus also left the company of the Apostles. The Church of the Evangelist John also had the same problem. John 6:60-70 **exposes the divisions in Jesus' Community and in the Apostolic Community. The dissidents** thought it was an insult to their intelligence to believe that the elements of the Eucharist are the real **Body and Blood of Christ. Therefore they said, "This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?" (John 6:60).** The same people would have shown their love for their spouses and children through their passionate affection for them rather than intellectual explanation. Only a passionate and spiritual approach to the person of Jesus can feed us with his Body and Blood. The Eucharist is the real food that binds us together as the Church. It is the Eucharist that makes us one with Christ. Without our ascent to God and fellowship with our brothers and sisters there is no real life. **"It is the Spirit of God that gives life." The flesh, the human logic, is useless in this respect.** The Word of Jesus, especially at the institution of the Eucharist is the true Spirit. Therefore let us eagerly wait for the Church to be open, constantly reminding ourselves of the words of Jesus, **"This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever."** (Jn 6:58)



Join us on Saturday at 5PM
for the Sunday Vigil Mass

@BeralaParish YouTube Channel

Don't forget to subscribe & switch the notification bell on.



DONATE

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

**Church is Closed During
Lockdown Period
STAY SAFE!**

NEWS

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M. 0418 459 431

Parish Secretary

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T. (02) 9644 7787

Sacramental Co-ordinator

Sophia Brewty
Tue & Wed 10am-3pm
sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

Pastoral Council

Daniel Boland (Chair), Joe Kristianto, (Vice.
Chair) Alicia Moore (Sec), Rosalind Evans
(Asst Sec), Gai Melville (SJW), Jenny Makerry
(SJW), Jenny Michael, Katrina Yip, Nathasha
Ellis (SJW), William Andrews, Amanda Gahan,
Susie Mravunac, Phil Townsend

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T. (02) 9644 8859
Joe Moses, Sylvia Jukic Brendon Nazareth
(Finance Controller)

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
T. (02) 9644 9083
Principal - Phil Townsend
Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South
T. (02) 9646 1434
Principal - Gai Melville
Family Educator - Natasha Ellis

CatholicCare. Provides caring advice and
advocacy to help families. CCareline 13 18
19 | CatholicCare.org

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey
Jamberoo - www.jamberooabbey.org.au/
retreats Ph: 4236 0533

Carmelites Varroville -
www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
Ph: 8795 3400

Healing After Abortion: 0400 092 555

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby -
www.divineretreatcentre.org.au
Ph: 4372 1598

Sara's Place: For pregnancy support or
grieving after abortion visit
www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 9699 8190

John Savage



One of our former parishioner, John Savage, passed away on 13 August. He was a Berala parishioner from 1967-1979. Our condolence to Jan, his widow, and children – Michelle, Leslie & Trevor and their families. May he rest in peace.

Funeral Service will be livestreamed on the YouTube Channel 'Berala Parish' on Monday, 23 August at 10:30am.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Graham Turner, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Sally Castell, Mamerto Bolonia Jr, Lily Bykowski, Tom Burke, Josephine Laing, Enid

Recently Deceased: John Savage, Teresita Natividad, Cecile Cook, Angel Gomez

Deceased: James Ong, Tom Burke, Valerie De Souza, Michael Baptiste

Other Intentions: For all those affected by the Corona Virus. Holy Souls in Purgatory. The intention of the Holy Father. For the people of Afghanistan. Baptiste Family thanks God for 40th anniversary of their arrival in Australia.

*Pope Francis prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick,
to implore her protection during the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic*

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy
and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and
to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore
our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from
every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

FOOD FOR FRIENDS
Feeling unwell?
Short on cash?
Busy juggling work and
remote learning?

If you need a home cooked
meal for any reason please
contact the school or
Parish. No explanation
needed.

Your choice of yummy
dishes for the family

**To organise your meal or for donations
contact:**

**St Peter Chanel Catholic Primary School
on 9644 9083 or email
amanda.gahan@syd.catholic.edu.au**

**St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Parish on
9644 7787**

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Ps 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all day long.

First Reading

Jos 24:1-2. 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-3. 16-23 R. v.9

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. **R**

They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R**

Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. **R**

Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R**

Second Reading

Eph 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord,

since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 6:63. 68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life
Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf Ps 103:13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Dt 4:1-2. 6-8**

2nd Reading: **Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27**

Gospel: **Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23**

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 6:60-69

Historical Context - Christian and Jews

The first followers of Jesus and those who became followers in the years after the death of Jesus were faithful Jews. They saw the teachings of Jesus as a way of being a better Jew. They didn't think that they were beginning a new religion; just a new way of interpreting their faith. However, as the years passed and the followers of Jesus began to clarify their understandings and beliefs, it started to become obvious that their belief in Jesus as the Son of God was distancing them from their Jewish brothers and sisters. Gradually the term, Christian, came into use and their differences from Judaism became more apparent.

Gospel Focus - Peter's faith

Having laid out a fairly difficult teaching to the crowd, Jesus is faced with the fact that many of those who were following him couldn't cope with what he was saying and they walked away from him. Jesus turns on the Twelve and demands of them, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' One can almost hear the frustration and weariness in his voice. Peter's response must have been a great relief to Jesus. Peter declares that Jesus has the message of eternal life and is the Holy One of God. He still hasn't quite got the full picture but it's something Jesus can continue to work with!

Living the Gospel - Message and Medium

We live in a world that is saturated by advertising and marketers trying to persuade us to think certain things, want certain things and even act in certain ways. At times the message and the medium of the message blur and it's not always clear where one stops and the other begins. For Christian people the medium – the person – IS the message (or at least should be!). We are called to live what we believe. That can be tough at times, especially in our modern world, but the challenge comes from the example Jesus gave.

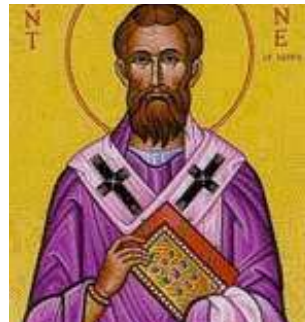
FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, 24 August - St Bartholomew (Memorial)



Named in the list of apostles and generally identified with Nathaniel of Cana, the "Israelite without guile" (John 1:47) who was led to Jesus by the apostle Philip (3 May). Said to have preached the gospel in India and in Armenia, where tradition indicates he was martyred.

Saturday, 28 August - St Augustine (Memorial)



Guiseppe Sarto was born into a poor family in 1835. Born at Tagaste (Algeria) in 354. Died at Hippo (Tunisia) in 430. Though enrolled by his mother Monica as a catechumen, he renounced the Christian faith and espoused Manicheism. Taught in Carthage, Rome, and Milan.

Friday, 27 August - St Monica (Memorial)



Probably born at Tagaste (Algeria) about 331. Died at Ostia (Italy) in 387. Before her marriage her faith bore fruit in her recovery from a drinking problem and later helped bring her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Undertook many years of penance and prayer for her brilliant but

wayward son Saint Augustine (28 August). Following his conversion and baptism in Milan, she died at the beginning of her journey home to Africa. Remembered for her parental devotion, her patience, and her persistence in prayer.

Lived for fifteen years with a woman who remains unknown and with whom he had a son, named Adeodatus. Baptised in 387, together with his son, after a long inner struggle and under the influence of Saint Ambrose (7 December) and the prayers of his mother, Saint Monica (27 August). Bishop of Hippo for thirty-four years. Lived a communal life with his clergy and served the many needs of his people at a time of political and cultural collapse. Remembered as a model pastor and as a preacher and writer whose thought has had an enduring influence in Christian history.

Through his blood Christ reconciled the world to God

The Explanations of the Psalms by Saint Ambrose: Psalm 48

When Christ reconciled the world to God he himself was certainly not in need of reconciliation. What sin could he do penance for, when he had no sin in him? Moreover, when the Jews were asking for the half-shekel, the offering given for sin according to the Law, he said to Peter: 'Simon, what is your opinion? From whom do the kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their sons or from foreigners?' And when Peter replied, 'From foreigners', Jesus said, 'Well then, the sons are exempt. However, so as not to offend these people, go to the lake and cast a hook; take the first fish that bites, open its mouth and there you will find a shekel; take it and give it to them for me and for you.'

He showed that he does not owe an offering for any sin of his own, for he was not a slave of sin: the Son of God was free from all fault. For the son gives freedom; it is the slave who is guilty. So Jesus is completely free, and he does not make payment to redeem his soul. The price of his blood was more than enough to redeem all the sins of the entire world. It is right that he who owes nothing for himself should be able to give freedom to others.

Let me say more. Christ owes nothing for his own redemption and owes nothing as propitiation for sin. But more than that, if you consider any one of us then you will see that none of us owes anything as a propitiatory offering, because Christ himself is that offering, the offering for all and the redemption of all.

What man's blood now has the power to redeem him, when Christ has shed his own blood for the redemption of all? Is there anyone whose blood could be compared to Christ's? Or what man is so powerful that he could make an offering of propitiation greater than the offering that Christ made of himself when he alone reconciled the world to God by his blood? What greater sacrificial victim can there be, what superior sacrifice, what better advocate could there be than Christ, who became the atonement for the sins of all, who gave his life for our redemption?

Individual propitiation, individual redemption is not needed, because the blood of Christ is the price of all. By that blood the Lord Jesus redeemed us, and he alone has reconciled us to the Father. He laboured at this to the end, for he took our own burdens on himself when he said, Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

OTHER NOTICES

Go Make Disciples Online Lay Leadership Series- "Christ-centered Leadership"

24 August: Love that Risks: Creating Communities of Growth and Innovation. To register visit: <https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/>

An Evening Retreat for married Couples in the beginning - Marriage in the Divine Plan

An online retreat for married couples that provides for a marriage enrichment opportunity Thu, 16 Sep | 8:00 to 9:00 PM | Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/LifeMarriageFamilySydney>

Jamberoo Abbey Online Retreat

Retreat about hope to be held on Sunday, 5 September. There are 6 conferences with two being uploaded each week. The cost is \$250. Pensioner discount applies. To check and register visit jamberooabbey.org.au/restreats/online-retreats/

Aid to the Church in Need Australia

Especially in remote and non-Christian areas, the faith is often nurtured via faith-based TV and radio programs. For over thirty years ACN has supported the *Catholic Radio* and *Television Network* which provides programming to networks in developing countries which do not have the means to buy or produce Catholic content. These programs are seen and heard by about 36 million people worldwide every day. Can you help ensure that the faith is available in every corner of the world? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/media

Got Your Wedding Plans Under Control?

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. www.engagedencounter.org.au. Nov 13-14 2021; Feb 19-20 2022. If COVID-19 restrictions prevent a face-to-face seminar, the CEE weekend will be held via Zoom.



Just for Laughs Being Thankful

A Rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"
The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"