



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.

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

29 AUGUST 2021

Be True to God



The relaxation of the COVID restrictions to allow small groups of five to have a picnic is good. As the Premier said, “it is important for mental health”. It is not enough to be concerned about what you eat, but equally important how we eat our food. Gathering and eating together are important because God has created human beings to be social beings. Food eaten in gatherings becomes a means of honouring the goodness and friendship of others. For the pious Jews like the Pharisees, the right choice of meat and ritual cleansing before eating were ways of honouring God. Hence there were laws about kosher food and ritual washing developed through the tradition. The original purpose and intention for these observations were good. But over time they were too pedantic about the rituals and forgot all about the purpose of them, honouring God. Spiritual growth and devotions to God is a matter of heart, not a ritual to be observed. Jesus, seeing their deviation from the true piety, told the Pharisees to be true to God and honest with themselves.

We Christians do not have to worry about the ritual cleansing and food laws. But Christians also could get caught up in cultural practices with apparent piety without proper regard for God. Unethical and immoral life will not be justified before God, even if someone decorates the house with a million religious pictures or sets up the most beautiful prayer space. Kissing the icons and touching the statues may seem religious. Such actions become true prayer only when accompanied with acts of love for others and trust in God. Are there religious practices you attach a lot of importance to, yet do not contribute to your spiritual growth? What are the rituals you waste your time on which does not honour God?

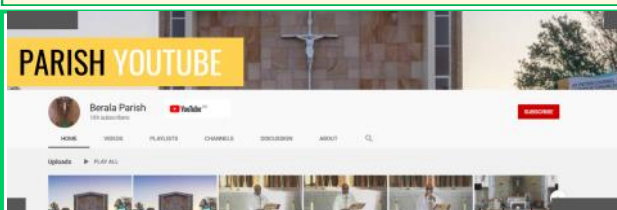
MASS INTENTIONS

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

Recently Deceased: Rev Fr Max Barrett, Enid Snedden, John Savage

Deceased: James Ong, Tom Burke, Valerie De Souza

Other Intentions: For all those affected by the Corona Virus. For the people of Afghanistan. Holy Souls in Purgatory. The intention of the Holy Father.



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

@BeralaParish YouTube Channel

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

NEWS

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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

Lawrence & Phil Lopez

Congratulations to Lawrence & Phil who are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, 28 August.

On your 50 Golden years of union it's time to look back and cherish the blessed moments of your togetherness. May God shower you an everlasting love and fill your lives with blessings and happiness.



Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal



Sydney Catholic Archbishop, Anthony Fisher OP, has launched the Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal. The appeal will raise desperately needed funds and commit the Archdiocese resources of education, health and welfare to Afghan families and individuals fleeing their homeland in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. The UN and aid agencies are preparing for a Syria scale refugee crisis. The appeal means that those who find their way to Australia will have support and resources waiting for them. These dark times remind all of us that we really are our brother and our sisters' keeper. We urge you to donate here: Archbishop's Afghan Refugee Appeal

For further information go to: <http://justiceandpeace.org.au/>
Thank you on behalf of the Archbishop and those most vulnerable people for your support.

OTHER NOTICES

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



DONATE

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

**Church is Closed
During Lockdown
Period**

STAY SAFE!

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Ps 85:3, 5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading

Dt 4:1-2. 6-8

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart. **R**

He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord. **R**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R**

Second Reading

Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

Gospel Acclamation

Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. Alleluia!

Gospel

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

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

Communion Antiphon

Ps 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 35:4-7**

2nd Reading: **Jas 2:1-5**

Gospel: **Mk 7:31-37**

REFLECTIONS ON MARK 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

Historical Context - Pharisees

Pharisees were mostly lay men (i.e. generally not Priests) who were characterised by a strict observance of the Torah as well as an oral tradition of teaching and interpretation. They believed that the Torah required interpretation – by engaging in this interpretation they participated in God’s ongoing revelation. They also had a strong belief that all Jewish people were called to be a priestly people. This belief naturally put them at odds with the Priests of the Temple. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, the teachings of the Pharisees gained prominence and eventually developed into Rabbinic Judaism that continues today.

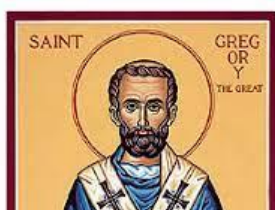
Scriptural context—Mark’s Audience

It is widely believed that the Gospel of Mark was written for a predominantly Greek-speaking, Gentile audience. Today’s gospel passage is a perfect example of literary evidence that has been used to establish this position. The gospel writer clearly explains the Jewish practice of washing to the elbows before eating and ritual cleansing upon return from the marketplace where they would have encountered Gentiles. Obviously, a Jewish audience would not need this explanation. This practice of looking for information about the author and their audience within the text itself is a form of Literary Criticism.

Gospel Focus—The things within

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person ‘unclean’ – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK



Friday, 3 September - St Gregory the Great (Memorial)

Born about 540. Died in Rome in 604. While prefect of Rome, he founded monasteries there and in Sicily and himself became a monk. Called to be a deacon of Rome by Benedict I, and then sent as papal legate to Constantinople. Elected pope in 590. Reorganised Church life and administration in a time of crisis, sponsored liturgical reform, and initiated the evangelisation of the English. Remembered also for his extensive writings on pastoral care, spirituality, and morals, and for his self-designation as "servant of the servants of God."

The Lord has had pity on us

From a sermon by Saint Augustine

Happy are we if we do the deeds of which we have heard and sung. Our hearing of them means having them planted in us, while our doing them shows that the seed has borne fruit. By saying this, I wish to caution you, dearly beloved, not to enter the Church fruitlessly, satisfied with mere hearing of such mighty blessings and failing to do good works. For *we have been saved by his grace*, says the Apostle, *and not by our works, lest anyone may boast; for it is by his grace that we have been saved*. It is not as if a good life of some sort came first, and that thereupon God showed his love and esteem for it from on high, saying: "Let us come to the aid of these men and assist them quickly because they are living a good life." No, our life was displeasing to him. He will, therefore, condemn what we have done but he will save what he himself has done in us.

We were not good, but God had pity on us and sent his Son to die, not for good men but for bad ones, not for the just but for the wicked. Yes, *Christ died for the ungodly*. Notice what is written next: *One will hardly die for a righteous man, though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die*. Perhaps someone can be found who will dare to die for a good man; but for the unjust man, for the wicked one, the sinner, who would be willing to die except Christ alone who is so just that he justifies even the unjust?

And so, my brothers, we had no good works, for all our works were evil. Yet although men’s actions were such, God in his mercy did not abandon men. He sent his Son to redeem us, not with gold or silver but at the price of his blood poured out for us. Christ, the spotless lamb, became the sacrificial victim, led to the slaughter for the sheep that were blemished – if indeed one can say that they were blemished and not entirely corrupt. Such is the grace we have received! Let us live so as to be worthy of that great grace, and not do injury to it. So mighty is the physician who has come to us that he has healed all our sins! If we choose to be sick once again, we will not only harm ourselves, but show ingratitude to the physician as well.

Let us then follow Christ’s paths which he has revealed to us, above all the path of humility, which he himself became for us. He showed us that path by his precepts, and he himself followed it by his suffering on our behalf. In order to die for us – because as God he could not die – *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*. The immortal One took on mortality that he might die for us, and by dying put to death our death. This is what the Lord did, this the gift he granted to us. The mighty one was brought low, the lowly one was slain, and after he was slain, he rose again and was exalted. For he did not intend to leave us dead in hell, but to exalt in himself at the resurrection of the dead those whom he had already exalted and made just by the faith and praise they gave him. Yes, he gave us the path of humility. If we keep to it we shall confess our belief in the Lord and have good reason to sing: *We shall praise you, God, we shall praise you and call upon your name*.