

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.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

5 DECEMBER 2021

Mentor and Leader



In many of the professions there are mentors, especially for beginners. But you may have never suspected of Jesus having one. John the Baptist was Jesus' mentor. Jesus received baptism from John. From the Gospels we know that John was an important person both historically and religiously. On these accounts John was also part of the story of Jesus. Today's gospel reading from Luke is about the role of John in the mission of Jesus.

"He (John) went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" (Lk 3:3-6). Like Isaiah and other prophets of the Old Testament, John preached repentance. He baptised those heeded his message of repentance. Was he actually mopping off their sins? Not really. John was actually calling for a change of heart, a change in their life orientation. John left the pleasures of the world behind to focus wholeheartedly on the divine mission. His followers were called to give up all that would be an obstacle for God to enter into their lives. Thus, he prepared the way for God and his Kingdom. Therefore, John's baptism was a sign of the change in the life orientation. What John did in the Judean wilderness should make us think about our preparedness for God and his Kingdom.

Baptism and the Sacrament of Reconciliation are to pave the way for God and his Kingdom. Christian baptism is a mark of an initiation into the Body of Christ. A baptised person sets apart his/her life for God to work through them. They turn away from all ungodly things. Their lives are founded on Christ and his Church. On the other hand the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an ongoing act of preparedness for God and his Kingdom. Christians confess sins and ask for God's forgiveness so that they continue to be worthy members of the Body of Christ. But there are bad confessions too. The bad ones think that confessing a list of sins will straighten the way for God in their lives. How wrong they are. Confession of a scrupulous list of sins would not do anything if it is without a real change of heart. A good confession is a conversion experience whereby one resolves to move away from all the obstacles to the Kingdom of God in your life. The biblical imagery of *"Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth"* (Luke 3:5) indicates a total transformation. That's what is required for God and his Kingdom to come into our lives. What kind of transformations have you had in your life? What are the obstacles you perceive in your life that is blocking the arrival of God and his Kingdom? Let's be serious about it this advent, in this time of waiting for God's coming into our life and into our world.



Join us on Saturday at 5PM for
the Sunday Vigil Mass
[@BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBeralaParish) YouTube
Channel

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



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Thank you!



Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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 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.

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au (Office)
 pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au (for confidential)
 T. (02) 9644 7787

Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria
 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
 Tue to Fri 9am -3pm
 T. (02) 9644 7787

Sacramental Co-ordinator

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

Community Care Worker

Patricia Lay
 0447 529 122

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. Patricia Lay. Provides caring
 advice and advocacy to help families . 0447
 529 122 | CCareline 13 18 19

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

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon 6/12	6.45am Mass
Tue 7/12	St Ambrose (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Wed 8/12	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity) 6.45am Mass
Thu 9/12	6.45am Mass
Fri 10/12	6.45am Mass
Sat 11/12	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 9.00am Novena, Adoration 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 12/12	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

12 DECEMBER 2021**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	William ANDREWS	Charlie SCULLY	Trevor BREWTY
MUSIC & SINGING			SACRED HEART CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Michael CHOW	Jenny MICHAEL
	Mai NGUYEN	Joe MOSES	Sharon SEBASTIAN
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Margaret THAM
Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group		Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Gwen Bergstedt	
Saturday 8AM		11 DECEMBER	
LECTOR FOR MASS		Jann ROCKLIFF	

*"Family that pray together
 stay together"*

PILGRIM STATUE

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL
 at the Pangilinan Family**

**To host the Pilgrim Statue and
 Rosary prayer please contact Mona
 on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.**

**FROM THE LEGION OF MARY,
 BERALA
 at the Mayo Home**

**To host the Rosary Statue Legion of
 Mary, Berala call
 Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Graham Turner, Theo
 Bergstedt, Doreen Stanmore, Judith
 Anderson, Rema Zreika, Elizabeth
 Chadic, Aram Khallou, Lorry
 Vassalla, John Rodrigues, Joseph
 Rodrigues, John Moore

Recently Deceased: John Le Mottee,
 Tony Michael

Deceased: Anthony Louis Gomes,
 Emiliano Galapon, Angelita Galapon,
 Anna Riza Boado, Jose Romeo

Advincula, Paul Gomes, Jirmine
 Costa, Christopher Hynes, Caroline
 Lilian Stevens, Sam Capra, Jenny
 Capra, Simone Raspanti, Gurgone
 Concetta, Teresa Raspanti, Ilario
 Baudille

Anniversary:

Other Intentions: Holy Souls in
 Purgatory. The intention of the Holy
 Father.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

Bar 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'.

Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory.

For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **R**

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **R**

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **R**

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **R**

Second Reading

Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4-6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Communion Antiphon

Bar 5:5, 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Zep 3:14-18**

2nd Reading: **Phil 4:4-7**

Gospel: **Lk 3:10-18**

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 3:1-6

Historical Context – At this time

This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. Again, in today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

Have you thought? Baptism

We may think that Baptism is an invention of the Christian community but today's gospel makes it clear that baptism was used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist. Baptism was part of the Jewish tradition well before the time of Jesus. Ritual cleansing by full immersion was an important element of worship and converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath known as a mikveh. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin was a different interpretation of the well established practice.

Living the Gospel – Make way!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, 7 December - St Ambrose (Memorial)



Born in Trier (Germany) about 340. Ordained bishop on this day in 374 and died at Milan (Italy) on Holy Saturday 397. A lawyer who became governor in Milan and who was still a catechumen when elected bishop by popular acclaim. Upheld orthodoxy against the Arians and won many Christian

converts. Encouraged monasticism and defended the independence of the Church against secular authority. Remembered as an outstanding pastor through his writings on the sacraments and Christian ethics and through his homilies, instructions, and hymns.

Wednesday, 8 December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)



This feast had its origin in the East as the "Conception of Mary by Saint Anne". It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the "Immaculate Conception" and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century. The feast celebrates

Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

NEWS

Christmas Lunch Donation & Volunteers

On Christmas Day, 25 December, there will be a Luncheon at the Jubilee Hall, from 11.30AM-2.30PM, for all those who would like to participate. To book yourself for the lunch please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or email info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.

You can help with the Luncheon either by donating food, drinks or cash. Should you wish to donate, kindly complete the Luncheon Donation form at the back of the church.



Just for Laughs

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks: "Why are some of your hairs white, Mum?" Her mother replied: "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then asked: "Mumma, how come all of grandma's hairs are white?"

Christmas Schedule 2021

Friday, 17 December
6.30pm **SPC Carols & BBQ**

Wednesday, 22 December
7.00pm **Second Rite Reconciliation**

Friday, 24 December
7.00pm **Christmas Vigil Mass (Family)**
(Salt enLight)
12.00am **Solemn Midnight Mass** (Parish Choir)



Saturday, 25 December
8.00am **Christmas Mass**
10.00am **Christmas Mass**
(Tongan Choir)

11.30am - 2.30pm
Christmas Lunch
(Jubilee Hall)

Sunday, 26 December
(Boxing Day, Feast of the Holy Family, Fr
Thomas 37th Anniversary of Ordination)
8.00am Mass
10.00am Mass

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE TODAY



ROW

A Guide to Reading the Gospel with historical and Old Testament background

WHERE

St Peter Chanel Church
62 Kingsland Road Berala
& Online

FEATURING • Historical & Theological Context of Luke, and a detailed commentary

THOMAS.KURUNTHANAM@SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG

BIBLE STUDY

WHEN

8 Feb - 27 Sep 2022
(Excluding Lent)

TIME

7-8 pm (AET)
on Tuesdays

LENT

Special program during
Lent 2022

TO REGISTER

Visit the Parish Website

OPTIONS

Registration link online visit:

<https://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/>

Choose Face to Face
or Online Lectures

Registration Fee \$ 10

No other fee

E-book Handout at the end
of the course.

Christmas Carols 2021

Carols on Friday, 17 December will be a big celebration. A number of choirs including Tongans, Sacred Heart Choir, Salt enLight music with the covenant community and the school children will be singing.

Keith Isaacs is hired for the illumination in the Church and the PA system for the night. Because of the increased interest, carols singing is anticipated to start at 7PM.



Trevor Brewty will be the MC for the night. Instead of candles, glow sticks will be on sale, especially for the kids.

Charlie Scully is organising BBQ before the Carols and it will start at 6PM on the Church lawns. He will be happy to hear from anyone willing to help him with cooking.

Volunteers and singers may contact Sophia on 0499 949 488. Christmas Carols 2021 will be the first parish social after the COVID lockdown.

Thank you for supporting the CWF Parish Appeal

On behalf of this parish, we thank you for supporting the Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Appeal.

We cannot do the work that we do without your help! Once again, we are able to continue in our mission to provide care for the most vulnerable in our communities, while also building up our Catholic communities.

For more information about the Catholic Works Fund, please visit www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf.



A voice of one crying in the wilderness

A commentary on Isaiah by Eusebius of Caesarea

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God's salvation is to be made known to all mankind.

It was in the wilderness that God's saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God's salvation was seen. The words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father's voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: *This is my beloved Son, listen to him.*

The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God, since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. *Prepare the way of the Lord:* the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God's saving power.

Climb on a high mountain, bearer of good news to Zion. Lift up your voice in strength, bearer of good news to Jerusalem. These words harmonise very well with the meaning of what has gone before. They refer opportunely to the evangelists and proclaim the coming of God to men, after speaking of the voice crying in the wilderness. Mention of the evangelists suitably follows the prophecy on John the Baptist.

What does Zion mean if not the city previously called Jerusalem? This is the mountain referred to in that passage from Scripture: *Here is mount Zion, where you dwell.* The Apostle says: *You have come to mount Zion.* Does not this refer to the company of the apostles, chosen from the former people of the circumcision?

This is the Zion, the Jerusalem, that received God's salvation. It stands aloft on the mountain of God, that is, it is raised high on the only-begotten Word of God. It is commanded to climb the high mountain and announce the word of salvation. Who is the bearer of the good news but the company of the evangelists? What does it mean to bear the good news but to preach to all nations, but first of all to the cities of Judah, the coming of Christ on earth?

OTHER NOTICES



A Christmas without joy is no Christmas at all. Yet that's what too many people are facing this December.

A Christmas without family, after fleeing from domestic violence. A Christmas without comfort and peace of mind, after bills have mounted up. Or a Christmas without a roof over your head, after losing your home.

This advent, the Berala conference of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting donations for our local families. We know that many of you like to reach out to others during Advent. This year we are asking for donations of new toys, non perishable food, Christmas table decorations, new clothes etc.

We would also like to have vouchers for kids to use to buy school supplies for 2022. If you would like to help out with this we are accepting gift cards from Woolworths, Coles, Kmart, Officeworks etc.

As usual monetary donations are more than welcome and are tax deductible.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Columban Calendar Back in Stock

40 copies of the Columban Calendars have just arrived.

Purchase your copy now at the church store for only \$10 before they run out again.

