



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.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

12 DECEMBER 2021

How Do We Reform?



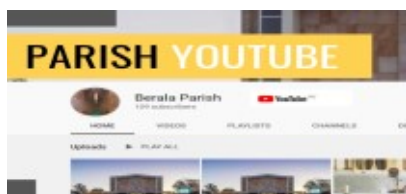
The Report of the Plenary Council of Australia which assembled in Adelaide recently was discussed in last week's Catholic Weekly. Adam Wesselinoff highlighted Francis Sullivan and his team's frustrations and scepticism, while on the other hand, Greg Craven in his article warned that people with their own agenda are trying to demolish the Church. Though these critiques hold very diverse views, both articles were asking the same question, "*How do we reform?*" Israelites asked the same question to John the Baptist (*Ref Lk3:10*).

Tax collectors, teachers, soldiers, and in fact people from all walks of life asked John "*What should we do?*" This quest resembles what the Israelites returning from the Babylonian captivity asked Nehemiah, in fifth century BC. Their question was how to reform and re-establish the people of God. According to Nehemiah, the Torah, Sabbath and the Temple were the tools for reformation of the returned Israelites. Nearly five centuries later when John the Baptist was asked "*What should we do for reformation*" the answer was not the same.

John demanded change of heart and personal transformation. He told the people to be generous in their charity. To the tax collectors, he said, "*exact no more than your rate*". To the soldiers he said, "*No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!*" In short John exhorted people to be generous, honest and just. Such a conversion is prerequisite to receive Jesus as your personal saviour. When you have a conversion experience you will see the world around you also transforming.

John's role was only to prepare the way for Christ. True reformation can happen only through Jesus Christ. Therefore, John directed the people to Jesus and said, "*He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.*" Before the day of the Lord's judgement, you need to judge yourself. This is the time to do so.

The much needed reformation of the Church happens when you and I, the building blocks of the church, start the work of reformation in the personal and individual life. Are we there yet?



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.



Scan the QR Code to **DONATE**

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

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 13/12	St Lucy (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Tue 14/12	St John of the Cross (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Wed 15/12	6.45am Mass
Thu 16/12	6.45am Mass
Fri 17/12	6.45am Mass 6.00pm Christmas Carols & BBQ
Sat 18/12	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 9.00am Novena, Adoration 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 19/12	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

19 DECEMBER 2021**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Roland JAVIER	William ANDREWS
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Maria SIMEONE	Susie MRAVUNAC
	Amanda DOWDELL	Robert MCGINN	Amanda GAHAN
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Winnie CHIU	John SHANLEY

Cleaners SPC: Roland & Aida Javier **Altar & Sacristy:** Group 3 Helen Le Mottee & Jann Rockliff

Saturday 8AM**18 DECEMBER**

LECTOR FOR MASS Christine KENSEY

*"Family that pray together
 stay together"*

PILGRIM STATUE

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL
 at the Perera 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 Kassis 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: Cecil Scharenguivel,
 Hasna Lahoud, Christopher Hynes

Anniversary: George Guanzon,
 Sandy Amores, Lucila Amores,
 Jovito Amores, Felicissimo
 Amores, Tarcila Figueras, Elena
 Figueras, and Pacita Allarde

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

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

Zep 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **R**

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. **R**

Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

Second Reading

Phil 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God,

which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Mi 5:1-4**

2nd Reading: **Heb 10:5-10**

Gospel: **Lk 1:39-45**

Third Sunday of Advent

As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice and praise spring up before all peoples of the earth."

~Isaiah 61:11



REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 3:10-18

Have you thought? A change of heart

The baptism that John preached and practised was a baptism of repentance. What he called on people to do was to recognise the areas of their lives that were unbalancing their relationship with God. There was a strong recognition that unless they were in right relationship with one another they could not be in right relationship with God. In recognising the need for change in their lives, John challenged them to also make a change of heart: to approach their lives differently. This is why they were questioning him about practical ways of living out their new commitment.

Living the Gospel – Generosity of spirit

John's words to the crowd, the tax collectors and the soldiers are about adopting a spirit of generosity and a generosity of spirit. A generosity of spirit can be expressed simply in the attitude with which we approach other people: a positive, hope-filled and generous attitude will often turn around a potentially negative situation. As we approach the Christmas season, there is a need for practical actions of generosity as well. Those in need can approach Christmas with dread rather than joyful expectation. It can be the hardest time of year for struggling families. Acts of generosity can make all the difference.

Gospel Focus – Baptised with the Holy Spirit

John makes clear to his audience the difference between himself and the Messiah who is still to come. His ritual of baptism will pale in comparison with the baptism with the Holy Spirit that the Christ will offer. Compared to a symbolic action of baptism, Jesus will offer the people a tangible experience of life in the Holy Spirit. He will give them not only a glimpse of the reign of God, but an invitation to enter fully into it. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a lived experience, not just a ritual action. .

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 13 December - St Lucy (Memorial)



Died at Syracuse in Sicily, probably in the persecution of the emperor Diocletian in 304. Widely venerated from the earliest times, her memorial has long been kept on this day. Probably because her name is suggestive of light, her intercession has been sought for eyesight problems. Named in

Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon) and remembered as a youth, radiant with Christian faith and courage.

Tuesday, 14 December - St John of the Cross (Memorial)



Born in 1542 at Fontiveros (Spain). Died on this day in Ubeda. A Carmelite priest who joined Saint Teresa of Jesus (15 October) in the work of Carmelite reform and, despite opposition and imprisonment, organised the discalced Carmelites.

Remembered for his mystical writings, which combine theology and poetry to describe the spiritual journey through darkness to union with God.

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

At a job Interview:
"What are your strengths?"-
"I take matters in my own hands."
-"Ok, thank you. We will contact you."
-"No, I will contact you."

Christmas Schedule 2021

Friday, 17 December
6.00pm **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

Fruits of First Plenary Council Assembly published

Published by Cath News: 09 December 2021



Scenes from Plenary Council first assembly in October (ACBC)

The fruits of the first general assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia have been gathered together in a new report that contains dozens of proposals to shape the ongoing Council journey.

The more than 270 Plenary Council members gathered online for the first assembly in October, spending much of the week in small groups discerning responses to the 16 agenda questions.

Their discussions arose from and were enriched by contributions from across the Australian Church over the three-and-a-half years of preparation.

The document published today reveals the directions of the small groups discernment and offers them as a basis for the ongoing preparation for the second assembly.

“These dozens of pages cannot come close to capturing all that was shared in the assembly, but there is great richness in what is contained, including the many proposals the small groups and individual members have put before us,” Plenary Council president Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said.

Archbishop Costelloe said the first assembly was “inspiring, challenging and sometimes unsettling” for the members. The report, as much as possible, “retains the original voice of those who spoke, without attempts to produce a harmonised or homogenous account”.

“This is another document in our years-long journey that can help carry forward the hopes of the members of the Council and, indeed, the hopes of the People of God across the country,” he said.

The proposals already put forward will be used to identify thematic focuses for the second general assembly of the Council in July 2022. Final versions of the propositions, which will form the agenda for the second assembly, are expected to be published in June. Access the document at: <https://bit.ly/FirstAssembly>

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE TODAY



GROW

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.



Become a Catechist or Helper in 2022

Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools.



Share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2022.

Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools.

Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>

Brenda (Catechist Co-ordinator) *"Being a catechist is the most spiritually fulfilling thing I've done" ~Rose.*

Talk with Fr Thomas on 9644 7787 or Brenda Wendt-Hussein, our Catechist Coordinator 0402 051 365.



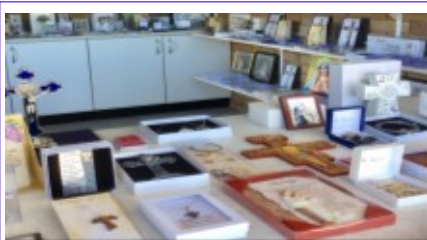
A Christmas without joy is no Christmas at all. Yet that's what too many people are facing this December.

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.



Church Shop

The Church Shop is open on Saturdays before and after the 5.00pm Vigil mass and on Sundays after the 8.00am & before the 10.00am masses. Drop by our Church shop and grab a gift for that special someone.

The shop is filled with a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation.

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.

Please consider joining the Planned Giving Program by monthly direct debit. Contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or email info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au to obtain the Parish Census Form & Direct Debit Form so that your details can be added in our system.

This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Madison Grace Salar

May she always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout her life.



John is the voice, and Christ is the Word

From a sermon by Saint Augustine

John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever.

Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart.

However, let us observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine.

In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine.

When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: The word ought to grow, and I should diminish? The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: My joy is complete. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offence to the word. I am not the Christ, he said, nor Elijah, nor the prophet. And the question came: Who are you, then? He replied: I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord. The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him."

What does prepare the way mean, if not "pray well"? What does prepare the way mean, if not "be humble in your thoughts"? We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory.

If he had said, "I am the Christ," you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself.

He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

OTHER NOTICES

Lights of Christmas 2021

St Mary's Cathedral forecourt, 9-25 December

Join in Sydney's favourite free Christmas tradition, uniting families, locals and tourists with a display of digital storytelling projected onto St Mary's Cathedral.

Find out more: <https://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

Cathedral Christmas Celebration

Date: 17 December 2021

Time: 11am and 7pm

The St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Sydney Youth Orchestra perform some of the most loved Christmas music at two concerts that have become an annual tradition.

Tickets available online: www.cathedralchoir.sydney/concerts