



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/UCB8a1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1)

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.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

19 DECEMBER 2021

Are You Mary?



You don't have to have any school going children to be reminded that it is the end of the school year now. As long as you are on social media, you see heaps of graduation photos posted on it by proud mums. Children and the futuristic hope in them are the joy and pride of the parents. Mothers see God's blessings in their children. Two such mothers who were blessed by the fruit of their wombs meet according to today's Gospel.



Statue in Ein Kerem
House of Elizabeth

Mary went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. She hurried to meet Elizabeth because of the special conception they were carrying in their wombs. They both had reasons to boast. For Elizabeth, bearing a child in her advanced age is an extraordinary blessing of God. She who was barren and experiencing humiliation so far is to become a proud mother of a prophet. On the other hand Mary, who barely an adult, was bearing none less than the Son of God. What greater divine gift a woman could get! Yet these women reach out to each other in service and praise. Elizabeth was keen to praise Mary her cousin for the favour he has received from God. Mary in turn praises God, not herself.

It is the humility of Elizabeth and Mary that are remarkable. Humility is not thinking less of oneself, but less thinking of oneself. That is what we see especially in Mary. This quality is divine and with such divine quality Mary could bear Jesus Christ, Son of God.

Mary is a model and example for all Christians. We are Christians means we are to be Christ bearers. Like Mary we too need to be humble, thinking not less of ourselves, but by less thinking of ourselves. Like Mary we too should be praising God and his plan in our lives. Like Mary we too need to be at the service of others. Like Mary we too need to be open to God's call. How much of a Mary are you?



If unable to attend Mass in person
Join us on Saturday at 5PM for the Sunday Vigil Mass

@BeralaParish 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

Brendon Nazareth (Chair)
 Joe Moses
 Sylvia Jukic
 Nader Badra

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 20/12	6.45am Mass
Tue 21/12	6.45am Mass
Wed 22/12	6.45am Mass
Thu 23/12	6.45am Mass 7.00pm Second Rite of Reconciliation
Fri 24/12	Christmas Vigil 7.00pm Mass (Family)
Sat 25/12	Christmas Day 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 11.30am Christmas Lunch at the Jubilee Hall
Sun 26/12	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

24/25 DECEMBER**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**

Mass	7PM (Vigil)	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Dom PANGILINAN
CHOIR	SALT ENLIGHT	PARISH CHOIR		TONGAN CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Jenny MICHAEL	Joe MOSES	Phirum DUCH
	Joy SKERRITT	Rosalind EVANS	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Daniel BOLAND

26 DECEMBER**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

Mass	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	William Andrews	Roland Javier
LECTOR/S	Robert McGINN	TBA
	Maria SIMEONE	Hilary RIOFRIO

Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica &
Teresa Escobar

Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Anita Yip,
Catherine Naidu-Narayan, Francis Lenette

*"Family that pray together
stay together"*

PILGRIM STATUE

FROM ST PETER CHANEL

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.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

Mi 5:1-4

The Lord says this:
You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **R**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **R**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

Second Reading

Heb 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,

‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.’
Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, ‘Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.’

Communion Antiphon

Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Next week’s Readings:

1st Reading: **Sir 3:2-6. 12-14**

2nd Reading: **Col 3:12-21**

Gospel: **Lk 2:41-52**



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Chloe Renae De Leon & Christina Fernando

May they always know the love of God
and feel His guiding hand throughout their lives.



REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 1:39-45

Gospel Focus—Blessed are you Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Elizabeth's greeting to Mary forms the second portion of the traditional prayer, the Hail Mary. The first portion of the prayer also comes from Luke's gospel and is the greeting of the angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. The final portion was framed by the Church. Use of the Hail Mary dates to about the 11th Century.

Scriptural context - John the Baptist

The gospel of Luke pays greater attention to John the Baptist than any of the other three gospels. In this gospel the foretelling of John's birth precedes the foretelling of the birth of Jesus and then the birth of John immediately precedes the birth of Jesus. In the gospel of Luke, John is the forerunner of Jesus. The story of his miraculous birth is paralleled with that of Jesus but always comes first. Luke makes it abundantly clear that John came first and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus.

Living the Gospel - Looking for signs

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth she was not looking for a sign that she had made the right decision. Rather, because she had accepted God's will the sign was given to her. Her acceptance and action came first. The sign came later as a confirmation. At times we look to God to provide us with a sign that our impending action is the right choice. However, faith acts in trust and confidence; it doesn't wait around for a green light from God. When we do act in faith, the flow-on effects are the sign of confirmation.

NEWS

Christmas Schedule 2021

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**
(Tongans 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 Catholic Parish of St Peter Chanel & St Joseph, Berala
would like to invite you and your family to a

Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, 25 December

11.30am to 2.30pm

Jubilee Hall

62 Kingsland Road

BERALA 2141

The magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence. May God bless you and your family this Christmas!

For further information: Please contact Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378

Sacraments 2022

Registrations for sacraments 2022 are now open! Please use the CQ Code or link under the respective sacrament for further information and registration.

Reconciliation



First Holy Communion



Confirmation



If for any reason you do not have access to the above options or are having difficulty with the above process, please do not hesitate to contact our office via email.

Wishing each one of you a blessed Christmas and may Jesus be the reason for the season!

Happy Holidays,

Sophia Brewty, Sacramental Coordinator | Email: sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

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/>

"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 on 0402 051 365.



COVID-19 Restrictions UPDATE

As per relaxation of the restrictions on 15 December, Masks are no longer compulsory while inside a church, (though they are still strongly encouraged in settings where social distancing is not possible). There is no density limits. That means all are welcome to Church. Archbishop Anthony Fisher has now withdrawn exemption from Sunday Obligation and has urged all Catholics to attend Mass in person here after, unless are unable to do so. QR Codes and our established check-in procedures are to continue in our Church. Also please continue with the hygiene procedures like sanitising the hands. I wish all a safe and happy Christmas.



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 cars from Woolworths, Coles, Kmart, Officeworks, etc.

As usual monetary donations are more than welcome and are tax deductible. Thank you for your ongoing support.

The operation of the redeeming Incarnation

From the treatise "Against the Heresies" by St Irenaeus

God is man's glory. Man is the vessel which receives God's action and all his wisdom and power. Just as a doctor is judged in his care for the sick, so God is revealed in his conduct with men. That is Paul's reason for saying: *God has made the whole world prisoner of unbelief that he may have mercy on all.* He was speaking of man, who was disobedient to God, and cast off from immortality, and then found mercy, receiving through the Son of God the adoption he brings.

If man, without being puffed up or boastful, has a right belief regarding created things and their divine Creator, who, having given them being, holds them all in his power, and if man perseveres in God's love, and in obedience and gratitude to him, he will receive greater glory from him. It will be a glory which will grow ever brighter until he takes on the likeness of the one who died for him.

He it was who *took on the likeness of sinful flesh*, to condemn sin and rid the flesh of sin, as now condemned. He wanted to invite man to take on his likeness, appointing man *an imitator* of God, establishing man in a way of life in obedience to the Father that would lead to the vision of God, and endowing man with power to receive the Father. He is the Word of God who dwelt with man and became *the Son of Man* to open the way for man to receive God, for God to dwell with man, according to the will of the Father.

For this reason *the Lord himself gave as the sign of our salvation, the one who was born of the Virgin, Emmanuel. It was the Lord himself who saved them*, for of themselves they had no power to be saved. For this reason Paul speaks of the weakness of man, and says: *I know that no good dwells in my flesh*, meaning that the blessing of our salvation comes not from us but from God. Again, he says: *I am a wretched man; who will free me from this body doomed to die?* Then he speaks of a liberator, *thanks to Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Isaiah says the same: *Hands that are feeble, grow strong! Knees that are weak, take courage! Hearts that are faint, grow strong! Fear not; see, our God is judgement and he will repay. He himself will come and save us.* He means that we could not be saved of ourselves but only with God's help.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Graham Turner, Theo Bergstedt, Doreen Stanmore, Judith Anderson, John Rodrigues, Joseph Rodrigues

Recently Deceased: Alexandra Saba, John Le Mottee, Tony Michael

Deceased: Fatima Bolonia, Gloria Bolonia, Astrid Bolonia, Consuelo Ibardolaza, Mamerto Bolonia Sr,

Winnie Guillena, Edmund Ibardolaza, Elma Dela Plaza

Anniversary: Vinko Rogulj, Maria Yen Vu, Cecil Scharenguivel

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