

## 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](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)  
Parish Website: [www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](http://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au), facebook: [stpeterstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) YouTube: [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBw1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t)



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.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR C

2 JANUARY 2022

### Epiphany, Another Christmas

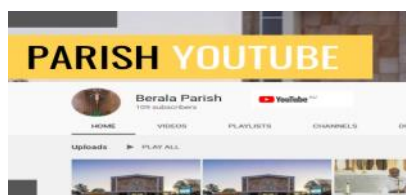
Last year the Christmas celebrations were in disarray. But this year we could get together for a good celebration, though many parishioners were a bit apprehensive of crowding. A couple of times, after the Carols and the Christmas Vigil Mass, NSW Health informed of one COVID positive person visiting the church each time.

Therefore, NSW Health advised to clean the church and continue the "business", and we did precisely that. I myself went for a PCR test before Christmas to make sure I will not be exposing COVID to the parishioners. So far my tests have been negative. But it is important for all of us to keep up the safety protocols and hygiene practices. I believe that two factors, the high vaccination rate and the mildness of the variant spreading now, COVID is on its way out. In any case let us reclaim the usual routine of life, as much as we can.

The season of Christmas is continuing for us. Today we are celebrating another Christmas namely the Feast of Epiphany. The term 'epiphany' means manifestation of God. *Matthew 2:1-12* is about finding child Jesus in Bethlehem as God incarnate by the wise men. The search in Jerusalem and in the palace of King Herod for the new born "king of the Jews" was futile. The magi had to follow the star of divine guidance to the poor manger in Bethlehem to meet God incarnate, baby Jesus. It was the star, the symbol of God's fidelity to his people through King David that led the magi to their God experience. The magi from the East represent the gentile world who were not part of the first chosen people of God. Matthew is well versed in Bible. His narration of Jesus' infancy is full of allusions to the Old Testament. A great deal of the language used in the infancy narrative is symbolic. This awareness should help us to read and to meditate on the Gospel profitably. Now meditate on the following points.

The magi came to Bethlehem bearing gifts. What are the precious gifts you are bearing to God? Selfishly keeping the God given talents to yourselves is not the way to pay homage to God's manifestation. What is the star, the vision or purpose, which lights up your life journey? What are the clouds that have obscured your star, your vision, your hope? Who or what, might be Herod for you now? What forces, within or without, could subvert your dream or purpose?

The magi, after paying homage to child Jesus, went home another way, distancing themselves from the evil king Herod. Your God experience also will make you leave the ungodly ways of the past and follow a new way of life from now on. Having met Jesus in the fragility of the world today, have you commenced a new way in this New Year?



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

[@BeralaParish YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBw1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t1t)

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



Scan the QR Code to **DONATE**  
Thank you!

**Please use QR CODE at  
the entrance to SIGN IN**

**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 3/1	6.45am Mass
Tue 4/1	6.45am Mass
Wed 5/1	6.45am Mass
Thu 6/1	6.45am Mass
Fri 7/1	6.45am Mass
Sat 8/1	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 9/1	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

**9 JANUARY 2022****THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	William ANDREWS	Charlie SCULLY	Trevor BREWTY
MUSIC & SINGING		Liva Funaki & Lavinia Fifita	SACRED HEART CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Lawrence LOPEZ Sharon SEBASTIAN	Robert MCGINN Maria SIMEONE	Hilary RIOFRIO Jenny MICHAEL
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Margaret THAM

**Cleaners SPC:** Marian Rosary Group

**Altar & Sacristy:** Group 6 Korina Kinda, Antoinette Boudaher

**Saturday 8AM****8 JANUARY**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Jann ROCKLIFF

*"Family that pray together  
 stay together"*  
**PILGRIM STATUE**



**FROM ST PETER CHANEL**

**Javier 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**

**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, John Rodrigues, Sr Tomsy, Mary Kurunthanam

Kilisitina Pongi, Malia Tau Seleti, Haea Sili, T Maka, Lenard Gabrielle

**Thanksgiving:** Seno Family

**Recently Deceased:** Lola O'Dwyer, Alexandra Saba

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

**Deceased:** John Le Mottee, Fr Spora, Anavea Maka, P Maka, Petelo F Sili,

## ANTIPHONS & READINGS

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

### First Reading

Is 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11

**Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **R**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R**

### Second Reading

Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a

revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

### Gospel Acclamation

Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

### Communion Antiphon

Cf Mt 2:2

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

### Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 42:1-4, 6-7**

2nd Reading: **Acts 10:34-38**

Gospel: **Lk 3:15-16, 21-22**

## REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 2:1-12

### Historical Context - The Magi

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

### Have you thought? Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

### Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

## The Lord has made his salvation known to the whole world

*From a sermon of Saint Leo the Great*

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ.

A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judaea only, but in the whole world, so that his name may be great in all Israel.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, who has made us worthy, in the words of the Apostle, to share the position of the saints in light, who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you.

This is the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised.

This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name. Again, the Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognise and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

### Church Shop - New Stock

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.





## NEWS

### Fr Thomas on Holidays

Fr Thomas will be on holidays from January 7-20. During this period Fr Bhaskar Mendem MSFS will be supplying Masses.

### COVID-19 Restrictions UPDATE

From Friday 24 December, face masks will be required in all indoor settings. You will also be required to check in prior to entering the premises. Use the NSW QR Code to check in. This rule will be in place until 27 January 2022.

### Sacraments 2022

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

#### Reconciliation



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

#### First Holy Communion



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

#### Confirmation



<https://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/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](mailto:sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

### Bible Study

**When:** 8 February to 27 September 2022 (Excluding Lent)

**Time:** 7-8PM on Tuesdays

**Lent:** Special Program During Lent 2022

**Registration Fee:** \$10

**Online or face to face option.**

**E-book Handout at the end of the course.**



To Register Scan the QR Code or Visit the Parish Website:

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

### THE GOSPEL OF LUKE TODAY



**GROW**

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

For any queries, email [thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org).



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](mailto: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.

## 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.*

Contact: Fr Thomas on 9644 7787 or Brenda Wendt-Hussein, Catechist Coordinator on 0402 051 365.



### Berala Community Care Worker

Patricia, a community care worker has joined the parish for help and referral services concerned with relationships, parenting, aging, disability, addiction, and mental health.

She is employed by CatholicCare and sponsored by the Parish.

131819



Patricia can be contacted on 0447 529 122.

## OTHER NOTICES

### Summer Nights, Youth Retreat, 12-15 January 2022

Summer Nights is a four day non-live in retreat experience held at the Mt Carmel Retreat Centre at Varroville. In the picturesque grounds enjoy an outdoor event including friends, fellowship, prayer & worship, excellent speakers, Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation, music & dramas, powerful encounters with God. Run by the Disciples of Jesus Community. From 12 – 15 January 2022. Ages 16-35. [www.summerschool.org.au/summernights](http://www.summerschool.org.au/summernights).

### Applications for Summer House 2022 are still OPEN!

The Summer House program runs for 12 months and incorporates the four pillars of Intellectual, Spiritual, Pastoral and Human formation. It will provide you with many unique and profound shared experiences with 9 other men who will journey together in discovering what the Lord wants of you. For more information visit: <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/directory/listing/summer-house>

### House of Welcome Food Bank

Foodbank provides household necessities for people seeking asylum who have limited or no income. People can access groceries on a weekly basis to alleviate the

cost of living. The Foodbank program is largely stocked through the generosity of people in the community. No contribution is too small. Contact: [office@houseofwelcome.com.au](mailto:office@houseofwelcome.com.au) | 197 The Trongate, Granville | Phone: 02 9727 9290 | Website: [stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome](http://stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome)

### 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](http://www.engagedencounter.org.au).

### Catholic Mission: India COVID-19 Appeal

The aid agency, Catholic Mission, has launched an urgent appeal to provide immediate help for vulnerable communities devastated by COVID-19 in India. Well over 300,000 people have died from the illness in India and hospitals have been struggling to cope. Through donating to Catholic Mission, you will be playing a key role in supporting the valuable work of mission hospitals in the country. Donate online via the Catholic Mission website here: <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/donate/your-donation?id=covid-19-india>

Have a Joyful & Blessed New Year!