



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/BeralaParish)

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.

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C *Catechist Sunday* 6 FEBRUARY 2022

Fish in the Sea of Divine Life

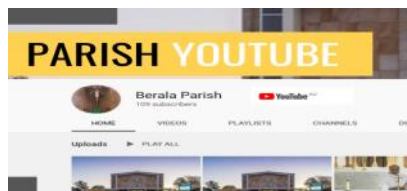
Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Peter was a fisherman. Jesus had been brought up in a carpenter's household. Jesus tells Peter when and how to fish. This gets under Peter's skin. He tells Jesus a few facts of life about night fishing on the Lake of Gennesaret. But, he gives in to this landlubber's directive and casts out the nets and hauls in a very good catch.

Jesus wants to come into the rhythm of our ordinary workaday lives. Surprising things may then happen. You may be commissioned by Our Lord Jesus Christ to become 'fishers of men', fishers of human beings. But don't fishermen fish the fish out of the sea and kill them?

Is being caught up in the net of Christianity to be a deadening experience? Having this in mind, St Luke used a word for netting fish for an aquarium. We who have been caught up in the net of Christianity are meant to be more alive than ever, 'fully alive'. The best analogy I can think of is the stranding of pods of whales, thrashing around in the shallows, barely existing, doomed unless saved. People go down and put slings under them and haul them into deeper water.

We could pause a moment to thank God that we have been guided into the life-giving waters of baptism, and for the strength to help others swim into the Oceanic depths of Divine Love.



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/BeralaParish)

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**

A message from our Year 2 children in our local Public School

These lovely children have no Scripture teacher for Wednesdays and Fridays. Will you answer their prayers?

"Dear God, please send us a Scripture teacher. We will work hard, pay attention and do really good drawings. We miss hearing stories about Jesus. Do you think we can please have a new teacher soon?"



Berala Parish also needs Catechist helpers for Scripture classes. Training and resources are provided. Contact: Parish office 9644 7787. Brenda 0402 051 365.

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 7/2	6.45am Mass
Tue 8/2	6.45am Mass
Wed 9/2	6.45am Mass
Thu 10/2	St Scholastica (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Fri 11/2	6.45am Mass
Sat 12/2	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 13/2	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

13 FEBRUARY 2022**6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	William ANDREWS	Charlie SCULLY	Trevor BREWTY
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	SACRED HEART CHOIR
POWERPOINT SLIDES	Parish Choir	Jenny MICHAEL	Sacred Heart Choir
LECTOR/S	Maria SIMEONE	Michael CHOW	Katrina YIP
	Christine KENSEY	Robert MCGINN	Sharon SEBASTIAN
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Margaret THAM
Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group		Altar & Sacristy: Group 5 Carol Mabon, Maria Wood	
Saturday 8AM		12 FEBRUARY	
LECTOR FOR MASS		Christine KENSEY	

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



**FROM ST PETER CHANEL
 McDonald 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**

Mitchell Family

**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, Ken Higgins, Marian's Dad

Anniversary: Felixberto Ibardolaza, Sr, Suzannette Monica V Seno Perez

Thanksgiving: Holy Family - Lilibeth & Family

Recently Deceased: Doreen Murphy, Mila Amores-Prades

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

Deceased: Tadeusz Bukala, Mary Josephine Gabrielle, Cynthia de Souza

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 94:6-7

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading

Is 6:1-8

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out to one another in this way, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-5. 7-8. R. v.1

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. **R**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **R**

All earth's kings shall thank you when they hear the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the Lord's ways; 'How great is the glory of the Lord!' **R**

You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands. **R**

Second Reading

1 Cor 15:1-11

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in

accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of my people.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 5:1-11

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Jer 17:5-8**

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 15:12, 16-20**

Gospel: **Lk 6:17, 20-26**

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 5:1-11

Scriptural context – The Call of the disciples

In the other two synoptic gospels – Matthew and Mark – the call of the disciples is one of the first recorded actions of Jesus' adult life. Luke, on the other hand, delays the call until after Jesus' public ministry has commenced. By this stage of the gospel, Jesus has made a public declaration about the nature of his ministry and begun to enact it. In this way, the sort of ministry Jesus will undertake is already established when the disciples are called to join it. It becomes a more conscious decision by the disciples – they know what they're getting in to!

Have you thought? – Do not be afraid

When Peter is overcome by the catch of fish and falls on his knees before Jesus, the response Jesus makes is to simply say, 'Do not be afraid'. This phrase is the most often repeated phrase in the Bible. It appears more than 60 times throughout the Bible – depending on which translation one uses. This is an extraordinary number of times for the one phrase to appear. And the references stretch from the first book, Genesis, to the last, Revelation. It is God's message to us echoing throughout the Bible: Do not be afraid!

Living the Gospel – Hearing the Call

Like Isaiah and Peter, each and every one of us is called. It may not happen through Jesus stepping into our boat, but when we quieten our minds and our hearts enough to really listen, we become aware that God truly is calling to each and every one of us. The call comes to us through our friends; our experiences; our hopes and our fears. Sometimes we are so afraid of hearing the call that we fill our lives with noise and distractions. We fear that the call will involve hardship, or at the very least: unpopularity. But that's no excuse!

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK



Thursday, 10 February - St Scholastica (Memorial)

Born at Norcia (Italy) about 480. Died near Monte Cassino in the 540s. Like Saint Benedict (11 July), her brother and by tradition her twin, she dedicated herself to God through the monastic life. Remembered for her part in establishing Benedictine monasticism.

NEWS

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.

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

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.



Bible Study

When: 26 April to 27 September 2022
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



CROW

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

For any queries, email thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org.

Support the Archdiocese of Sydney appeal for Tonga

“My thoughts go out to the people of the islands of Tonga, who have been affected in recent days by the eruption of the underwater volcano, which has caused enormous material damage,” Pope Francis said at the end of his general audience on Jan. 19.

“I am spiritually close to all the afflicted people, imploring God for relief for their suffering. I invite everyone to join me in praying for these brothers and sisters.”



The Tongan Catholic Chaplaincy is coordinating an appeal to help families left displaced by last month's tsunami disaster.

Find out more about the appeal including donation details visit: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/tonga/>

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.

Patricia can be contacted on 0447 529 122.



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CatholicCare



Youth Mission Team

This year I will be embarking on a year of mission with Youth Mission Team, an organisation dedicated to fostering the faith of Australian Youth. YMT is a not for profit organization that makes its mission going into high schools in three Australian cities talking to students and being witnesses to Gods love and talking about how he works in their lives. Any money that is donated will go towards expenses for running retreats, reflection days and the living expenses of the team. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. If you need more information please visit www.ymt.com.au/investinhope

~Edward Duffy Jr



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.

'SRE has a positive impact on student wellbeing' ~ Premier

Premier Dominic Perrottet says their commitment as a government is to ensure the SRE (special religious education) is stronger than ever as they move forward.



During an online Celebration of SRE last November, our Premier conveyed this thanks to SRE volunteers along with Education Minister, Opposition Leader and Shadow Education Minister.

"I very much want to thank you for the work that you've undertaken supporting students where it was possible, and looking at innovative and new ways of doing things. So, I just really from the bottom my heart, really, really thank you all and congratulate you on how we've gone through and the work that you've undertaken over the last 18 months, particularly the last few months when we've seen many of our schools having to close to keep our kids safe."

The Premier said the importance of faith communities to the people of our state was very apparent to him during this time providing food, clothing, shelter, and social support and keeping communities connected. He stressed that faith communities were certainly not just important in a crisis. They are a vital part of any thriving community and society. He said that faith communities brought great joy and hope to many, many people.

"And the role that you do particularly for young people is incredibly important. Governments can do a lot but there will always be that specific role in my view of faith communities to enrich our culture and to make our society whole. And that's why I personally believe that a strong, any strong, healthy society must make space for faith. And that's why I believe it's also important to make space for faith education in our schools as well.

"And I want to ensure that no one is ever persecuted for their faith. We are united against any form of religious vilification. Special religious education, in my view, enriches our students' experience at schools. It encourages students. Education is one aspect, academics is one aspect, but it encourages students to go beyond the academic basics of education and ponder bigger questions about our place in the universe and what it means to live the good life. It's part of the education of a person as a whole. And we should really not just focus on the academics, but on the broader education of our students. And that is something that I believe and our government believe is vitally important.

"We also know that SRE, as it has been touched on, has a positive impact on student wellbeing and values formation, particularly the time we're seeing amongst young people a rise in mental health issues."

The Premier believes that SRE into the future has an incredibly strong connection to family and to culture. "Public education in its essence is a partnership. It's a partnership between state and the family. But in that partnership I believe that parents must always come first. For families whose faith is an important part of their life, our SRE program ensures that they are supported and that's incredibly important.

The Premier was hopeful and optimistic of a brighter future ahead. "I look forward to being in partnership with you as we go forward."

Sarah Mitchell MP (Education Minister)

Sarah Mitchell says it is so important to provide the opportunity for special religious education and special education in ethics for students.

Following are some excerpts from her talk during an online Celebration of SRE.



"I think that special religious education in our schools really offers our children that opportunity to learn about life values, personal responsibility from the vantage point of their religious tradition.

"For more than 140 years, children have had this privilege in our schools in New South Wales ever since special religious education was affirmed in the very first public instruction act in 1880. As a government, we remain very committed to the provision of both SRE and SEE in our public schools under the Education Act 1990. This also of course includes the ongoing support that we offer to schools and to approve providers from our Special Religious Education and Special Education in Ethics offices.

"I think it's really important that for parents, that they can continue to choose the best option that suits them from all of the faith community in New South Wales. And can I say as a parent, my oldest daughter is school age, and I think it's wonderful that we as a family get to make those decisions. And we're certainly very grateful for the SRE that she takes part in, in her local public school as well.

~continued next page

~from previous page

"So, currently there's more than 100 approved providers of SRE across New South Wales, which is just incredible. And I think the range of these offerings in our public education system really shows the strength of our system. It's a diversity that reflects our broad cultural linguistic heritage here in New South Wales, and also the really important multicultural and multi-faith communities that we have right across our state.

"So again, can I just say a big thank you of course, to the thousands of people. And I know there are literally thousands of you, most of whom are volunteers who play a critical role in teaching SRE and SEE in our school communities. I know as I said, as a parent, I'm grateful as minister; I'm grateful and I know so many of you volunteer your time because it's something that you're passionate about, and ultimately our children are the ones who benefit."

Chris Minns MP (Opposition Leader)

Chris Mines comments on parental choice. He says the choice to have your child participate in religious education classes is an important one. The result is a partnership between individual schools and local faith groups in their communities.



"In fact, I'm a product of SRE instruction at Mortdale Public School in the 1990s. Of course, New South Wales today is very different from the 1980s or indeed the 1990s. It's more diverse, more multicultural with a wider range of practiced faiths. SRE is now available to all religions and there are now more than 100 approved providers working in New South Wales schools. I want to take this opportunity to thank SRE teachers for your ongoing

service to your communities, to students and our public schools.

"The last two years have been dominated by an international health crisis.

"I saw that the first day in my own house. SRE teachers produce material to allow lessons to continue at home. This help parents keep their children engaged and thinking about their religion. It also help parents answer questions every young person has about their world, their life and their relationship.

"The faith organisations in Western Sydney and South Western Sydney who worked tirelessly to support the needy, provide food and clothing, and of course, emotional and religious support, faith support. I look forward to seeing you again... and I'm confident that this celebration will take place in person where I can see you all face-to-face."

Prue Car MP (Shadow Education Minister)

Prue Car celebrates the gradual return to a more normal life and commends her faith community. Within her own electorate of Londonderry, 70% of the people she represents are people of faith. She says the SRE community at large has done incredible work during the last four to five months of lockdown.



"Labor's support of SRE in schools, and our fundamental support of the right of a parent to choose for their child to participate in a special religious education in their faith. Instruction, in their own faith. And to many parents across New South Wales, we know how important that is, not just to learn the faith of their family, but also in many, many occasions, it's used in a way to contribute to the world around us.

"We know that SRE teaches our young people in our schools how to give back to the communities, how to be of service to their communities."

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.

OTHER NOTICES

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor: 60th anniversary Mass in Newcastle

Sunday 20 February | Sacred Heart Cathedral, 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West | All welcome. The Mass will also be live-streamed on the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's YouTube channel

Aid to the Church in Need

As we begin a new year we ask for your support to help the Suffering Church. Your offering allows ACN to aid our suffering brothers and sisters to keep the faith alive in countries that are becoming increasingly harder to practice the faith. Please visit www.aidtochurch.org

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.

Choose any of the coming Weekends: Feb 19-20, Apr 30 - May 01, Aug 06-07, Nov 12-13. If COVID-19 restrictions prevent a face-to-face seminar, the CEE weekend will be held via Zoom.

Divine Retreat Centre: February program

Based in Somersby on the NSW Central Coast, Divine Retreat Centre has a number of retreats it is leading in February, led by the spiritual arm of the Vincentian Missionaries. Find out more visit: <https://divineretreatcentre.org/index.php/retreats>

Let us understand the workings of God's grace

From an explanation of Paul's letter to the Galatians by Saint Augustine

Paul writes to the Galatians to make them understand that by God's grace they are no longer under the law. When the Gospel was preached to them, there were some among them of Jewish origin known as circumcisers – though they called themselves Christians – who did not grasp the gift they had received. They still wanted to be under the burden of the law. Now God had imposed that burden on those who were slaves to sin and not on servants of justice. That is to say, God had given a just law to unjust men in order to show them their sin, not to take it away. For sin is taken away only by the gift of faith that works through love. The Galatians had already received this gift, but the circumcisers claimed that the Gospel would not save them unless they underwent circumcision and were willing to observe also the other traditional Jewish rites.

The Galatians, therefore, began to question Paul's preaching of the Gospel because he did not require Gentiles to follow Jewish observances as other apostles had done. Even Peter had yielded to the scandalised protests of the circumcisers. He pretended to believe that the Gospel would not save the Gentiles unless they fulfilled the burden of the law. But Paul recalled him from such dissimulation, as is shown in this very same letter. A similar issue arises in Paul's letter to the Romans, but with an evident difference. Through his letter to them, Paul was able to resolve the strife and controversy that had developed between the Jewish and Gentile converts.

In the present letter Paul is writing to persons who were profoundly influenced and disturbed by the circumcisers. The Galatians had begun to believe them and to think that Paul had not preached rightly, since he had not ordered them to be circumcised. And so the Apostle begins by saying: I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you to the glory of Christ, and turning to another gospel.

After this there comes a brief introduction to the point at issue. But remember in the very opening of the letter Paul had said that he was an apostle not from men nor by any man, a statement that does not appear in any other letter of his. He is making it quite clear that the circumcisers, for their part, are not from God but from men, and that his authority in preaching the Gospel must be considered equal to that of the other apostles. For he was called to be an apostle not from men nor by any man, but through God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ.

Just for Laughs

I think they picked me for my motivational skills.
Everyone always says they have to work twice as hard when I'm around!