



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.

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

13 FEBRUARY 2022

A Note from Fr Thomas

If any reference to the Arabian peninsula brings images of Islamic terrorism in your mind, you are forgiven. There had been plenty of stories to justify it. But it is not the movements of hate that prevails. Dedication to Jesus, *"the way the truth and the life"*, has been making inroads to the most unsuspected geopolitical situations. The Vatican has opened its first embassy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday, 4 Feb 2022 in Abu Dhabi.



"The presence of this new apostolic nunciature is a further sign of the Holy Father's solicitude and concern for all the people in this land," Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, the Substitute of the Secretariat of State said at the opening ceremony.

An apostolic nunciature is a diplomatic mission of the Holy See. It is led by a nuncio, who is a papal legate accredited to the civil government. The Vatican established diplomatic relations with the UAE in 2007.

The official religion of the United Arab Emirates is Islam, with a Sunni Muslim majority. About 12.6% of the total population is Christian, according to the Pew Research Center. Compare this statistics with that of Sydney, or any Australian city.

Though Australia does not officially endorse a State Religion, Down Under is considered a Christian country. According to 2016 census, Catholics number 22.6% of the national population. According to the church surveys about 10% of the total catholic population attend Sunday Mass. That means about 2.26 or so percent of the total population make up the visible Catholics in Australia. Compare this with 12.6% of UAE who celebrate Catholic faith! UAE, a Muslim country has more (visible) Catholics than any State of Australia!

Another interesting observation is the makeup of those who attend Sunday Mass. The UAE parishioners are made up of expatriates, and Masses are celebrated in Arabic, English, French, Filipino, Malayalam, Sinhalese, Urdu, Tamil, Konkani, German, Italian, Korean, Polish, and Ukrainian. Though English still prevails as the main language of liturgies in Australia, the ethnic makeup of the church going Catholics is increasingly made up of migrants. The story resembles that of UAE.

The militant Islamic terrorists wanted to advance their religion by blowing up churches and killing the Christians. To their frustration they learn that their attacks has not weakened the Church, on the contrary the Church has gained greater momentum wherever there was persecution. Where violence cannot win, true faith has made inroads. Greater presence of Christians in the Islamic regions prove it. In the case of UAE, it started with Pope Francis signing an agreement with the grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar, titled *"Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together"*. True faith starts with trusting in the goodness of others; not with hate and violence. We trust in Jesus who is the way the truth and the life. True Christians cannot harbour hatred and violence. At the nunciature's inauguration, Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, said that the relationship between the Holy See and the UAE is based *"on the mutual understanding of the importance of faith and the positive role that religion should play in society."*

Here in Australia, our challenges are different. There are no real militant Islam challenging Australian Church. But we too have our challenges. We need to see the negative consequences of replacing transcendent truths about the human person and creation with purely superficial and materialistic values. One cannot undermine the significance of such an insight. We shall remain to be hope-filled Christians with a lot of patience.

Parish Priest

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Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria
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 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 14/2	Sts Cyril & Methodius (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Tue 15/2	6.45am Mass
Wed 16/2	6.45am Mass
Thu 17/2	6.45am Mass
Fri 18/2	6.45am Mass
Sat 19/2	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 20/2	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

20 FEBRUARY 2022**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Roland JAVIER	William ANDREWS
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	TONGAN CHOIR
POWERPOINT SLIDES	Jennifer RUSH	Liva or Lavinia	Need Volunteer
LECTOR/S	Lawrence LOPEZ	Maria SIMEONE	Amanda GAHAN
	Renee SALAR	Jenny MICHAEL	Susie MRVUNAC
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Winnie CHIU	John SHANLEY
Cleaners SPC: Roland & Aida Javier		Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Anita Yip; Catherine Naidu-Narayan; Francis Lenette	
Saturday 8AM		19 FEBRUARY	
LECTOR FOR MASS		Joy SKERRITT	

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



FROM ST PETER CHANEL

Tham 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**

Mayo 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, Michael Iacono

Recently Deceased: Ken Higgins, Ikenasio Fuiava, Martinus Setiawan, Doreen Murphy

Deceased: Mary Gabrielle, Cynthia de Souza

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

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

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 30:3-4

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading

Jer 17:5-8

The Lord says this:

‘A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, who relies on things of flesh, whose heart turns from the Lord. He is like dry scrub in the wastelands: if good comes, he has no eyes for it, he settles in the parched places of the wilderness, a salt land, uninhabited. ‘A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord, with the Lord for his hope. He is like a tree by the waterside that thrusts its roots to the stream: when the heat comes it feels no alarm, its foliage stays green; it has no worries in a year of drought, and never ceases to bear fruit.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 1:1-4. R. Ps 39:5

Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked; nor lingers in the way of sinners nor sits in the company of scorners, but whose delight is the law of the Lord and who ponders his law day and night. **R**

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves shall never fade; and all that he does shall prosper. **R**

Not so are the wicked, not so! For they like winnowed chaff shall be driven away by the wind. For the Lord guards the way of the just but the way of the wicked leads to doom. **R**

Second Reading

1 Cor 15:12, 16-20

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is

more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 6:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Rejoice and be glad; your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 6:17. 20-26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

‘How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

‘Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

‘But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. ‘Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.’

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 77:29-30

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading:

1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

2nd Reading:

1 Cor 15:45-49

Gospel:

Lk 6:27-38



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.

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 6:17. 20-26

Scriptural context – Message for all

Throughout the Gospel of Luke, the author is keen to demonstrate that the message of Jesus is for all people – not just the Jews, but for the Gentiles and Pagans as well. We can see this message revealed in the gathering of people who listened to Jesus' sermon on the plain. We're told there were people from all parts of Judea (all Jews) as well as people from the pagan lands of Tyre and Sidon. The first audiences of this gospel would immediately have recognised the significance of people from Tyre and Sidon standing alongside Jews from Judea.

Have you thought? – Gospel of prosperity

The sermon on the plain challenges our ideas about happiness and success – particularly those of us who live in a relatively prosperous society. Those who are rich and well regarded are actually condemned by Jesus. This also flies in the face of the so-called Gospel of Prosperity that has gained some prominence amongst Pentecostal churches in the last 20-30 years. This teaching holds that God blesses the faithful with wealth and influence. It doesn't take a lot to see how this teaching is out of step with the gospel blessing of the poor and cursing of the rich.

Gospel Focus – Treated as the prophets

As part of his sermon, Jesus announces, 'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man... This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.' The prophets of the Old Testament were the chosen spokesmen of God. Their message was often unpopular and they were often threatened and berated for challenging the social order. To be treated in this way is in fact something of an affirmation that one's words and actions are reflecting the message of God. The Word of God is confronting and challenging!

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 14 February - Sts Cyril & Methodius (Memorial)



Cyril was born about 826 in Thessalonica (Greece). Died at Rome in 869. His brother, Methodius was born about 815. Died in Velehrad (Czech Republic) in 885. With papal approval they preached the gospel in Moravia using their own translations of the Scriptures and the liturgy in the local language. These translations into Slavonic were based on an alphabet they invented, now called Cyrillic. The success of their preaching aroused jealous Frankish opposition. Honoured as apostles of the Slavic peoples. Remembered together for their contribution to Slavic culture, for their missionary inculturation of the faith, and for establishing links between East and West.

NEWS

Registrations for Sacraments 2022 - Closing Soon!

Reconciliation - Registration for Reconciliation will close off on **Tuesday, 15 February 2022.**



<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/>

Registrations for the First Holy Communion & Confirmation will close off on **Monday, 28 February 2022.**

However, a provision will be made for eligible students ONLY, who were unable to receive the sacrament of reconciliation in 2021 (as it was cancelled due to Covid 19) to be able to register for the sacrament of First Holy Communion 2022, after they have received their sacrament of First Reconciliation this year.

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

RIP Ken Higgins & Ikenasio (Ike) Fuiava

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing away of Ken Higgins & Ikenasio (Ike) Fuiava.

Ken was a very devout Catholic. I knew Ken first as an acolyte at St John Vianney Church Greenacre. When I was responsible for Greenacre parish, Ken helped me understand and sort out some of the pastoral matters there. Some years later Ken moved into our parish to live with his children. My condolences to his wife, Carmel and children: Mary Anne, Clare, John, Christopher, Peter and Paul.



The date of Ken's funeral is yet to be decided.



Ike was a member of the Samoan family choir and for many years provided our church with beautiful hymns for many of our weekend and special masses. My condolences to his wife Elizabeth and children Paul and Philip.

A funeral mass will be held for Ike on Saturday, 12 February at 1PM.

May they Rest in Peace with the Lord. May the God of consolation be with their families during this time of grief.

~Fr Thomas

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

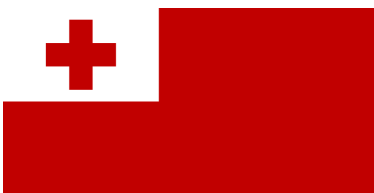
A Guide to Reading the Gospel with historical and Old Testament background

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/>



Growing and nurturing relationships for life

Join us for our webinar launch to learn more about the extensive programs, courses and resources that support positive relationships for children and adults of all ages and stages of life. To register and find out more visit www.catholiccare.org/joyoflove.

An initiative of the Archdiocese of Sydney, facilitated by CatholicCare Sydney.

CatholicCare

OTHER NOTICES

Open your home and heart to foster care

Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children and young people. We need all types of carers: long-term, short-term or part-time/weekend. To learn more, register for our next online information session on Wednesday, 23 February at 6.30pm-7.30pm. To register call 13 18 19 | admin@familyspirit.org | 8am-6pm Mon-Fri

St Vincent de Paul

This is the link to the Vinnies Metropolitan Schools and Youth Term 1 2022 Newsletter: <https://bit.ly/Term1-2022-Vinnies-Metro-News> | The Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) for students in Years 4 – 6 is available for those who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. The Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) will nurture students, who undertake the program, to be a light in the world, inspired by the spirit of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Gospel values. For more information please visit <https://bit.ly/VinniesMVFP>

Palms Australia—Mission Opportunities Overseas

Getting involved in people centred Human Development as an invited guest means humbly putting your person and your skills at the disposal of your trusted hosts. You will be a stranger in the place and for six months a Pilgrim learning the wisdom of local ways.

Palms Australia has 60 years of experience preparing and assisting Australians to learn and pass on their skills in another culture. Is one of our assignments your opportunity to Reach Beyond? For more info visit: <https://palms.org.au/current-opportunities/assignments-abroad/> or Phone: 0422 742 567. Join our online forum at 5.30pm AEDT on Thursday 17 March, attend and engage with a panel of Palms most experienced Program Participants | <https://palms.org.au/event/zoom-information-session/>

Build up your church and gather all into unity

From an Old Slavonic Life of Constantine

Constantine, already burdened by many hardships, became ill. At one point during his extended illness, he experienced a vision of God and began to sing this verse: “My spirit rejoiced and my heart exulted because they told me we shall go into the house of the Lord.”

Afterwards he remained dressed in the vestments that were to be venerated later, and rejoiced for an entire day, saying: “From now on, I am not the servant of the emperor or of any man on earth, but of almighty God alone. Before, I was dead, now I am alive and I shall live for ever. Amen.”

The following day, he assumed the monastic habit and took the religious name Cyril. He lived the life of a monk for fifty days.

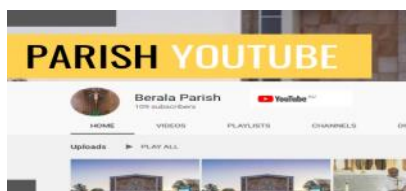
When the time came for him to set out from this world to the peace of his heavenly homeland, he prayed to God with his hands outstretched and his eyes filled with tears: “O Lord, my God, you have created the choirs of angels and spiritual powers; you have stretched forth the heavens and established the earth, creating all that exists from nothing. You hear those who obey your will and keep your commands in holy fear. Hear my prayer and protect your faithful people, for you have established me as their unsuitable and unworthy servant.

“Keep them free from harm and the worldly cunning of those who blaspheme you. Build up your Church and gather all into unity. Make your people known for the unity and profession of their faith. Inspire the hearts of your people with your word and your teaching. You called us to preach the Gospel of your Christ and to encourage them to lives and works pleasing to you.

“I now return to you, your people, your gift to me. Direct them with your powerful right hand, and protect them under the shadow of your wings. May all praise and glorify your name, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Once he had exchanged the gift of peace with everyone, he said: “Blessed be God, who did not hand us over to our invisible enemy, but freed us from his snare and delivered us from perdition.” He then fell asleep in the Lord at the age of forty-two.

The Patriarch commanded all those in Rome, both the Greeks and Romans, to gather for his funeral. They were to chant over him together and carry candles; they were to celebrate his funeral as if he had been a pope. This they did.



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.