



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, Friday 7.00pm - 8.00pm.

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

20 MARCH 2022

Disasters and Sinners

The crazy war in Ukraine with all the destruction and killing, you hear people asking, "Why does God allow this to happen?" Innocent people are being killed in the war. Do they deserve to be killed? No. These atrocious killings are in no way God's punishment for the sinners. But there is evil at play in these recent happenings. The leaders who want to assert their autocratic will and power over Ukraine could be ardent observers of religious laws and rituals, like some of the Jews who were very observant of the purity laws at the time of Jesus. To them Jesus asked for compassion and patience, and continues to demand it from every Christian. Though atrocities cannot be justified, they should remind us look at our own sins and repent.

The terrible flood in Lismore and surroundings was no punishment from God, though people ask, "Why did such bad things happen to good people?" Though sin is not the cause of natural disasters, they do remind us of the inadequacies of self-reliance and the need to turn to God in repentance.

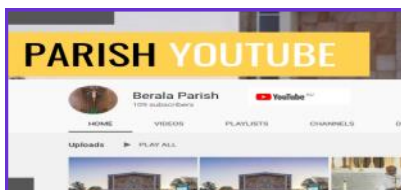
After stressing the need for repentance, Jesus told a parable. "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" (Luke 13:6-9). Yes life of a Christian is to be fruitful. 'I have not done anything wrong in my life' is not a satisfactory response for Christ. We are required to produce fruits like joy, peace, and hope for everyone, especially for those in need. In the mission of bringing peace, joy and hope to the needy we need to work together as a community, as one body of Christ. Unless we consciously work towards a fellowship, we will hardly be fruitful. Repentance from our sins therefore, is not just a confession of a litany of our personal faults, but a determination to be Christ to the world through our words and deeds.

Do not think that our God is waiting to catch us off guard in our failure to repent. Our God is a God of Mercy. He gives plenty of time and opportunity to revive ourselves from our fallen-ness to a fruitful life through acts of charity and self-discipline. Lent is a special opportunity to do so. Let us be fruitful in our Christian living so that we will benefit from the graces of the Resurrection of Christ.



Stations of the Cross & Confession

Every Friday of Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 7 PM. You will also be able to have confessions on Friday evenings. Absolution from sins will be a good way of observing Lent. A proper Lenten observance with renewal of the Parish as the intention can work miracles.



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/UCBeralaParish)

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



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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), 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

Vincetian 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 21/3	6.45am Mass
Tue 22/3	6.45am Mass
Wed 23/3	6.45am Mass
Thu 24/3	6.45am Mass
Fri 25/3	The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity) 6.45am Mass 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 26/3	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 27/3	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

27 MARCH 2022**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Dom PANGILINAN	Bob KENSEY	Roland JAVIER
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR		
POWERPOINT SLIDES	Parish Choir		
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Jenny MICHAEL	Katrina YIP
	Renee SALAR	Daniel BOLAND	Sharon SEBASTIAN
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Margaret THAM

Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica & Teresa Escobar

Altar & Sacristy: Group 5 Carol Mabon, Maria Wood

Saturday 8AM**26 MARCH**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Christine KENSEY

"Family that pray together stay together"



PILGRIM STATUE

FROM ST PETER CHANEL

Amarille 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

Lopez 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, Maria B. Amarille, Nadia Draybi, Rosa House, Josephine Laing, Rusty Lopez, Dorothy Boyd

Recently Deceased: Dr John Chong, Peg Senogles, Patricia Anderson, Maurice Attard, Maryanne Said

Deceased: Betty Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Carmena Portelli, Anthony Spiteri, Carmela Spiteri, Bert Portelli, George Spiteri

Anniversary: Kuriakose Kurunthanam, Mary Patricia McManus

Other Intentions: Holy Souls in Purgatory

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

First Reading

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11. R.v.8

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R**

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R**

The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. **R**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. **R**

Second Reading

1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Lk 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?"' "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Communion Antiphon

Cf Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Jos 5:9-12**

2nd Reading: **2 Cor 5:17-21**

Gospel: **Lk 15:1-3, 11-32**

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 13:1-9

Scriptural context – Parables

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

Living the Gospel - Bad Things/ Good People

Today's gospel taps in to the vexing question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, 'How could God let this happen?' The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and manipulates events. Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

Gospel Focus - Repent

Throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged the prevailing 'purity codes' that separated and classified people. The Jewish religious officials of the day were obsessed with the 'letter of the Law' as it applied to purity observance. Jesus told them that a spirit of compassion was much more important than the blind adherence to the Law. He suggests that it is not the lack of observance of purity codes that makes a person 'unclean' or 'sinful'; rather, it is lack of compassion informing their actions towards others. The call to 'repent' is a call to complete conversion of heart – to take on an attitude of compassion.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Friday, 25 March - The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)



The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as *Luke 1:26-38* tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (*John 15:13*).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity. She is the virgin-mother who fulfils Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (*Psalms 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38*). Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Esme Aurora Felipe

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



New Acolytes

Women and Men
are invited
to register
for Acolytes training.
Contact Fr Thomas
or the Parish Office.



Some of the new acolytes Fr Thomas commissioned at Cronulla. Fr Isidore Anandaraj (Assistant Priest) with them.



Church Roof Repair

The ceiling over the sanctuary, the area which was most affected by storm, is now peeled off.

Next step is to mend the roof before replacing the ceiling. This is expected to take a couple of weeks.

Meanwhile we shall hold our liturgies in the church with some reorganisation of the furniture.

Support
Caritas
Ukraine
Appeal



КАРІТАС
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CARITAS
UKRAINE

The escalating violence in Ukraine is rapidly becoming a dire humanitarian crisis. In a matter of days, over half a million people have been forced from their homes and at least 400 civilians have lost their lives. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis.

Your urgent support today will help provide critical assistance including emergency shelter, food, clean water, transportation services, and psychological support to people affected by this crisis. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free.



CLOSES 27 MARCH

Last Chance to Participate in the Church Life Survey

Please go online at <https://attendersurvey.ncls.org.au>. After clicking the on the link, use our **church code: TAS01301**. You should be able to complete the survey within 15- 20 minutes.

If not able to get on line, pick up a paper form from the Church today.

~Fr Thomas

Just for Laughs

What is Sonic the Hedgehog's favourite time of the year?
Lent..... Because he has more opportunities to go fast.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water

From a treatise on John by St Augustine

A woman came. She is a symbol of the Church not yet made righteous. Righteousness follows from the conversation. She came in ignorance, she found Christ, and he enters into conversation with her. Let us see what it is about, let us see why *a Samaritan woman came to draw water.* The Samaritans did not form part of the Jewish people: they were foreigners. The fact that she came from a foreign people is part of the symbolic meaning, for she is a symbol of the Church. The Church was to come from the Gentiles, of a different race from the Jews.

We must then recognise ourselves in her words and in her person, and with her give our own thanks to God. She was a symbol, not the reality; she foreshadowed the reality, and the reality came to be. She found faith in Christ, who was using her as a symbol to teach us what was to come. *She came then to draw water.* She had simply come to draw water; in the normal way of man or woman.

Jesus says to her: Give me water to drink. For his disciples had gone to the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman therefore says to him: How is it that you, though a Jew, ask me for water to drink, though I am a Samaritan woman? For Jews have nothing to do with Samaritans.

The Samaritans were foreigners; Jews never used their utensils. The woman was carrying a pail for drawing water. She was astonished that a Jew should ask her for a drink of water, a thing that Jews would not do. But the one who was asking for a drink of water was thirsting for her faith.

Listen now and learn who it is that asks for a drink. *Jesus answered her and said: If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," perhaps you might have asked him and he would have given you living water.*

He asks for a drink, and he promises a drink. He is in need, as one hoping to receive, yet he is rich, as one about to satisfy the thirst of others. He says: *If you knew the gift of God.* The gift of God is the Holy Spirit. But he is still using veiled language as he speaks to the woman and gradually enters into her heart. Or is he already teaching her? What could be more gentle and kind than the encouragement he gives? *If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," perhaps you might ask and he would give you living water.*

What is this water that he will give if not the water spoken of in Scripture: *With you is the fountain of life?* How can those feel thirst who *will drink deeply from the abundance in your house?*

He was promising the Holy Spirit in satisfying abundance. She did not yet understand. In her failure to grasp his meaning, what was her reply? *The woman says to him: Master, give me this drink, so that I may feel no thirst or come here to draw water.* Her need forced her to this labour, her weakness shrank from it. If only she could hear those words: *Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you.* Jesus was saying this to her, so that her labours might be at an end; but she was not yet able to understand.



Third Sunday of Lent 19 & 20 March



Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, who tells stories through movements handed down over generations. With your support, Janice and the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation support the community to generate income and employment, while keeping culture alive.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

You are invited to morning tea

To celebrate seniors week and to show our appreciation, we invite you to morning tea.

When: 25 March

Time: 10am

Where: Berala Parish, Jubilee Hall

CCareline 131819

