



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.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

24 JULY 2022

True Prayer Always Answered

What would you do when your prayers are not answered by God? I have had an experience in my ministry where I doubted the fruitfulness of prayer. It happened before I came to Australia. With all the enthusiasm of a first-time Parish Priest, I went to a place to start a new parish. I already knew that there was no proper building for the church services or my residence, and that was ok. Something else I observed in my new parish shocked me; most people lived on illicit marijuana crop. Drinking overproof spirit from the home distilleries was a cause for concern. I knew that I had a big responsibility. As their pastor I was concerned about the welfare and moral integrity of my flock. Offering Mass and dispensing Sacraments wasn't enough. With no fund or other resources, I thought the best thing I could do then was to get them together under the banner of prayer and instruct them. But no one turned up to the first prayer gathering I announced. It was disappointing. My plans did not work. Now let me seek God's plan. Therefore, I commenced a meditation prayer by myself for about 20 minutes before Mass each morning. After a couple months it happened. The Lord sent a lady parishioner to me requesting me to lead a Bible prayer at her home, a one hour exercise. From then on more and more parishioners asked for the same. At each of those home gatherings, I read a Bible passage, commented on it, sang hymns. In between, the participants made extempore prayers. In a few months miracles of conversion started to happen. Marijuana and illicit distilleries started to disappear. Happiness and a new life started to blossom there.



What did I learn from it? First, when I announced a prayer program, it was my own plan and it did not work. But when I was prepared to wait for the promptings of the Holy Spirit, God initiated a fruitful prayer. Miracles happened, though nothing happened overnight. I had to be persistent in my prayer, which included a positive attitude and an openness to God.

I see it happening always, including here in Berala. After my first Mass here, I waited at the front of the church to greet the congregation as they came out. Hardly anyone bothered to greet me or say a word of welcome. Most people ignored their new pastor and walked away. And that was not all. The parish fund was inadequate for the much needed maintenance work, including the profusely leaking church roof. But I prayed for you perseveringly. Miracle happened here too. Now Berala is one of the most friendly parishes. The value of the development works so far exceeds the expectation from the financial resources that was available. It happened because God, to whom I was praying persistently, sent charitable people to help us.

So my dear friends, God always grants your prayers, as long as you are persistent. But do not think you can buy God with heaps of prayers for your own selfish interests. Therefore, do not expect God to grant all your whims and fancies.

Learn from the prayer Jesus taught (The Lord's Prayer). Have you noticed, there is no 'I', 'me', or 'my' in this prayer? The basic character of this prayer is that it is 'other' centred. It is all about the Father in heaven and our fellow human beings. In this prayer we praise God, present our needs to Him, and declare our willingness to forgive others. Prayer is not asking God to do what we want, but just opening our lives, heart and ears to Him.

True Christian prayer demands readiness to forgive others. It does not mean that one must forget what was done. Nor does it mean to give up rights to justice. It is the ability to deal with the hurtful experiences in such a way that it would not brood into anger or revenge. Forgiveness is the ability to continue to see God's goodness in the offender in spite of the offence. One would require spiritual maturity to forgive others.

Our God never lets us down. Your true prayers will always be answered.

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

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Annuncia Sinisa
 0401 291 114

Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

Parish Pastoral Council

Karim Kassis (Chair), Robert McGinn (Vice Chair), Renee Salar (Secretary), Julia Babic (Assistant Secretary), Maria Simeone (Co-ordinator, Social Committee, Jenny Michael (Asst Co-ordinator, Social Committee), Amanda Gahan, Annuncia Sinisa, Roland Javier (Seniors Ministry), Dom Pangilinan, Gai Melville, Jennifer Makerry, Natasha Ellis, Susie Mravunac

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. 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 25/7	St James, Apostle (Feast) 6.45am Mass
Tue 26/7	Sts Joachim & Ann (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Wed 27/7	6.45am Mass 7.00pm Catholic Inquiry
Thu 28/7	6.45am Mass 7.00pm First Holy Communion Class
Fri 29/7	St Martha (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Sat 30/7	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 31/7	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

31 JULY 2022**18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Bob KENSEY
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	Liva or Lavinia	N/A
POWERPOINT	Parish Choir	Liva or Lavinia	Need Volunteer
LECTOR/S	Sharon SEBASTIAN	Maria SIMEONE	Katrina YIP
	Joy SKERRITT	Maris MARSH	Hilary RIOFRIO
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Jenny MICHAEL	John SHANLEY

Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group

Altar & Sacristy: Group 5 Carol Mabon, Maria Wood Group

Saturday 8AM**30 JULY**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Rosalind EVANS

*"Family that pray together
 stay together"*

PILGRIM STATUE

This week at

Ryan & Moore Families

To host the Pilgrim Statue and
 Rosary prayer please contact Mona
 on 9709 8701 / 0417 282 603

or

Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sick: Graham Turner, Theo Bergstedt,
 Doreen Stanmore, Judith Anderson
 Janele Harrington, Wijono Hadikusumo,
 Rachelle Farrugia, Merle Avila, Juliana
 Seow, Peter Smith, Dianne Weller,
 Kathleen Cassie Resuello, Jester
 Resuello, Pauline Lian, Gerard Del
 Rosario

Deceased: Maria Camua Martin

Anniversary: Anne Nguyen

Other Intentions: Holy Souls in
 Purgatory

Recently Deceased: Mary Canavan

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading

Gen 18:20-32

The Lord said, 'How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know.'

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, 'Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?' The Lord replied, 'If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them.'

Abraham replied, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?' 'No', he replied 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there.' Again Abraham said to him, 'Perhaps there will only be forty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'for the sake of the forty.'

Abraham said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there.' 'I will not do it' he replied 'if I find thirty there.' He said, 'I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the twenty.' He said, 'I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten.' 'I will not destroy it' he replied 'for the sake of the ten.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6-8. R. v.3

Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

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**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of affliction you give me life and frustrate my foes. **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

Col 2:12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

Gospel Acclamation

Rom 8:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

"Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test."

He also said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS CONTINUED

The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you.” I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship’s sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

‘So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a

stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

Communion Antiphon

Ps 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Next week’s Readings:

1st Reading: **Ecc 1:2, 2:21-23**

2nd Reading: **Col 3:1-5, 9-11**

Gospel: **Lk 12:13-21**

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 11:1-13

Living the Gospel – Ask, Search, Knock

Jesus says in the gospel, ‘Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you.’ The actions of asking, searching and knocking are means by which we initiate the encounter with God. If we don’t ask, search and knock, how is anyone (including God) to know our needs or know what it is that we are searching for. Particularly in our spiritual lives, it is only through the search and the knocking on the doors of different experiences that we ever come closer to finding answers.

Historical Context – Stone for bread

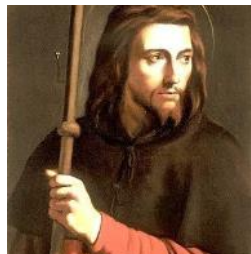
The stone/bread, snake/fish and scorpion/egg comparisons seem a little far fetched to us, but would have made perfect sense to a 1st Century Palestinian audience. The flat, brown stones around Lake Galilee look very similar to the flat bread that was baked in the area. The ‘snake’ may refer to a sea-snake – an eel – which might be caught up in a fisherman’s nets but was regarded as unclean by the Jews. The poisonous scorpions of the region are very pale in colour and when curled up at rest could be mistaken for an egg.

Gospel Focus – Relationship

A crucial aspect of prayer is the attitude with which we view God. We trust in God’s character that it is not a pointless exercise to ask for something. We trust that God is even more loving than a parent who tries to give their child what they need. If we did not make these basic assumptions about God, there would be little point in prayer. When our prayer lives falter at times, perhaps we need to first check out our relationship with God and our attitude towards God before trying to ‘fix’ the ways we pray.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 25 July - St James, apostle (Feast)



Born at Bethsaida in Galilee, a son of Zebedee. Died about 44, the first apostle to die, beheaded by Herod. A fisherman, summoned by Jesus together with his brother Saint John (27 December). They were called the "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17).

Remembered as a favoured apostle: with Saint Peter (29 June) and Saint John he was present at the transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony in the garden.

Tuesday, 26 July - Sts Joachim & Ann (Memorial)

St Joachim and St Anne are named as Mary’s parents in a late second century tradition. Churches dedicated to Saint Anne are found in Jerusalem and Constantinople from the middle of the sixth century. The feast of Saint Anne was kept in Rome by the



eighth century, that of Saint Joachim from the fifteenth century. The feast honours the parents of the Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord.

Friday, 29 July - St Martha (Memorial)



The sister of Mary and Lazarus of Bethany. Honoured for her confession of faith in the Lord in which she beseeched him to restore life to her dead brother (John 11:27). Remembered too for her hospitality to Jesus and her concern for the details of service to guests.

Parish Pastoral Council 2022

The new Pastoral Council was established on Wednesday 20 July. Karim Kassis and Robert McGinn are the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Renee Salar and Julia Babic are Secretary and Assistant Secretary. Maria Simone and Jenny Michael are to coordinate Social Celebrations. Other members include Annuncia Sinisa (Youth Ministry), Amanda Gahan and Susie Mravunac are to represent SVDP Conference and SPC School, Roland Javier (Seniors Ministry), Gai Melville and Jenny Makerry (SJW School), Natasha Ellis (SJW Family Educator), Dom Pangilinan.

In the opening address Fr Thomas said, *“Parish is not just a Mass centre or a venue to dispense sacraments. The role of the Parish is to bring the Gospel to the people through the proclamation of the faith and the celebration of the Sacraments. The parish is a house of the faith family among houses of the faithful. Families come alive as much as the members interact with one another. Parish as a faith family is no different. As a living community of the believers, interpersonal relations are very important for the parish.”* We wish the Pastoral Council 2022 in helping the Parish to live up to its motto, *“Streams of living water will flow from within. (John 7:38)*

New Seniors' Group



A special morning Tea to celebrate all of the August Birthdays in the parish. CatholicCare will join the morning tea and have chat about a topic of interest.

When:
Saturday, 13 August at 10.45am

Where:
Jubilee Hall, Berala

All seniors are welcome!

Mass of Anointing



When :
Saturday, 13 August at 10 AM

Where:
St Peter Chanel Church

Elderly and Sick are specially invited to the Holy Mass of the Anointing of the Sick.

It will be followed by morning tea.

Church Roof Donation

A number you have been making special donations to "Church Roof Fund". All such contributions are much appreciated.

We need to raise the amount of \$1.2M required to get our church roof replaced.

Since July 2021 to date, thanks to your kindness, we have received **\$42,527** in donations (including \$2500 since last reported).

Donation via BPoint

To make it easier to donate for our church roof, we have now set up on our website to donate online. Simply visit: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/beralaparish>.

For **Biller Code**, click on the drop down menu and **select 1985050 - Church Roof Donation**.

Enter your name under Reference 1 and the amount you wish to donate.

Please contact the parish office to discuss other ways you could contribute towards it.

Thank you for your generosity!

~Fr Thomas



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.



Our sister churches in Africa, Asia and the Pacific are requesting Australian Catholics to join them to build the skills of those in their community who have had less opportunity than ourselves. Please consider these [Mission opportunities abroad](#).

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference provide support. [Palms Australia](#), who have prepared Australian Catholics for global mission since 1961, will ensure accommodation and a living allowance is provided to you during your time away. [Enquire online](#) or **Ph: 0422 742 567** to find out about a placement to engage your skills. For More information visit <https://palms.org.au/>

You can also register at <https://palms.org.au/event/celebrate-palms-return-to-global-mission/> for a Webinar on **Monday August 1st at 7:00 pm** to talk directly with a Palms' partner community in Timor Leste and two Australians recently posted to work with them. Invite your friends. **The stories will inspire.**

Just for Laughs

A woman noticed her husband standing on the bathroom scale, sucking in his stomach. "Ha--! That's not going to help," she said. "Sure, it does," he said. "It's the only way I can see the numbers."



NEW YOUTH GROUP! NEW YOUTH GROUP!



WHO: 13yrs +

WHEN: 6 August 2022, 5PM
& then every fortnight
following

WHERE: St. Peter Chanel
Church and then into Jubilee
Hall

WHAT: FELLOWSHIP, FUN &
FOOD

CONTACT: Annuncia (Youth Coordinator) | PH: 0401291114
EMAIL: annuncia_sinisa@hotmail.com

Are you interested in Catholic Church and Faith?

You are welcome to attend the
Inquiry Night at St Peter
Chanel Church

**7 PM on Wednesday
27 July 2022**

Contacts: Andrew Tham 0403566001

Parish Office :

info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au;

Fr Thomas:

thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org



BARM—Berala Association of Rosary Makers



A friendly reminder that the next BARM rosary making will be next
Thursday, 28 July at 10.30AM in the Jubilee Hall. New comers
welcome.

If you would like to be involved, please call Jenny Michael on 0413 679
931 and leave your name and contact details or email
jenny.michael@syd.catholic.edu.au.

Liturgy Roster

The Roster for the new quarter commencing 7 August has been emailed out.

If you need a printed copy, please let me know and I'll leave your copy in the sacristy you can
collect after the weekend masses. Thank you!

Sharers in the suffering of Christ

From a homily on Matthew by Saint John Chrysostom

The sons of Zebedee press Christ: *Promise that one may sit at your right side and the other at your left.* What does he do? He wants to show them that it is not a spiritual gift for which they are asking, and that if they knew what their request involved, they would never dare make it. So he says: *You do not know what you are asking,* that is, what a great and splendid thing it is and how much beyond the reach even of the heavenly powers. Then he continues: *Can you drink the cup which I must drink and be baptized with the baptism which I must undergo?* He is saying: “You talk of sharing honours and rewards with me, but I must talk of struggle and toil. Now is not the time for rewards or the time for my glory to be revealed. Earthly life is the time for bloodshed, war and danger.”

Consider how by his manner of questioning he exhorts and draws them. He does not say: “Can you face being slaughtered? Can you shed your blood?” How does he put his question? *Can you drink the cup?* Then he makes it attractive by adding: *which I must drink,* so that the prospect of sharing it with him may make them more eager. He also calls his suffering a baptism, to show that it will effect a great cleansing of the entire world. The disciples answer him: *We can!* Fervour makes them answer promptly, though they really do not know what they are saying but still think they will receive what they ask for.

How does Christ reply? *You will indeed drink my cup and be baptized with my baptism.* He is really prophesying a great blessing for them, since he is telling them: “You will be found worthy of martyrdom; you will suffer what I suffer and end your life with a violent death, thus sharing all with me. *But seats at my right and left are not mine to give; they belong to those for whom the Father has prepared them.*” Thus, after lifting their minds to higher goals and preparing them to meet and overcome all that will make them desolate, he sets them straight on their request.

Then the other ten became angry at the two brothers. See how imperfect they all are: the two who tried to get ahead of the other ten, and the ten who were jealous of the two! But, as I said before, show them to me at a later date in their lives, and you will see that all these impulses and feelings have disappeared. Read how John, the very man who here asks for the first place, will always yield to Peter when it comes to preaching and performing miracles in the Acts of the Apostles. James, for his part, was not to live very much longer; for from the beginning he was inspired by great fervour and, setting aside all purely human goals, rose to such splendid heights that he straightway suffered martyrdom.

OTHER NOTICES

The Bishop's Blend Breakfast

Looking to network with other young Catholic professionals and learn how to live your faith in the workplace? Then join Bishop Richard Umbers, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney on Monday 8th August at 7am at the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Sydney for The Bishop's Blend Breakfast for Young Professionals. Online booking is essential. For info and to tickets go to <https://sydneycatholic.eventsair.com/the-bishops-blend/tbbx> or email bishopsblend@sydneycatholic.org.

Parish Renewal Conference 2022

19 August 6-9PM, 20 August 9AM-5.15PM | St Mary's Cathedral Precinct | \$25 per person for parishioners in the Archdiocese of Sydney. Registration needed: www.gomakedisciples.org.au/prc22 by Sunday 14 August. Inquiries: parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

Ignite Conference 2022

Thursday 29 September- Sunday 2 October
Freeman College Bonnyrigg. This popular Catholic youth conference featuring sacraments, rallies, inspiring speakers, workshops and dance parties. \$100 Discount

available for the first 50 young adults who register from the Archdiocese of Sydney. For discount code email John.nguyen@sydneycatholic.org | <https://igniteconference.com.au/>

Catholic Help with Alcoholism and Addiction

Do you, a family member, or friend need help with an addiction concern? You can reach out to the Calix Society. Calix is an association of Catholic alcoholics, drug addicts, and family members and friends affected by addiction, who are maintaining their sobriety through participation in their Catholic faith and a 12 Step program. Email: calixsydney@outlook.com

Marriage Preparation Course: Engaged Encounter

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. For further information visit our website: www.engagedencounter.org.au | Choose any of the coming Weekends: Aug 06-07, Nov 12-13 | If COVID-19 restrictions prevent a face-to-face seminar, the CEE weekend will be held via Zoom.



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Thank you for your generosity!