



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/UCB8a1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1)

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.

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

21 AUGUST 2022

The Narrow Door of Sharing, Loving, Compassion

There is a humour about a man who died and went to hell. To his surprise he saw his parish priest there. "Father, I did not expect you here", he said. The priest shushed him, "the bishop is below us. Don't let him hear you". This cruel joke contains some biblical truth.

When asked "Lord is it true that only a few will be saved?" (Luke 13:23), Jesus said "strive to enter through the narrow door" (Luke 13:24). It made the early Christians, who were a mix of people from different cultures and places, reflect on the Jewish heritage of the Church. Majority of the Jews in Jerusalem were observant of their temple practices and laws of ritual purity. Therefore, they would have considered themselves as already in the Kingdom of God. Yet not a lot of the Jews were found among the early Church communities. Where did they go wrong? The answer is that they were not generous in living out God's goodness. While observing all the rituals of the religion to the detail, they were focussed on themselves and not concerned about others. They were not generous with the spirit of love and compassion. They did not try hard enough to enter the Kingdom of God. Mind you, this warning was not just for the Jews, but for all of us.

If any member of the Church think that going through all the motions of the sacraments and Sunday obligation will assure you a place in the Kingdom of God, think again. You might tell the Lord, "We ate and drank your company and you taught in our streets", meaning doing Churchy things; yet if you are not generous with the Spirit of God, which is love and compassion, you too could be counted to be the last by God. The Lord who sees the inner dealings of the heart will probe beyond your ritual observations in judging your religious integrity. Therefore, let us strive hard to enter through the narrow door of sharing, loving, and compassion.

What is your faith commitment? Can you say that you have chosen Jesus Christ above all other considerations?



Catholic Inquiry 2022

Catholic Inquiry (RCIA) Sessions are underway. Should you or someone you know is inquiring about the Catholic Church or Baptism, come along to the 8AM Mass.

After the morning Mass on Sunday there will be a catechetical meeting exclusively for the group in the meeting room. Inquiries are welcome. Contact Andrew 0403 566 001 or Fr Thomas 96447787.



Happy Birthday Fr Thomas!

As you celebrate this day, may we give thanks for all that you do. May you be gifted with many blessings from God, today and always. Happy birthday to our dearest parish priest!

To celebrate, please join us for morning tea after the 10am Family Mass this Sunday which will be hosted by SPC Primary School.

Scan the QR Code to **DONATE**. Thank you for your generosity!



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
 youth@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

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), Ashley Marszalek, Dom Pangilinan, Gai Melville, Jennifer Makerry, Michael Kim, 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 22/8	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity) 6.45am Mass
Tue 23/8	6.45am Mass
Wed 24/8	St Bartholomew (Feast) 6.45am Mass
Thu 25/8	6.45am Mass
Fri 26/8	6.45am Mass
Sat 27/8	St Monica (Memorial) 8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 28/8	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

28 AUGUST 2022**22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Dom PANGILINAN	Bob KENSEY	Roland JAVIER
MUSIC & SINGING	N/A	Cyril EDWARDS Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	Alannah KASSIS
POWERPOINT	Need Volunteer	Liva or Lavinia	Need Volunteer
LECTOR/S	Katrina YIP	Daniel BOLAND	Jenny MICHAEL
	Sharon SEBASTIAN	Rosalind EVANS	Hilary RIOFRIO
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Margaret THAM

Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica,
Teresa Escobar, Kata Jurcic

Altar & Sacristy: Group 3 Helen Le Mottee & Jann Rockliff

Saturday 8AM**27 AUGUST**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Christine KENSEY

*"Family that pray together
 stay together"*



PILGRIM STATUE
 This week at

Amarille & Langi 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, Rachele Farrugia, Juliana Seow, Dianne Weller, Pauline Lian, Gerard Del Rosario, Romaine Cheema, Appachan, Solly Mathew, Virginia Naidu, Dominic Rodrigues, Veronica Jacobs, Melissa Cunanan

Recently Deceased: Sr Mary Evelyn, Giuseppe Leonardi, John Coleman, Grace Florendo-Amores

Deceased: Paul Rizzuto, Erlinda Labay, Zenaida dela Cruz, Natividad Munarriz, Clarita Naumanen, Valerie de Souza

Anniversary: Fr Elias Yanni, Portia Mariano

Birthday Thanksgiving: Carmela Lapitan, Eveline Sanchez, Carmel Martin, Erlinda Ganchingco, Alfredo Mortillero

Special Intention: Cyril & Jenny Edwards & Family

Other Intentions: Holy Souls in Purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

First Reading

Is 66:18-21

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the nations of every language. They shall come to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and send some of their survivors to the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands that have never heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory to the nations. As an offering to the Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries, from all the nations to my holy mountain in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! **R**

Strong is his love for us; he is faithful for ever. **R**

Second Reading

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in which you are addressed as sons? My son, when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it lightly; but do not get discouraged when he reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones that he loves and he punishes all those that he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of your training; God is treating you as his sons. Has there ever been any son whose father did not train him? Of course, any punishment is most painful at the time, and far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom it has been used, it bears fruit in

peace and goodness. So hold up your limp arms and steady your trembling knees and smooth out the path you tread; then the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 13:22-30

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf Ps 103:13-15

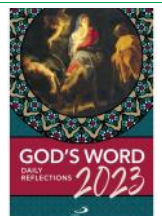
The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Sir 3:17-20, 28-29** 2nd Reading: **Heb 12:18-19, 22-24** Gospel: **Lk 14:1. 7-14**

Bible Diary 2023

God's Word 2023 is now available in the Church shop **for only \$19**. In previous years they were sold out rather quickly so you may want to secure your copy ASAP.



REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 13:22-30

Scriptural context – A gospel of the least

The gospel of Luke portrays Jesus as focusing his ministry on those considered the least in society. In the Lukan version, the birth of Jesus is witnessed by lowly shepherds as opposed to the regal wise men of Matthew's version. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, it is the Samaritan outsider who responds with compassion. The Lost (Prodigal) Son is welcomed back with great rejoicing. Zacchaeus, the resented tax collector, is treated with acceptance and makes a conversion of heart. All of these stories are unique to this gospel and paint a very particular picture of a compassionate Jesus.

Gospel Focus – First and Last

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.' These words of Jesus carry with them a major thrust of his ministry in the gospel of Luke. Jesus reminds his audience that their status in society means nothing when it comes to their status in the kingdom of God. What will make people 'first' in the kingdom is their acceptance of Jesus' message, their faith and their compassionate actions toward others. Jesus' insistence on the inherent value of the 'last' in society must have been a constant irritant to those who considered themselves 'first'.

Living the Gospel – Consequences

To be Christian is more than a name; more than a title. If we put our hand up and claim the title of Christian, then there are consequences that flow from that. Those who are disillusioned by religion frequently name hypocrisy as the major reason for their disillusionment. Sometimes, that's an easy out. We can't all live like Jesus all of the time. However, we are called to take Jesus as our model of the Christian life and to use his example as a guiding beacon. To call ourselves Christian is to try to be Christ-like in all our actions.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 22 August—The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)



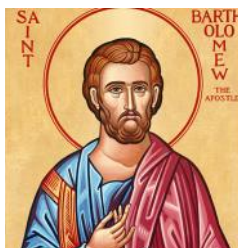
This feast was established by Pius XII in 1955 and was celebrated on 31 May. Since 1969 it has been observed

on 22 August to stress its relationship to the Assumption (15 August): taken up into glory, Mary became queen of heaven and earth.

Mass of the Feast at 6.45am.

Wednesday, 24 August - St Bartholomew (Memorial)

Named in the list of apostles and



generally identified with Nathaniel of Cana, the "Israelite without guile" (John 1:47) who was led to Jesus by the apostle Philip (3 May). Said to have preached the gospel in India and in Armenia, where tradition indicates he was martyred.

Mass of the Feast at 6.45am.

Saturday, 27 August - St Monica (Memorial)

Probably born at Tagaste (Algeria) about 331. Died at Ostia (Italy) in 387. Before her marriage her faith bore fruit in her recovery from a



drinking problem and later helped bring her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Undertook

many years of penance and prayer for her brilliant but wayward son Saint Augustine (28 August). Following his conversion and baptism in Milan, she died at the beginning of her journey home to Africa. Remembered for her parental devotion, her patience, and her persistence in prayer.

Mass of the Feast at 6.45am.

BRING HOPE TO NEELA AND HER FAMILY

This week Catholic Mission offers us the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program which aims to help prevent malnutrition, especially in babies and young children, and help disadvantaged families provide food for their loved ones.

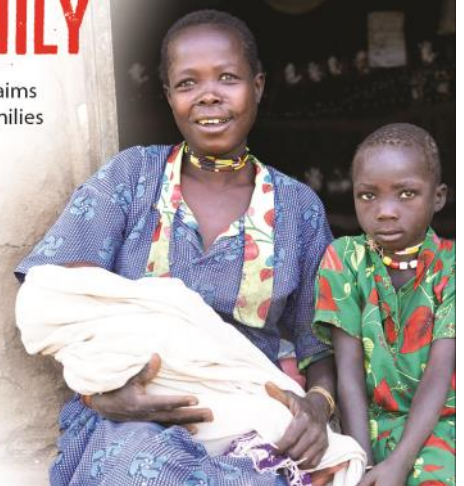
The Deberety Goat Rearing Centre is a dream of the local Church and community in Emdibir. When established, the Centre aims to provide nutritious goats milk for families in need, like Neela's*, so that babies like Ajani* can be healthy and strong.

Please give generously today to help kickstart this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope provided, going online at catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

*Name altered to protect identity



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia



Sacrament of First Reconciliation—Group 2



Our Parish has made available a program for all families whom had missed out on the Sacrament of Reconciliation for their children earlier this due to Covid 19 and other unforeseen circumstances. Last Friday, the families spent the day preparing for the sacrament which they will be receiving very soon. We kindly ask for your prayers for each one of them.

~Sophia Brewty, Sacrament Co-ordinator

Phil Townsend Moving On

Philip Townsend will conclude his time as Principal at the end of Term 3, 2022 after 7 years of service. He will take up a new appointment as Principal at St Anne’s Catholic Primary School of his home parish South Strathfield.

Mr Townsend has worked diligently to promote the school as the education ministry of the parish. Education is the infusion of the matured person into the maturing person. Mr Townsend as a strong educational leader, always looking to support students, staff and families in learning, well-being and faith. We thank Phil for his dedication and his ministry. We wish him continued success as he embarks on this change and every blessing in his future endeavours.

A farewell Mass is organised for Phil Townsend on Sunday, 11 September at 10 am, followed by Morning Tea.

In light of Phil’s move, there will be new leadership arrangements at St Peter Chanel for the remainder for term 4 of the 2022 school year.

Ms Amanda Gahan has been appointed as Acting Principal for Term 4. She is currently the Assistant Principal and was previously a coordinator and REC at the school. Ms Susie Mravunac has been appointed as Acting Assistant Principal for Term 4. She is currently the Religious Education Coordinator.

Ms Andrea El-Tahan Dayoub has been appointed as Acting Religious Education Coordinator for Term 4. We wish the team all the best.



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 **\$45,077** in donations (including \$50 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



Just for Laughs

“Are you related to anyone famous?”, the child asked. His friend said, “I don’t want to brag... but I heard Dad calling God his Father.”



Senior's Gathering & Charlie's Morning Tea

Charlie Scully would like to thank everyone for their well wishes and for joining the celebration last Sunday.



60 Years

You are invited to Celebrate
60 Wonderful Years
with us!

*St Joseph the Worker
Catholic Primary School*

Saturday 10th September 2022
at 12pm to 3pm
2 New Street Auburn

rsvp to Office 9646 1434 or
Email: info@stjwauburn.catholic.edu.au

Event Program

St Joseph the Worker
60th Anniversary Celebration
Saturday 10th September, 2022



- 12.00pm Gates open
- 12.10pm Welcome and Prayer
- 12.30pm Classrooms open for visitors
- 1.00pm Year 5/6 performance
Year 3/4 performance
Kinder & Year 1/2 performance
Years 3-6 Amadeus Musical Performance
- 1.45pm Commemorative Photograph
- 3.00pm Gates close

Other Event Highlights

- Photo Displays
- 2022 Time Capsule Display
- Farm Animals
- Face Painting
- Balloon Sculpting
- Games
- Food and Drinks available to purchase

Receiving the Holy Communion

(Part 4)

St John Paul II said “The Eucharist builds the Church.” (*Redemptor Hominis* 20). The Holy Communion bonds the participants into a Body of Christ (*Cf 1 Corinthians 12:13*). This week we are looking at who can receive Holy Communion.

“Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you”” (*John 6:53*). All those who aspire for the fullness of life, approach the Altar for Holy Communion, by eating the Body and Blood of Christ. In doing so, the communicant takes the teaching of St Paul seriously. The Apostle said, “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves” (*1 Corinthians 11:27-29*). Therefore we must be in a state of grace to receive the Holy Communion. The Catholic Church sets out specific guidelines regarding how we should prepare ourselves to receive the Lord’s body and blood in Communion.

A person living in grave sin is not in a state of grace and he/she is not eligible to receive holy communion. The gravity of sin depends on the gravity of matter and how knowing the seriousness of it and wilfully doing it. Grave matter may include, murder, abortion, having sexual relations outside of valid marriage, depriving the vulnerable people of justice, harmful misuse of the duty of care and any other actions that are evil. St Paul lists some of the deadly sins in his letters (*Cf 1 Cor. 6:9–10 and Gal. 5:19–21*). In short anything that does not support the integrity of the family (the Domestic Church) and any deviation from the mission of bearing Christ’s justice and compassion to others are grave sins that can make you undesirable for Holy Communion (*Cf Canon Law 916*). Therefore you must have been to confession since your last grave sin.



The manner of approaching the Sacrament is also important. Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches “*To prepare for worthy reception of this sacrament, the faithful should observe the fast required in their Church. Bodily demeanour (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest*” (*Paragraph # 1387*).

Canon law states, “*One who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion*” (*Canon 919 §1*). Elderly people, those who are ill, and their caretakers are excused from the Eucharistic fast (*Canon 191 §3*).

Is receiving holy communion in a second Mass attended on the same day is permitted? Unless there is special reason, attending more than one Mass does not have any additional spiritual benefit. But if you are to attend the Holy Mass more than once, it is only proper to receive Holy Communion, each time (*Cf Catechism of Catholic Church 1388*). In fact full participation in the Eucharist requires reception of the Holy Communion.

Catholics with intellectual disabilities may be admitted to Holy Communion if they are able to distinguish the body of Christ from ordinary food, even if this recognition is evidenced through manner, gesture, or reverential silence rather than verbally.

Can an Orthodox Church member receive Holy Communion in Catholic Church? The Church’s law permits Orthodox Christians to receive the Eucharist from Catholic ministers “if they seek such on their own and are properly disposed” (*Cf Canon 844 § 3, Catechism of the Catholic Church para # 1399*).

But with the Protestants, it is a different matter. Protestant theology may differ to the Catholic understanding of Eucharist and other Sacraments. Unlike Orthodox Churches, Protestant Churches have broken the apostolic succession in their ordination of the ministers. Because of this, they are not allowed to have Holy Communion in a Catholic Mass. But there are exceptions.

Protestants may receive the Eucharist from Catholic ministers if they are in danger of death. To receive the Eucharist under those circumstances, Protestants must “*seek such on their own accord*” and “*manifest Catholic faith in respect to these sacraments*” and be “properly disposed.” In other words, in addition to being in a most grave and unusual situation, the law of the Church says that Protestants who want to receive need to believe what the Church teaches about the Eucharist — that it is the real sacramental presence of Jesus Christ, with the appearance of bread and wine.

Each time we take Holy Communion, we are aware that our partaking of the Body and Blood Christ in Eucharist binds us together as one Body of Christ, the Church.

~Fr Thomas Kurunthanam

Mass of Anointing



When :
Sat, 13 Aug 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.

New Seniors' Group



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

When: Sat, 17 Aug at 10.45am

Where: Jubilee Hall, Berala
All seniors are welcome!

RAISING FATHERS

EVENTS 2022

TUE
23 AUG

ST KEVIN'S,
EASTWOOD
PARISH HALL

WED
24 AUG

ALL SAINTS,
LIVERPOOL
PARISH HALL

THU
25 AUG

ST PETER CHANEL &
ST JOSEPH, BERALA
PARISH HALL



ROBERT
FALZON



DANIEL
ANG



STUART
BRADY



**7:30PM -
9:00PM**

DADS AND
FATHER
FIGURES ALL
WELCOME

REGISTER NOW



I love because I love, I love that I may love

From a sermon of St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

Love is sufficient of itself, it gives pleasure by itself and because of itself. It is its own merit, its own reward. Love looks for no cause outside itself, no effect beyond itself. Its profit lies in its practice. I love because I love, I love that I may love. Love is a great thing so long as it continually returns to its fountainhead, flows back to its source, always drawing from there the water which constantly replenishes it. Of all the movements, sensations and feelings of the soul, love is the only one in which the creature can respond to the Creator and make some sort of similar return however unequal it may be. For when God loves, all he desires is to be loved in return; the sole purpose of his love is to be loved, in the knowledge that those who love him are made happy by their love of him.

The Bridegroom's love, or rather the love which is the Bridegroom, asks in return nothing but faithful love. Let the beloved, then, love in return. Should not a bride love, and above all, Love's bride? Could it be that Love not be loved?

Rightly then does she give up all other feelings and give herself wholly to love alone; in giving love back, all she can do is to respond to love. And when she has poured out her whole being in love, what is that in comparison with the unceasing torrent of that original source? Clearly, lover and Love, soul and Word, bride and Bridegroom, creature and Creator do not flow with the same volume; one might as well equate a thirsty man with the fountain.

What then of the bride's hope, her aching desire, her passionate love, her confident assurance? Is all this to wilt just because she cannot match stride for stride with her giant, any more than she can vie with honey for sweetness, rival the lamb for gentleness, show herself as white as the lily, burn as bright as the sun, be equal in love with him who is Love? No. It is true that the creature loves less because she is less. But if she loves with her whole being, nothing is lacking where everything is given. To love so ardently then is to share the marriage bond; she cannot love so much and not be totally loved, and it is in the perfect union of two hearts that complete and total marriage consists. Or are we to doubt that the soul is loved by the Word first and with a greater love?