



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

Streams of living water will flow from within. ~John 7:38

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141, Ph: 96447787 E: info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
Parish Website: www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, facebook: [stpeterstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) YouTube: [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/BeralaParish)

Holy Mass: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am | Holy Hour: Saturday 8.30am-9.30am

Lord's Day Mass : Saturday 5.00pm Vigil - LiveStreamed, Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 8.30am - 9.30am

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

4 DECEMBER 2022

The Kingdom of God is Near



When I told the nine recipients of the Pope Francis Award, from SPC School, that they were preaching the Word of God, they and their families might have been wondering 'when did they preach?'. They were merely engaging in some service or another for the good of the community. Yet, in truth they are preachers of the Word of God, because, unlike other services, these students were doing it in the name of Jesus, and their service strengthened the Church, the Body of Christ. Their preaching was not so much with words, but action. Through their services, they were preparing the way for God to come into the lives of those who need it.

According to Matthew, John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus our Lord. He called the people to repent so that God can break into their lives. It is notable that he preached not in the crowded city of Jerusalem, but in the hard-to-reach wilderness. It was symbolic. To reach the dark corners of our lives where repentance and conversion are required is not easy. The easy way people take is to do some religious activities and consider themselves righteous. John rebuked such easy goers including important people like Pharisees and the Sadducees. Pharisees had the responsibility of taking the Word of God to where the Jewish people were. Sadducees were the priests of the temple of Jerusalem who did sacrifices for the people. The Pharisees and the Sadducees thought of themselves good enough to merit the Kingdom of God. But John rebuked them for not producing real fruits of the Kingdom. Our God is compassionate, and we are to share God's compassion and mercy with others. Without producing such fruits, we cannot enter the Kingdom of God.

Despite his exalted role as a preacher, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, and people flocking to him for baptism, John humbly submitted to the work and the person of Jesus. John may be popular, but it is Jesus, who came after him, stronger than him because he is filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is to pour out the Holy Spirit on his disciples. Since God has broken into our humanity through Jesus, the Kingdom of God is near at hand. At our baptism, the Holy Spirit was poured on us for the first time. Now, in this in-between-time, waiting for the final reward of heaven, let us repent and enter the Kingdom of God. Like John, let us call our dear ones also to repentance so that they too will enter the Kingdom of God.

Christmas Schedule



24 December	Christmas Vigil at 5PM Malayalam Mass at 9PM
25 December	Solemn Midnight Mass at 12AM Mass at 8AM & 10AM Luncheon – 11.30AM – 2PM
26 December	(Boxing Day/ Ordination anniversary of Fr Thomas) Mass at 10AM, and morning tea to follow

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), 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

Acting Principal - Amanda Gahan
 Family Educator - Jenny Michael

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 5/12	6.45am Mass
Tue 6/12	6.45am Mass
Wed 7/12	<i>St Ambrose (Memorial)</i> 6.45am Mass
Thu 8/12	<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 6.45am Mass
Fri 9/12	6.45am Mass
Sat 10/12	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 11/12	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

11 DECEMBER 2022**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Christine KENSEY	Roland JAVIER	Trevor BREWTY
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	Cyril EDWARDS Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	SACRED HEART CHOIR
POWERPOINT	Parish Choir	Liva or Lavinia	Sacred Heart Choir
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Michael CHOW	Ibrahim MATAR
	Amanda DOWDELL	Robert MCGINN	Phirum DUCH
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Margaret THAM

Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group

Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Catherine Naidu-Narayan; Francis Lenette; Chantal Collet

Saturday 8AM**10 DECEMBER**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Rosalind EVANS

Family that pray together stay together"

**PILGRIM STATUE**

This week at

Hazboun & Kassis 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:**

Doreen Stanmore, Pauline Lian, Gerard Del Rosario, Romaine Cheema, Virginia Naidu, Veronica Jacobs, John Shanley, Nazih Melhem, Danilo Carreon, Fiya Gourani, Zekia Al Asady, Rosario Cruz, Tin De Jesus, Jane Aquino

Recently Deceased: Jason Jose Collopen

Deceased: Cleddia Macciocco

Other & Special Intentions: Holy Souls in Purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

Is 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **R**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to the earth's bounds. **R**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **R**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **R**

Second Reading

Rom 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures

was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Communion Antiphon

Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 3:1-12

Living the Gospel – Prepare Ye!

John the Baptist's call to 'Prepare the way of the Lord' is a summary of the purpose of the season of Advent. Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

Gospel Focus – Out of the wilderness

The wilderness holds a special place in scripture. Time spent in the wilderness is associated with a time of preparation for undertaking a special purpose. When Moses led the people from Egypt they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. This was a time of renewing themselves after their time in Egypt and rediscovering their covenant with God. After his baptism, Jesus retreats to the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry. It was also out of the wilderness that a lot of rebellion and unrest emerged. A desire for change and action is what comes out of the wilderness.

Scriptural context – Brood of Vipers!

The gospel of Matthew in particular casts the Pharisees in a very dim light. John's insult to them, calling them a brood of vipers, is indeed echoed by Jesus later in this gospel. In this gospel, Jesus describes the Pharisees as hypocrites and blind guides. The community for whom this gospel was written were predominantly Jewish Christians. However, at the time of writing serious cracks were appearing in the relationship between the Jewish community and the Christian sect. This gospel aligns closely with the Jewish tradition but is very critical of the inflexibility of the Pharisees.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, 7 December - St Ambrose (Memorial)



Born in Trier (Germany) about 340. Ordained bishop on this day in 374 and died at Milan (Italy) on Holy Saturday 397. A lawyer who became governor in Milan and who was still a catechumen when elected bishop by popular acclaim. Upheld orthodoxy against the Arians and won many Christian converts. Encouraged monasticism and

defended the independence of the Church against secular authority. Remembered as an outstanding pastor through his writings on the sacraments and Christian ethics and through his homilies, instructions, and hymns.

Mass of the Feast at 6.45am.

Thursday, 8 December - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)



This feast had its origin in the East as the "Conception of Mary by Saint Anne". It spread through the West during the Middle Ages as the "Immaculate Conception" and was extended to the entire Western Church in the eighteenth century.

The feast celebrates Mary, preserved from sin from the moment of conception; she is the first fruits of her Son's redemption and a prophetic model of what the Church is called to be.

Mass of the Feast at 6.45am.

NEWS

Sacraments 2023

Registrations for sacraments 2023 are now open. Please use the QR Code or link under the respective sacrament for further information and registration.

Reconciliation



<https://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/reconciliation/>

First Holy Communion



<https://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/holy-communion/>

Confirmation



<https://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/confirmation/>

If for any reason you do not have access to the above options or are having difficulty with the above process, please do not hesitate to contact our office via email. Wishing each one of you a blessed Christmas and may Jesus be the reason for the season! Happy Holidays!

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



You are cordially invited to join us for a night of

Christmas

CAROLS & BBQ

BYO FAMILY PICNIC


Friday, 16 December
from 6PM

ST PETER CHANEL CHURCH LAWN
62 Kingsland Road, Berala

Special Performance by Fr Mirko Integlia



SPC & SJ PARISH



JAN 19 - JAN 21
ST. PETER CHANEL & ST. JOSEPH PARISH,
BERALA



REGISTER
HERE

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Annual Christmas Luncheon

DONATIONS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS. PLEASE TAKE A TRAY FROM THE CHURCH AND RETURN ON CHRISTMAS MORNING. DONATIONS OF CASH AND DRINKS CAN BE MADE TO THE PARISH OFFICE. PLEASE CALL 96447787 FOR MORE INFORMATION



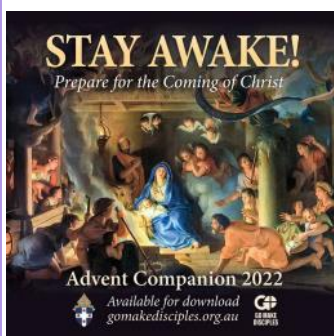
SPC & SJW

Summer Camp

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WHEN? 19/01/23-21/02/23
IF INTERESTED OR FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
youth@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Advent Companion 2022



Let us come closer to Jesus this Advent! Let us stay awake! Let us set aside time to pray, to reflect on His Word, and to avail ourselves of the Sacraments, so that when we celebrate His birth at Christmas, we can offer Him the gift of hearts and lives truly transformed.

Printed booklets of the ADVENT COMPANION, produced by the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, is available at the church foyer and also available for download at www.gomakedisciples.org.au/

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP
invites you to

CHRISTMAS at the Cathedral

a festival evening at St Mary's

9 DECEMBER 2022

Let's go watch the Christmas Lights at the Cathedral. There will be live entertainment, pop-up shops, food stalls and activities for the kids.

Two buses will be leaving from the church car park at 6.30pm on Friday 9 December and returning by 10.00pm.

It's FREE!

Spots are limited.

Book your seats with the Parish Office:
p: 9644 7787
e: info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.



A Christmas without joy is no Christmas at all. Yet that's what too many people are facing this December.

A Christmas without family, after fleeing from domestic violence. A Christmas without comfort and peace of mind, after bills have mounted up. Or a Christmas without a roof over your head, after losing your home.

This advent, the Berala conference of St Vincent de Paul will be collecting donations for our local families. We know that many of you like to reach out to others during Advent. This year we are asking for donations of new toys, non-perishable food, Christmas table decorations, new clothes etc. We would also like to have vouchers for kids to use to buy school supplies for 2023. If you would like to help out with this we are accepting gift cards from Woolworths, Coles, Kmart, Officeworks etc.

As usual monetary donations are more than welcome and are tax deductible. Donations can be made to the school or Church before December 17.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Church Shop

The Church Shop is looking very festive and is now stocked with great Christmas gifts! God's Word 2023 and the Columban calendars are selling fast! Get your copy before it runs out.

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.

ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH PARISH OF
BERALA INVITE YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

COMMUNITY Christmas LUNCH

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 25 | 11:30AM - 2PM

ST PETER CHANEL AND ST JOSEPH
PARISH HALL
KINGSLAND RD, BERALA

FOOD AND DRINKS SUPPLIED
PLEASE REGISTER ON 96447787 OR
INFO@STPETER-STJOSEPH.ORG.AU
GUESTS AND VOLUNTEERS WELCOME
TRANSPORT AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SCAN ME

Miss Gahan

IS LEAVING SPC

COME AND JOIN US FOR
THE ULTIMATE
REUNION.

IF YOU OR YOUR FAMILY
HAVE BEEN A PART OF
THE SPC FAMILY IN THE
LAST 15 YEARS...

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE
YOU BACK ON THE QUAD
OF SPC:

DECEMBER

11

2PM-5PM

BRING
YOUR
OWN

Picnic



Amanda Gahan Honoured



Amanda Gahan's leadership in the service at the COVID19 lockdown was amazing. One of her initiatives was the FOOD FOR FRIENDS program. Her service was

recognised by BETTER BLANCHED FUTURE team and an award was presented to Amanda at NSW Parliament House on Monday, 28 November.

BETTER BALANCED FUTURES engages with and educating families, parents, communities and carers about the provision and access to Special Religious Education (SRE) in our public schools across NSW for all faith groups. Amanda is co-president with Susie Mravunac of the Berala Conference of St Vincent De Paul Society. Though she will be taking up the position of the Principal at St Joan of Arc Haberfield, next year, she will continue to lead the Berala Conference of SVDP and other parish ministries. The parish also thanks Amanda and her team for their Christ-like service at a time it was most needed.



The Gospel Of Matthew Today

*A Course by Fr Thomas
on reading the Gospel
with Historical and
Old Testament
Background*

**7 pm on Tuesdays
starts on 7 Feb 23
at Berala Church**

Church Roof Work Update

After a long wait and process, now the DA is approved by Cumberland Council. Now we are allowed to replace copper roof with another metal. But it will not be Colourbond. The new roof, not being copper, will make the work nearly 40 percent cheaper. Now I am preparing an application to the Archbishop for his approval. Once that is received, we will be able to decide on a quote for the work and commence the work sometime in 2023. The process is long and thanks for your patience.

A voice of one crying in the wilderness

A commentary on Isaiah by Eusebius of Caesarea

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God's salvation is to be made known to all mankind.

It was in the wilderness that God's saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God's salvation was seen. The words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father's voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: *This is my beloved Son, listen to him.*

The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God, since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. *Prepare the way of the Lord:* the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God's saving power.

Climb on a high mountain, bearer of good news to Zion. Lift up your voice in strength, bearer of good news to Jerusalem. These words harmonise very well with the meaning of what has gone before. They refer opportunely to the evangelists and proclaim the coming of God to men, after speaking of the voice crying in the wilderness. Mention of the evangelists suitably follows the prophecy on John the Baptist.

What does Zion mean if not the city previously called Jerusalem? This is the mountain referred to in that passage from Scripture: *Here is mount Zion, where you dwelt.* The Apostle says: *You have come to mount Zion.* Does not this refer to the company of the apostles, chosen from the former people of the circumcision?

This is the Zion, the Jerusalem, that received God's salvation. It stands aloft on the mountain of God, that is, it is raised high on the only-begotten Word of God. It is commanded to climb the high mountain and announce the word of salvation. Who is the bearer of the good news but the company of the evangelists? What does it mean to bear the good news but to preach to all nations, but first of all to the cities of Judah, the coming of Christ on earth?

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 35:1-6, 10**

2nd Reading: **Jas 5:7-10**

Gospel: **Mt 11:2-11**

You've got a lot to give beyond Christmas gifts.

In January you can prepare for mission at home or abroad.



Palms Australia has trained Australians to live and work within cultures and communities overseas since 1961. Now four days of that training will be available for parishioners interested to assist harness the diverse gifts of our community and make it stronger.

At Home

Palms' [Neighbours Without Borders](#) program (January 7 – 11) will “**focus on building communities that are welcoming to all, with particular attention to those on the margins of society and the church**” as urged by the recent Plenary Council.

Overseas

Completing a further four days (January 12 – 15) will prepare you to meet one of the [many requests Palms has from communities](#) in Africa, Asia and the Pacific who need educators; health professionals; administrators and others to assist build on the strengths of their people who otherwise have little opportunity for training.

Enquire about Palms Orientation for mission via www.palms.org.au or call 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567.