



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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

18 DECEMBER 2022

Wrapped Gift of Christmas

Christmas gifts are wrapped to make it a surprise to the children. Not knowing what is in it, the mystery, until it is unwrapped adds to the joy of receiving a gift. There is a man in the Bible who received a great wonderful gift from God but shrouded in mystery. Matthew's Gospel tells us how a great mystery gift was unwrapped before Joseph.

God was to incarnate through Mary, Joseph's betrothed fiancé, a wonderful gift, beyond anyone's imagination. Mary already pregnant! Pregnancy before living together made Joseph suspect infidelity from Mary's part. It looked as if a terrible disaster is awaiting their marriage. But when Joseph allowed the messenger of God to unwrap the mystery, he could see that Mary's pregnancy is not a cause for shame but a great gift of God. It is the fulfilment of the prophecy about the "*Immanuel*", God with us. Mary conceiving a baby is God's preparation to come down to be with us. If he hadn't allowed God's word to reveal the mystery, he would not have realised that Mary was bearing the Son of God, a wonderful gift from God.

It is human to come across apparently shameful events in life. Some of them may even look like bringing disaster in our lives. In those situations, we may not realise that God is gifting us with himself. Allowing the Word of God to reveal his presence with us is the best thing we can do. When is the last time an apparent darkness in your life unfolded to be a great blessing? Count the times when apparent failures turned out to be causes of great admiration in your life. Through Jesus, our God is always with us. By allowing the Word of God to interpret the lives, we can increase our awareness of God being alive with us. "*Immanuel*", God with us, is the theme of Matthew's Gospel. The Gospel ends with Jesus blessing the disciples and saying, "*I will be with you always*". Yes, our God is with us always, and knowing it we also know that every day is a Christmas for us.



Revised Christmas Schedule



22 December	Confession 5PM-6PM
23 December	Confession 7PM-8PM
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 9AM (NOT 10AM), and morning tea to follow



Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love

We are commanded to love the Lord God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, with all our mind and our neighbour as ourselves.

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

Catechist Co-ordinator

Josie Pangilinan
 0406 515 050

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 19/12	6.45am Mass
Tue 20/12	6.45am Mass
Wed 21/12	6.45am Mass
Thu 22/12	6.45am Mass 5.00pm Confessions
Fri 23/12	6.45am Mass 7.00pm Confessions
Sat 24/12	5.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass 9.00pm Malayalam Mass
Sun 25/12	12.00am Solemn Midnight Mass 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass 11.30am Christmas Luncheon

25 DECEMBER 2022**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Mass	5PM VIGIL	MIDNIGHT	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob & Christine KENSEY	Charlie SCULLY & Jenny MICHAEL	Robert MCGINN	Dom PANGILINAN & William ANDREWS
MUSIC & SINGING	SALT ENLIGHT	PARISH CHOIR	Cyril EDWARDS, Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	TONGAN CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Mai NGUYEN	TBA	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Phirum DUCH
	Sharon SEBASTIAN	Joy SKERRITT	Joe MOSES	Rosalind EVANS
COMMENTATOR	Roshan SEBASTIAN	TBA	Karim KASSIS	Katrina YIP

Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica,
Teresa Escobar, Kata Jurcic

Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Gloria De Alstrandt; Anna
Manganaro

Saturday, 24 DECEMBER – NO 8AM MASS

*Family that pray together stay
together"*

**PILGRIM STATUE**

This week at

*Tannous & 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:**

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, Graham Turner, Sergio Eamiguel,
Arthur Doumit, Patsy Dutton, Joyce McDonald

Recently Deceased: Helen Baldoria,
Melissa MacRae, Jason Jose Colopen

Deceased: James Ward, Consuelo

Ibardolaza, Chona Victorino, George
Guanzon, Gloria Bolonia, Fatima Bolonia,
Mamerto Bolonia Sr, Joel Bolonia, Astrid
Bolonia, Winnie Guillena, Marylou Geronca

Anniversary: Eddie Leonardi, Cecil
Scharenguivel, Maria Yen Vu

Special Intentions: Alo Foliaki & Family,
Tanya Rahme, Charlie Nakhoul & Family

Other Intentions: Holy Souls in Purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

Is 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **R**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **R**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R**

Second Reading

Rom 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in

him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.'

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Communion Antiphon

Is 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 52:7-10**

2nd Reading: **Heb 1:1-6**

Gospel: **Jn 1:1-18**

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 1:18-24

Living the Gospel – Advent

Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us now, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again.

Scriptural context

Today's first reading is from the prophet Isaiah and contains the prophecy that is quoted in the gospel passage. The book of Isaiah was written at a time when the people of Israel were under threat and had once again fallen away from their covenant with God. Isaiah's prophecy is one of the 'Messiah' prophecies but despite the future-focus is a promise to the people of the time that God-is-with-us. The promise is that God-is-with-us now, despite the conditions we find ourselves in, and God-will-be-with-us in the future when God's Messiah is born of a young woman.

Gospel Focus – What's in a name?

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.

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



Amanda Dowdell Appointed Assistant Principal

Amanda Dowdell is announced as the Acting Assistant Principal at St Peter Chanel Primary School. She is currently a class teacher and a coordinator. She is one of our committed parishioners and a Lector at Berala.

We wish her all the best in her new role in 2023.



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Anastasia Salar & Jeremiah Agen

May they always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout their lives.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Lynda Voltz MP, along with our volunteers, marked the launch of our Christmas Luncheon 2022.



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

ST PETER CHANEL &
ST JOSEPH PARISH
BERALA
INVITE YOU TO JOIN:

KIDS PARISH CAMP



**FUN GROUP GAMES AND
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
OVER 3 DAYS!**

WHEN? January 19, 20 & 21, 2023 10am-2pm	AGES? 5-12 year olds	WHERE? Parish Hall 62 Kingland Rd	COST? 1st child: \$30 \$25 for each consecutive child
--	--------------------------------	--	---

Provided:

- ✓ Lots of Fun
- ✓ Lunch
- ✓ Morning Tea
- ✓ Prayer
- ✓ Activities for all ages

Registration Link
shorturl.at/bfiH1



More Information info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Parish & School Picnic Day

JOIN US TO WELCOME THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR
Bring your family and a picnic lunch and be ready to enjoy a day of fun activities and family games. This is a wonderful way for our parish and school communities to get to know each other, and especially for families who are new to our parish and school.



CAMPBELL HILL PIONEER
RESERVE
LARGE CAZEBO
67 CAMPBELL HILL RD
GUILDFORD, NSW, 2161

When? JANUARY 29TH, 2023
10AM - 2PM

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AND
ENJOYING A FUN DAY TOGETHER**



God showed his love through his Son

From the Letter to Diognetus

No man has ever seen God or known him, but God has revealed himself to us through faith, by which alone it is possible to see him. God, the Lord and maker of all things, who created the world and set it in order, not only loved man but was also patient with him. So he has always been, and is, and will be: kind, good, free from anger, truthful; indeed, he and he alone is good.

He devised a plan, a great and wonderful plan, and shared it only with his Son. As long as he preserved this secrecy and kept his own wise counsel he seemed to be neglecting us, to have no concern for us. But when through his beloved Son he revealed and made public what he had prepared from the very beginning, he gave us all at once gifts such as we could never have dreamt of, even sight and knowledge of himself.

When God had made all his plans in consultation with his Son, he waited until a later time, allowing us to follow our own whim, to be swept along by unruly passions, to be led astray by pleasure and desire. Not that he was pleased by our sins: he only tolerated them. Not that he approved of that time of sin: he was planning this era of holiness. When we had been shown to be undeserving of life, his goodness was to make us worthy of it. When we had made it clear that we could not enter God's kingdom by our own power, we were to be enabled to do so by the power of God.

When our wickedness had reached its culmination, it became clear that retribution was at hand in the shape of suffering and death. The time came then for God to make known his kindness and power (how immeasurable is God's generosity and love!). He did not show hatred for us or reject us or take vengeance; instead, he was patient with us, bore with us, and in compassion took our sins upon himself; he gave his own Son as the price of our redemption, the holy one to redeem the wicked, the sinless one to redeem sinners, the just one to redeem the unjust, the incorruptible one to redeem the corruptible, the immortal one to redeem mortals. For what else could have covered our sins but his sinlessness? Where else could we, wicked and sinful as we were, have found the means of holiness except in the Son of God alone?

How wonderful a transformation, how mysterious a design, how inconceivable a blessing! The wickedness of the many is covered up in the holy One, and the holiness of One sanctifies many sinners.

Jubilee Hall

Dear Santa, I've been good all year no matter what the evidence might suggest...

Love, Tyler

Christmas at the Cathedral



"May we be in this world a ray of **light** which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to hearts of all men and women" ~ Pope Francis

Brenda goes on sabbatical leave

By Father Thomas

It has been a challenging yet fulfilling year for our Catechists and I congratulate the team for their efforts and commitment.

Coordinator Brenda Wendt-Hussein goes on a one-year sabbatical this month to take a well-deserved break after serving for 16 years in this ministry. We wish Brenda all the best with her health.

In the meantime, I would like to announce the appointment of Josie Pangilinan as Catechist Coordinator. Josie also brings 16 years experience as a Catechist into her new role.

In addition, she has valuable management experience from her family business and her work in other church ministry.

Josie brings new energy and ideas into the role of Catechist Coordinator and is innovative in her approach to SRE in the classroom. Welcome Josie.

Photo (right): Celebrating Christmas – Fr Thomas with Catechists Gwen, Josie, Daniel, Brenda and Mona.

Mona rejoins the team in 2023. Welcome back Mona!

Josie appointed



***Outgoing Coordinator
Brenda Wendt-Hussein***



***Incoming Coordinator
Josie Pangilinan***

I take this opportunity to thank our Catechists who have worked so hard to ensure that students receive Special Religious Education (SRE) in our three local public schools under the guidance and mentorship of Daniel Boland.

Thanks go to Fr Thomas for his support of the Catechist Ministry. Secretary Lea Baldoria has also helped us over the years often working to very tight deadlines. Thank you Lea for your tireless, efficient and enthusiastic approach.

~Brenda Wendt-Hussein

