



## 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](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](http://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

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

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY) YEAR A 25 DECEMBER 2022**

### Everyday Christmas Day



The Sydney Hobart Yacht race on Boxing Day is a tradition. It is a race of the sailing boats, notably not submarines. Anything out in the open and sailing together over water is more fit for a celebration than submerged water machines. And people flock at several vantage points between Circular Quay and North and South Heads to enjoy the spectacle than to speculate any activities deep under.

Christmas is celebrated like a yacht race. A team of crew get together and get busy on a racing yacht. So many yachts, with all hands on deck, together they move their yachts in one direction. So is Christmas with so many groups with coordinated activities with Christ's birth as the only focus and it is for common enjoyment. There are illuminations, light shows, cribs, shining stars, decorated trees, carols in public places, social gatherings, and all around it is colourful. It is a season when we care for the less fortunate and reach out to the lonely in a special way. God has come down to live with mere humans in its lowliness, and it is not a small matter. Our God is with us, and we want to celebrate it. And for Christian, therefore, faith is like sailing yachts, finding its way by the wind that is the Holy Spirit. Without "rub" (Spirit/wind), life can only float, not sail. Christians sailing together in their faith life is great inspiration and joy to the world. Without such public display of faith, however strong it may be, it cannot be inspirational to the world which needs it.

Accompanied by angels singing gloria, the shepherds came to the manger and recognised baby Jesus as God incarnate. If they had not been open to the Word of God, they would not have recognised the baby in the manger different to other babies. Only by allowing the Word of God to guide their vision and path, the shepherds could come to rejoice that our God has come to live with us in Jesus. When we allow the Word of God to interpret the ordinary experiences and events of our life, we will see our God actively present in our everyday life. Knowing that our God is with us always, makes each day a Christmas. So do not hesitate to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the light of your life and the world.

Jesus the light is not to be hidden under a basket. Christian faith celebrations are not to be hidden behind zoom Masses and a few occasional church visits. Don't let the pursuit of success hinder the Word and Spirit of God. As Christians we want to connect with Immanuel (God is with us) through Holy Communion, Bible reading, and Christ orientated charity. Let us look at the world through the prism of the Word of God and see our God with us always. Let us make every day a Christmas day!



Merry Christmas!  
and a Happy New Year!

Faith makes all things possible,  
Hope makes all things work,  
Love makes all things beautiful.  
May you have all three this Christmas.

May the Lord Jesus Christ  
Grant you peace and renew your strength  
For the years ahead!

**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.** Patricia Lay. Provides caring advice and advocacy to help families . 0447 529 122 | CCareline 13 18 19

**Alcohol & Drug Information Service:**  
 (Confidential) 02 9361 8000

**Spiritual Retreats:** Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - www.jamberooabbey.org.au/ retreats Ph: 4236 0533

**Carmelites Varroville** -  
 www.carmeliteretreats.com.au  
 Ph: 8795 3400

**Healing After Abortion:** 0400 092 555

**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 26/12	<b>St Stephen (Feast), Anniversary of Fr Thomas' Ordination, Boxing Day</b> 9.00am Mass
Tue 27/12	<b>St John, apostle &amp; evangelist (Feast)</b> 6.45am Mass
Wed 28/12	<b>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs (Feast)</b> 6.45am Mass
Thu 29/12	6.45am Mass
Fri 30/12	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph (Feast)</b> 6.45am Mass
Sat 31/1	<b>No 8AM Mass</b> 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 1/1	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

**1 JAN 2023 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Robert MCGINN	Amanda GAHAN
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	Cyril EDWARDS Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	SALT ENLIGHT
POWERPOINT	Parish Choir	Liva or Lavinia	Brewty Family
LECTOR/S	Renee SALAR	Rosalind EVANS	Hilary RIOFRIO
	Sharon SEBASTIAN	William ANDREWS	<b>Need Volunteer - TBA</b>
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Margaret THAM

**Cleaners SPC:** Marian Rosary Group

**Altar & Sacristy:** Group 4 Gloria De Alkstrand; Anna Manganaro

**Saturday 8AM**

**31 DECEMBER**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Joy SKERRITT

*"Family that pray together stay together"*



**PILGRIM STATUE**

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL  
Amarille & Flores Families**

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

**FROM THE LEGION OF MARY,  
BERALA**

**To host the Rosary Statue Legion of Mary, Berala call 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, Aurora Flores

**Recently Deceased:** Koh Boon Chor

**Deceased:** Ted Duffy, E Hordichek, Teresita Mortillero

**Anniversary:** Lenard Gabrielle

**Other Intentions:** Holy Souls in Purgatory.

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

*Matthew 2:10*

The Nativity of the Lord - Year A

5PM VIGIL MASS

24 December 2022

**First Reading**

**Is 62:1-5**

About Zion I will not be silent, about Jerusalem I will not grow weary, until her integrity shines out like the dawn and her salvation flames like a torch. The nations then will see your integrity, all the kings your glory, and you will be called by a new name, one which the mouth of the Lord will confer. You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord, a princely diadem in the hand of your God; no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken', nor your land 'Abandoned', but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding. Like a young man marrying a virgin, so will the one who built you wed you, and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so will your God rejoice in you.

**Second Reading**

**Acts 13:16-17. 22-25**

When Paul reached Antioch in Pisidia, he stood up in the synagogue, held up a hand for silence and began to speak: 'Men of Israel, and fearers of God, listen! The God of our nation Israel chose our ancestors, and made our people great when they were living as foreigners in Egypt; then by divine power he led them out. 'Then he made David their king, of whom he approved in these words, "I have selected David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart, who will carry out my whole purpose". To keep his promise, God has raised up for Israel one of David's descendants, Jesus, as Saviour, whose coming was

heralded by John when he proclaimed a baptism of repentance for the whole people of Israel. Before John ended his career he said, "I am not the one you imagine me to be; that one is coming after me and I am not fit to undo his sandal".

**Gospel**

**Mt 1:18-25**

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 told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with her, she gave birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Antiphons & Readings**

**Entrance Antiphon** Cf. Ex 16:6-7

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' **(R.)**

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **(R.)**

3. 'He will say to me: "You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me." I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.' **(R.)**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king.

**Alleluia!**

**Communion Antiphon** Cf. Is 40:5

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.



Scan the QR Code to **DONATE**  
Thank you!



*The angel said to them: 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'*

*~ Luke 2: 10*

The Nativity of the Lord - Year A

MIDNIGHT MASS

25 December 2022

**First Reading**

**Is 9:1-7**

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Second Reading**

**Ti 2:11-14**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness

and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

**Gospel**

**Lk 2:1-14**

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

**Antiphons & Readings**

**Entrance Antiphon Ps 2:7**

The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name. **(R.)**
2. Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**

3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad, let the sea and all within it thunder praise, let the land and all it bears rejoice, all the trees of the wood shout for joy at the presence of the Lord for he comes, he comes to rule the earth.' **(R.)**

4. With justice he will rule the world, he will judge the peoples with his truth. **(R.)**

**Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:10-11**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

**Alleluia!**

**Communion Antiphon Jn 1:14**

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*~ Luke 2:11*

The Nativity of the Lord - Year A

8AM & 10AM MASS

25 December 2022

**First Reading**

**Is 52:7-10**

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, 'Your God is king!' Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**Second Reading**

**Heb 1:1-6**

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.

**Gospel**

**Jn 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.' Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Antiphons & Readings**

**Entrance Antiphon Cf. Is 9:5**

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**(R) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **(R.)**

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **(R.)**

3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.' **(R.)**

4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music. With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth.

**Alleluia!**

**Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 97:3**

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Next week's Readings:**

1st Reading: **Nm 6:22-27**

2nd Reading: **Gal 4:4-7**

Gospel: **Lk 2:16-21**

**REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 1:1-18**

**Scriptural context – Matthew v Luke**

Ask a child (or even most adults) to describe the scene at the birth of Jesus and you will hear a confused combination of the two scriptural accounts with several non-scriptural additions. It is a shame that the two versions have merged into one as each is deserving of its own integrity. The Matthew account emphasises Jesus as the fulfilment of prophecy and has Wise Men as the witnesses to his birth in a house. It is from Luke that we have the much humbler birth in a manger witnessed by the lowly shepherds. Each has something different and distinct to say about Jesus and his mission.

**Gospel Focus – A Great Census?**

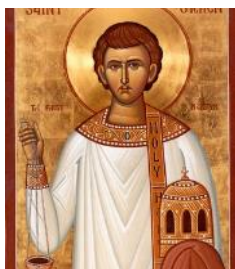
The decree of a census for the whole Roman world appears to be an unlikely event. A census of people in local regions was not unusual but a census that required people to return to their place of birth carries no historical validity. The gospel writer correctly places Mary and Joseph in their home town of Nazareth but prophecy indicated the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. The author needed an excuse for Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem. We must remember that the gospels are not to be read as historical accounts but rather as faith accounts of the life of Jesus.

**Historical Context – The Nativity scene**

St Francis of Assisi is credited with setting up the first nativity scene and thus establishing a tradition that is carried on today in homes, churches and public spaces in Christian communities everywhere. In 1223, in the town of Greccio he created a life size tableau of the nativity scene to heighten the awareness of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It included statues of the holy family and a live ox and donkey. The inclusion of the livestock has no scriptural support and it is to Francis that we owe the array of sheep, oxen and donkeys that have become standard inclusions in our nativity scenes.

**FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK**

**Monday, 26 December - St Stephen (Feast)**

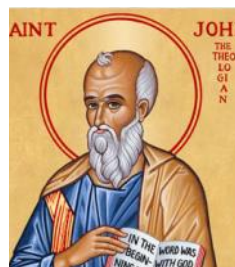


Died in Jerusalem about 35. The feast of Stephen has been celebrated on this day since the fourth century. A Greek-speaking Jew, one of seven appointed by the apostles for special service (diakonia). Died confessing Christ and seeking divine mercy for those who were stoning him. Named in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Remembered for preaching

with wisdom and the Spirit (Acts 6:10), as one "full of grace and power" who "did great wonders and signs among the people" (Acts 6:8).

**Mass of the Feast at 9AM**

**Tuesday, 27 December - St John, apostle (Feast)**



First-century Galilean fisherman, son of Zebedee, who, with his brother James, left their nets to follow Jesus. With Peter, these "sons of thunder" form an inner group among the twelve. Probably the "disciple whom Jesus loved" of the Fourth Gospel and, according to ancient tradition, the author of this

Gospel and also of three letters and the book of Revelation. Remembered for his contemplative reflection on the life and death of Jesus and for his emphasis on Christian love.

**Mass of the Feast at 6.45AM**

**Wednesday, 28 December - The Holy Innocents (Feast)**



In an attempt to kill the child Jesus, Herod ordered the massacre of all male children, two years old and under, in and around Bethlehem. The Holy Innocents have been honoured as martyrs for Christ since the fourth century and their feast has been celebrated on this day since the sixth century. In remembering them, the Church laments the suffering and

death of children everywhere and honours all who die in innocence.

**Mass of the Feast at 6.45AM**

**Friday, 30 December - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (Feast)**



This feast was established as part of the Christmas season in 1921 following promotion of the cult in the nineteenth century; it was linked to the octave of Christmas in 1969. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, itself subject to the difficulties and social pressures of its time, is offered as a model for Christian family life today

**Mass of the Feast at 6.45AM**

**Just for Laughs**

My wife said if she didn't like my Christmas gift she'd burn it. So I got her a candle.



## 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](mailto:sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

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?	AGES?	WHERE?	COST?
January 19, 20 & 21, 2023 10am-2pm	5-12 year olds	Parish Hall 62 Kingland Rd	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](http://shorturl.at/bfiH1)

SCAN ME

More Information [info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto: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.

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

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

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

## The Gospel Of Matthew Today

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

**7PM on Tuesday  
From 7 February 2023  
At Berala Church**



# Christmas Carols 2022



## Christian, remember your dignity

*Saint Leo the Great, pope*

Dearly beloved, today our Saviour is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest*, and they proclaim *peace to men of good will* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and *when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ*, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom.

Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.