



## 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: Tuesday 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.

**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A**

**19 MARCH 2023**

### Jesus Opens the Eyes



In the Gospel of John, one of the seven signs indicating Jesus as the Messiah is the Lord miraculously restoring the sight of a man born blind (*Ref John Chapter 9*). The man encounters Jesus twice, once at the beginning of the story and again at the end. In both cases it is Jesus who finds him, not the other way. Do you feel like left in the dark end of life, needing some enlightenment? Don't lose heart, Jesus will find you.

To blind man's realisation that Jesus the Messiah sent by God was a gradual revelation. In the beginning, when the Pharisees asked, "*where is he (Jesus)*" the response was "*I do not know*". In the next phase when the Pharisees asked the man to comment on the identity of Jesus, he said '*a prophet*'. This is a progress in his insight. By the time the Pharisees in the story questioned the divinity of Jesus, the man who received vision is insightful to say that Jesus is from God. In the final stage of his faith journey, the man is able to see Jesus and proclaims him as '*Son of God*' and worships him. So will it be with us too. Our faith is a journey. Through God's work with us in our darkness, slowly we come to appreciate Jesus as our personal saviour and worship him. We need to be patient pilgrims moving towards that full realisation. Unlike the Pharisees who, in spite of their devotedness to the religion, were not open to see signs of God's saving work. We need to be open to God's Word to see the signs of God alive and active in our midst.

If you are surrounded by challenging situations or crisis, the story of restoring sight is worth meditating on. John narrated the story of Jesus giving sight to the blind man in a crisis time. At the time of writing the Gospel of John (about 100 AD), Christians were in a crisis time. Most of the converts were from Judaism and, though they followed Jesus' teaching, still considered themselves part of Judaism. But majority of the Jews had a different idea. From about 80 AD, Jews started expelling the followers of Jesus from their synagogues. This was a painful experience for the Christians. To make things worse, families were divided between those who became Christian and those who remained Jews. Due to such tensions, many Christians were expelled from their homes by their own people who remained Jews. The social isolation, fear, and anxiety did not stop the early Christians from continuing to worship Jesus as their personal saviour. In fact it made them all the more resolute to do so. Open your minds and hearts to see God's work in and around you, in everyday of your life.

### Stations of the Cross

**Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the Church every Friday of Lent 6.00 – 6.30PM.**

The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day, beginning with His condemnation. You can make it a mini pilgrimage by moving with the leader (priest) from station to station. All are welcome to join this devotion in preparation for the Easter.



**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

**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 Dowdell, Amanda Gahan, Annuncia Sinisa, Dom Pangilinan, Josie Pangilinan, Jennifer Makerry, Michael Kim, Natasha Ellis, Susie Mravunac, Sr Cecilia Joseph, Sophia Brewty

**Finance Committee**

Brendon Nazareth (Chair), Joe Moses, Sylvia Jukic, Nader Badra

**Parish Schools**

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park  
 T. (02) 9644 9083

Principal—Sr Cecilia Joseph  
 Family Educator - Jenny Michael

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South  
 T. (02) 9646 1434

Acting Principal - Susie Mravunac  
 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 20/3	<b>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity) No Mass.</b>
Tue 21/3	6.45am Mass 7.00pm Lenten Bible Reflections
Wed 22/3	6.45am Mass 7.00pm 1st Reconciliation Session 4 (Jubilee Hall)
Thu 23/3	6.45am Mass
Fri 24/3	6.45am Mass 6.00pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 25/3	<b>The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)</b> 8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 26/3	7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

**26 MARCH 2023****5TH SUNDAY OF LENT**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Dom PANGILINAN	Charlie SCULLY	Jenny MICHAEL
MUSIC & SINGING	N/A	Cyril EDWARDS Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	SPC & SJW PRIMARY FAMILY MASS
POWERPOINT	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	
LECTOR/S	Renee SALAR Christine KENSEY	Robert MCGINN Maria SIMEONE	
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Alan THAM

**Cleaners SPC:** Maria Perica, Teresa Escobar, Kata Jurcic

**Altar & Sacristy:** Group 1 Gwen Bergstedt, Anita Yip

**Saturday 8AM****25 MARCH**

LECTOR FOR MASS	Rosalind EVANS
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*"Family that prays together stays together"*

**PILGRIM STATUE**

*This week the statue will be with the:*

**Manganaro & Iboudo Families**

To host the Pilgrim Statue and Rosary prayer please contact Mona Goubran on 9709 8701 or 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, Nazih Melhem, Danilo Carreon, Fiya Gourani, Zekia Al Asady, Graham Turner, Patsy Dutton, Aurora Flores, Olive Torino, Maureen Hynes, Giovanni Simeone, Joey Kiraz, Richard Langford, Maria Nobilo

**Deceased:** Giuseppe Leonardi

**Anniversary:** Kurian Kurunthanam, Anna Maria Roche, Mary Patricia McManus

**Other Intentions:** Holy souls in purgatory.

**Recently Deceased:** Theresa Chan, Steve McParlane

## ANTIPHONS & READINGS

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Is 66:10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

### First Reading

1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.'  
When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.'  
Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22 R. v.1

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R**

You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R**

### Second Reading

Eph 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated

and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

### Gospel Acclamation

Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38 (Shorter Form)

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

### Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 9:11,38

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

## Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Ez 37:12-14**

2nd Reading: **Rom 8:8-11**

Gospel: **Jn 11:1-45**

## REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 9:1-41

### Historical Context – Light of the World

The events of today's gospel passage occur within an extended passage of the gospel of John in which Jesus attends Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Jn 7:1 following). A feature of the feast was the illumination of the Temple. Pilgrims would cover the Temple with lights and torches so that it shone out over the entire city. It was during this feast that Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the World and, a few verses later, healed the blind man and brought light into his world.

### Living the Gospel—Lenten Light

The story of the man born blind is a perfect choice for the Lenten season. During this season we are invited once again to open our eyes to Jesus; to step out of darkness and into the light; to look towards the future with hope and not despair. When we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus at the Easter vigil, we celebrate the coming of the Light of the World into our lives. This annual call to turn away from darkness and walk in the light is a powerful and poetic call to focus our lives on the way of Jesus.

### Gospel Focus—None so blind

There's a very old saying that has its roots in the Bible but is not a direct quote from the Bible: 'There are none so blind as those who will not see.' It would be a fitting summary of today's passage for there are two movements between darkness and light that are evident in the story. Firstly, there is the blind man who can see. He can see physically but can also see the truth of who Jesus is. Secondly, there are the Jewish authorities who have physical sight but are completely blind to the truth of Jesus.

## FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

### Monday, 20 March - St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed



#### Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

St Joseph, the husband of the Virgin Mary and adoptive father of Jesus, was a descendant of King David and a carpenter by trade. During his betrothal to Mary he became distressed when he heard that she was with child,

but an angelic vision reassured him that this was all part of God's plan. After Jesus' birth he was warned in a dream to flee with his family to Egypt, in order to escape from King Herod. Joseph showed great faith in his willingness to do whatever God asked of him. St Joseph is the patron saint of many causes including families, expectant mothers, workers and people in doubt.

**No mass.**

### Saturday, 25 March - The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)



The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the

Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing

death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world.

We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

She is the virgin-mother who fulfils Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38). Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

**Mass of the Feast at 8.00am.**

## Church Roof Work

Now that the work to replace the roof of the church is approved by the Archbishop, we are progressing with the rest of the procedure. I have established Project Control Group (PCG) and chaired it recently. PCG will be responsible for overseeing the project, contract liaison, monitoring actual costs versus the QS budget, and approving progress payments.

We are in the process of receiving tenders for the work. Being a heritage work, it has its share of complexity. One of the conditions of the DA approval from Cumberland Council is to apply for a Construction Certificate, and it requires organising some more documents. I have directed to commence preparing them as well. This means it will take some more time before you see scaffoldings and fences around the Church.

## Pastoral Council

The main agenda of the recent meeting of the Pastoral Council was Parish Feast 2023. This year it will be celebrated on Sunday, 30 April, the day between the memorial of St Peter Chanel on 28 April and the feast St Joseph the Worker on 1 May. On the Sunday of the celebration, there will be only one Mass at it will be at 10 am. The celebration will start with a festive procession with the statue of St Joseph the Worker from SJW School grounds Auburn South. When it reaches SPC School grounds, others will join the procession carrying the relic of St Peter Chanel under a canopy. At the arrival of the solemn procession in the Church, Mass will start. The day is to finish with a lunch in the Hall. All parishioners and families from the schools are invited to bring a plate to share at the lunch.

Concern about under representation of the parish ministry groups in the Pastoral Council was raised at the meeting. Though both parish schools are well represented, most of the other ministries like Catechists, Sacramental Programs, Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care of the sick & homebound, Seniors ministry, Adult faith formation are not represented in the Council. Therefore, these ministries remain segregated, affecting the vibrancy of the parish life. The underlying problem is assessed as the lack of awareness about the Pastoral Council as a consultative and coordinating body. Considering it as another job many invitees refuse to commit to the Council, though they are enthusiastic about their own niche of the service. Work needs to be done to remedy this problem.

Walk with Christ 2023 will be on Sunday 11 June, Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Once again, courtesy to the Archdiocese, free bus will be made available for participants. The procession will be starting at Martin Place at 2 pm and finishing at St Mary's Cathedral. You will be required to book your seat on the bus.

*Hi Father Thomas,  
Just a short note of thanks  
for the "Ageing Well"  
Masterclasses. I was grateful to  
be involved & found them to be  
most informative. The Speakers  
from the Sponsors were  
most helpful, well spoken,  
knowledgeable & well informed.  
Am \$200 richer on my electricity  
which was an added bonus!  
Once again my sincere  
appreciation & thanks to you  
& the Sponsors. God bless you.  
always P. rd*

## Masterclasses

Last week we had the final session of the series of masterclasses for Ageing Well. It was organised by CatholicCare and we were blessed to be one of the three pilot parishes to run it.

The response of the participants was very encouraging. I would like to thank particularly, Chris Kensey and her team for organising, setting up, hospitality and running of the classes. Steven Hollai from the CatholicCare was very instrumental in getting resource personnel from various agencies and offering the program to the parish.

The Parish will be interested in organising similar awareness programs and help-outreach instructions in the future as well.

~Fr Thomas

My boss said I was too unreliable.  
"Can you give me an example of when I've been too unreliable?" I asked.  
"Yesterday's shift was a prime example," she replied.  
"What are you talking about? I didn't even work yesterday..."





## Third Sunday of Lent 18 & 19 March



Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.



## NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL



9646 1434  
2 New St  
Auburn



The Church Shop is stocked with new items! Check out some great items perfect for gifting!

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.



At St Joseph the Worker we love to volunteer our time and support people in need. Our students volunteered their time at our Open Days to give tours and answer questions about our school.



Our Lenten Almsgiving Project of collecting items for St Vincent de Paul helped many people over the weekend when the parish completed Night Patrol.



Yours faithfully,  
**Susie Mravunac**  
Acting Principal

### STJW THE BEST KEPT SECRET

## Playgroup is back on!!!

Thursday mornings 9.15am to 10.45am in the school hall  
(enter via the ramp on Renshaw Street)



Join us for storytime, singing and dancing, craft, painting and games. Please let your family, friends and neighbours with preschool aged children know that they are welcome to join us at our Playgroup sessions. For all enquiries contact our Family Educator at [natasha.ellis@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:natasha.ellis@syd.catholic.edu.au).

Welcome to

## ST PETER CHANEL PLAYGROUP

EVERY THURSDAY  
STARTING FEBRUARY 16, 2023

St Peter Chanel Parish Hall  
9am - 10.30am  
(enter via Kingsland Rd)

Free Play, Craft, Music, Dance and **LOADS OF FUN!**

Your child will develop social skills,  
fine motor skills and collaborative skills.

Cost - \$2

Bring a snack for your child. Morning tea is provided for mums and carers.

Email - [jenny.michael@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jenny.michael@syd.catholic.edu.au)

JOURNEY TO EASTER  
**WEEK 4 - THANK**

The focus for Easter can often be the material things. The chocolates, holidays and show bags may over-shadow the true meaning of the most important season in our church year.

The story of Lent, Holy Week and Easter is the basis of our faith. Through this gentle activity, the few moments spent together preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter can be a time when your family can slow down, pray together and remember what is important in our lives.

Each week during Lent you will receive a reflection with a specific focus. Of course these are things we do on a continual basis throughout Lent but the specific weekly challenges give a depth to each task and helps us reflect more deeply.

Each week during Lent a member of the family can choose which activity the family will practice, I have included ideas, you may wish to come up with your own ideas. I have also included prayers your family may use for each week during Lent. These prayers can be read by the children during mealtimes or bedtime. This family activity concludes with the joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, by lighting a candle in the center, just as the Paschal candle is lit at the Easter Sunday Mass.

May this Lenten journey bring you closer together as a family and lead you closer to Christ's unfailing love.



**THE FOCUS OF THIS WEEK IS: THANK**

The challenge for week 4 is to make time your day to give thanks. People who have an attitude of gratitude are more likely to live a life of happiness and compassion.

Below you will find a few suggestions:

- Be thankful for your many blessings both big and small.
- Say a prayer of thanks.
- Each day during Lent think of three things for which you are grateful. You may want to write them down and/or share them with a family member.

**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT**



**GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-3; 11-32**

Loving God,  
 I can change the world by my thoughts and actions.  
 When others see the good things I do, they feel like doing the same.  
 They see that I follow the example of Jesus  
 and that might make them want to follow him too.  
 Help me God, to be a person who inspires others to do good  
 so that all will come to love and serve You.  
 Amen



**Give Thanks**



**I WONDER WHOSE WORLD I HAVE CHANGED?**

Thankfulness is more than an expression; it is an attitude of life. When we are thankful we are better able to experience blessings in our lives. The challenge for this week is to thank someone in your life who has expressed God's goodness to you. This week also challenges you to express God's goodness to others in your life.



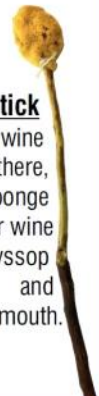
**Hammer and Nails**

Lord Jesus Christ, you let Yourself be nailed to the Cross, accepting the terrible cruelty of this suffering, the destruction of your Body and your dignity. You did not try to escape or to lessen Your suffering. You endured this because of your immense love for us.



**Hyssop Stick**

A jar full of sour wine was there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth.



**Become a CatholicCare Companion**

To find out more call

**131819**

Catholiccare.org

connect@catholiccare.org



CatholicCare is searching for local volunteers to be with people as they experience times of

change, challenge and uncertainty.

If you are a good listener who is caring, non-judgmental and compassionate, we'd love to hear from you. The next volunteer training will be held on Tuesday, 16 May.

To find out more, please call Jacqui Willoughby, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 0426 773 658 or 13 18 19.

Lent is the time for greater love,  
 listen to Jesus' thirst...

*'Repent and believe'*

What are we to repent?  
 Our indifference, our hardness of heart.

What are we to believe?  
 Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart  
 and in the poor - He knows your weakness.

He wants only your love,  
 wants only the chance to love you.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



## Christ is the way to the light, the truth and the life

*From a treatise on John by St Augustine*

The Lord tells us: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. In these few words he gives a command and makes a promise. Let us do what he commands so that we may not blush to covet what he promises and to hear him say on the day of judgement: "I laid down certain conditions for obtaining my promises. Have you fulfilled them?" If you say: "What did you command, Lord our God?" he will tell you: "I commanded you to follow me. You asked for advice on how to enter into life. What life, if not the life about which it is written: With you is the fountain of life?"

Let us do now what he commands. Let us follow in the footsteps of the Lord. Let us throw off the chains that prevent us from following him. Who can throw off these shackles without the aid of the one addressed in these words: You have broken my chains? Another psalm says of him: The Lord frees those in chains, the Lord raises up the downcast.

Those who have been freed and raised up follow the light. The light they follow speaks to them: I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness. The Lord gives light to the blind. Brethren, that light shines on us now, for we have had our eyes anointed with the eye-salve of faith. His saliva was mixed with earth to anoint the man born blind. We are of Adam's stock, blind from our birth; we need him to give us light. He mixed saliva with earth, and so it was prophesied: Truth has sprung up from the earth. He himself has said: I am the way, the truth and the life.

We shall be in possession of the truth when we see face to face. This is his promise to us. Who would dare to hope for something that God in his goodness did not choose to promise or bestow?

We shall see face to face. The Apostle says: Now I know in part, now obscurely through a mirror, but then face to face. John the Apostle says in one of his letters: Dearly beloved, we are now children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. We know that when he is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. This is a great promise.

If you love me, follow me. "I do love you," you protest, "but how do I follow you?" If the Lord your God said to you: "I am the truth and the life," in your desire for truth, in your love for life, you would certainly ask him to show you the way to reach them. You would say to yourself: "Truth is a great reality, life is a great reality; if only it were possible for my soul to find them!"

### OTHER NOTICES

#### Day of the Unborn Child

Feast of the Annunciation Mass and Procession  
Sunday 26th March at St Mary's Cathedral  
- 10:30am Mass (Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP as  
Principal Celebrant) | - 12 noon Street Procession  
- 1:30pm Benediction |

#### Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat, 25-26 March 2023

An opportunity for single women aged 16-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)

#### Mission: One Heart Many Voices

Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia invite you to save the date for the sixth biennial national Mission Conference. Three days of professional and personal development focused on mission. Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May, 2023 | SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney. Early bird closes April 12, 2023. See [www.mohmv.com.au](http://www.mohmv.com.au) for more information.

#### Archdiocesan marriage preparation course: Of Life and Love

20-21st May 2023 | St Christopher's Church, Holsworthy, 195 Heathcote Rd, Holsworthy. The course will provide opportunity for formation from marriage experts, time for reflection, couple discussion and reception of the sacraments. Register by the 10th of May at [www.trybooking.com/CGMSP](http://www.trybooking.com/CGMSP).

#### Catholic Help with Alcoholism and Addiction

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

#### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Trace the journey of Jesus from the land of his birth to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice in this 14-day Holy Land pilgrimage to Jordan & Israel led by Fr Salas Muttathukattil MSFS. For inquiries & bookings 1300 721 561 or [info@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:info@magiholidays.com.au)