



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

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

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

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.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

26 MARCH 2023

Ezekiel, Lazarus, and New Life



Many lives are lost and many more lives are made miserable in the Ukrainian War. There are many innocent people caught up in the cross fire. In a similar way, there was a man whose dearest wife was killed by armies who were fighting to take over the city. That man was devastated to hear of his wife's death in the hands of the armies. He was a God-fearing religious man. God revealed to him that his grief was to match the grief of God over his beloved people. Therefore, God asked him not to grieve over his wife. He was to steel himself to face the tragedy that had come upon his city as a consequence of its sins. That man was Ezekiel, an elite priest of Jerusalem, and this incident happened about 600 years before Christ. Jerusalem was overrun by Babylonian invaders and the Israelites were taken to captivity into a foreign land. They were feeling hopeless in the face of it all. In such a situation, God's promise of the new life was revealed through Ezekiel. What the prophet spoke was God's revelation for the Israelites who were like dead men walking. Ezekiel spoke God's words, *"I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live"* (Ez37:13). While it generated hope for a new life of settling back in their lost land, Israel, the primary message was that of a new life that is received through the forgiveness of sin. The ultimate price of sin is death, and the best of hope should be the victory over death. It was to happen six centuries later in Jesus. What Ezekiel revealed to the deported Israelites in Babylon was also a prophecy of the salvation plan to be realised in Jesus.

Jesus, as the son of God, has power over death and life. In Chapter 11 of John's Gospel we see Jesus raising Lazarus to life. The gospel says, when he heard that his friend Lazarus was mortally sick, he stayed two more days before making his way to Bethany. Then when he arrived, his friends Mary and Martha were grieving over the death of their brother Lazarus. Mary seemed to indicate that Jesus was insensitive to the pain of his friends when she said, *"Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died."* People also echoed similar sentiments when they said, *"he opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?"* Isn't it typical of our human nature to blame God for his lack of response when times are hard and painful? In this situation the sisters and the people gathered there seemed to be more in the dark than Lazarus who was buried in a tomb. Bringing Lazarus back to life is a sign that Jesus, as God, is the Lord of Life and Death. Jesus is the resurrection and life. Through raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus gives us hope and a new life, and we need not despair in darkness.

"Jesus wept" (John 11:35). Moved by the crying Mary and the mourners with her, Jesus began to weep. It is puzzling considering the deliberate nature of his delay. Yet it contains a revelation about Jesus, the Son of God. *'Jesus wept'* is the shortest verse in the New Testament. This verse highlights the two natures of Jesus. Lazarus and his sisters were close friends of Jesus, and he was clearly emotional about the death and its effect on Martha and Mary. Therefore, in his humanity, he wept. But in his divinity Jesus raised Lazarus to life. The fact that Jesus is about to restore Lazarus to life does not deny his human expression of grief.

Parish Priest

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Sacramental Co-ordinator

Sophia Brewty
 Tue & Wed 10am-3pm
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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, 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.jamberoobbey.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 27/3	No Mass.
Tue 28/3	6.45am Mass 7.00pm Lenten Bible Reflections
Wed 29/3	6.45am Mass 7.00pm Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation
Thu 30/3	6.45am Mass
Fri 31/3	6.45am Mass 6.00pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 1/4	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession Palm Sunday 5.00pm Blessing of Palms & Vigil Mass
Sun 2/4	Palm Sunday 8.00am Blessing of Palms & Mass 10.00am Blessing of Palms & Mass

2 APRIL 2023**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Charlie Scully	Roland JAVIER
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	N/A	SALT ENLIGHT
POWERPOINT	Parish Choir	Need Volunteer	Brewty Family
LECTOR/S	Mai NGUYEN	Robert MCGINN	Hilary RIOFRIO
	Joy SKERRITT	MICHAEL CHOW	Phirum DUCH

PASSION NARRATIVE SPECIAL ROSTER

GOSPEL NARRATOR	Noeline DONNELLAN	Catherine MCGINN	Rosalind EVANS
GOSPEL CROWD	Katrina YIP	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Jenny MICHAEL
GOSPEL OTHER	Rosalind EVANS	Maria SIMEONE	Susie MRVUNAC

Cleaners SPC: Uisa Family**Altar & Sacristy:** Group 2 Catherine Naidu-Narayan; Francis Lenette; Chantal Collet**Saturday 8AM****1 APRIL**

LECTOR FOR MASS	Christine KENSEY
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"Family that prays together stays together"

**PILGRIM STATUE**

This week the statue will be with the:

Baudille & Ilboudo 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**Special Intentions:** Scully Family, Baldoria Family**Other Intentions:** Holy souls in purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 42:1-2

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

Ez 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **R**

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **R**

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **R**

Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **R**

Second Reading

Rom 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation

See Jn 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45 (Shorter Form)

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 11:26

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 50:4-7**

2nd Reading: **Phil 2:6-11**

Gospel: **Mt 26:14-27:66**

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 11:1-45

Scriptural context – Jesus wept

'Jesus wept' is the shortest verse in the New Testament. Just two little words carry a world of emotion and speak volumes about Jesus. Pope Leo I used this verse to highlight the two natures of Jesus, pointing out that in his humanity, Jesus wept for the death of his friend, but in his divinity Jesus raised Lazarus to life. Lazarus and his sisters were close friends of Jesus and Jesus is clearly emotional about the death and its effect on Martha and Mary. That Jesus is about to restore Lazarus to life does not deny the grief and mourning at Lazarus' death.

Living the Gospel— Unbind him, let him go free

To see a man bound up for burial suddenly come walking from his tomb must have been an unnerving experience to say the least. However, Jesus calmly commands the astonished onlookers to 'unbind him, let him go free'. These words speak to us today as we come to the end of the Lenten season and approach the celebration of Easter. What are the things that 'bind' us? From what do we need to be released so that we may 'go free'? Are they bindings placed by ourselves or others? What will it take to be unbound?

Gospel Focus— Death for Life

The gospel writer paints the picture that Jesus is fully conscious of the implications of his return to Judea. As the events of the Passion unfold through this gospel, the reader has a very clear impression in their mind that if Jesus had not come to Judea; had not raised Lazarus; then he would not have been arrested and crucified. The reader is also drawn into the revelation that the sacrifice of Jesus was not solely for Lazarus but rather for all humanity. This realisation leads the reader to the ultimate humbling conclusion that if the sacrifice of Jesus was for people then the reader himself is also the recipient of that sacrifice.

NEWS

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday 2 April

5.00pm Blessing of Palm Vigil Mass (1 April)

8.00am Blessing of Palm, Mass

10.00am Blessing of Palm, Mass

Monday 3 April

6.45am Mass

7.30am-9.00am Confession

5.00pm-7.00pm Confession

Tuesday 4 April

6.45am Mass

7.30am-9.00am Confession

5.00pm-7.00pm Confession

Wednesday 5 April

6.45am Mass

7.30am-9.00am Confession

5.00pm-7.00pm Confession



Holy Thursday 6 April

10.30am Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Last Supper, Washing of feet, Adoration

Good Friday 7 April

10.00am Stations of the Cross

3.00pm Passion Service and veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday 8 April

7.00pm Easter Vigil, Blessing of Fire & Water, Adult Baptism

Easter Sunday 9 April

8.00am Mass

10.00am Mass

NEW RCIA Certification Course

We are looking for new members to join the RCIA team and now certification is available to those who are interested.

Now more than ever, people are coming to realise the desire for God in their hearts, and we are all called by our baptism to Go Make Disciples by walking with them. The Archdiocese of Sydney will offer the RCIA Certification Course to help you learn, live, and share your faith with others!

The course will cover the following aspects:

- A deep dive into the four periods of RCIA – Pre-catechumenate, Catechumenate, Purification and Enlightenment, and Mystagogy;
- Understanding the three major Rites of the RCIA liturgical journey);
- The three formation aspects that govern the entire process – pastoral, catechetical, and liturgical;
- How to walk with those with different Christian backgrounds and those with particular circumstances (cohabitating, civilly married, Orthodox backgrounds, other religious beliefs etc.);
- Resources to ensure a solid foundation to stay organised and on track throughout the process; and

This year's course will have a greater emphasis on evangelisation and what it means to walk with people towards conversion.

Please register for this free online course of six sessions beginning on 3 May via the link – <https://forms.gle/wQNeFtxxeKnYhFzD7>.

For more information, please get in touch with Simon at simon.yeak@sydneycatholic.org or 0427 536 356.





NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL



9646 1434
2 New St
Auburn



St Joseph has been so busy celebrating! In the last week we have celebrated the Solemnities of St Patrick and St Joseph, prayed for Harmony in the world and challenged ourselves on International Mathematics Day!

We have also continued to be the Face of Jesus to others this Lent with our active volunteer and fundraising efforts for St Vincent de Paul and Caritas Australia!

Yours faithfully,
Susie Mravunac
Acting Principal



STJW THE BEST KEPT SECRET

JOURNEY TO EASTER

WEEK 5 - SERVE

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: SERVE

LENTEN SERVICE CHALLENGE

Take something ON for Lent this year!

Week 5 challenges you to think critically about how your actions value others. Below you will find a few suggestions:

- During Lent spend a day or a few hours helping someone else in your community or family - it may be helping an elderly relative with shopping.
- Support a local charity during Lent - serving food to those in need, donations of clothing or giving your personal time.
- Support a justice campaign - spend time becoming better informed about an issue such as - homelessness, refugees, climate change.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:20-30

Loving God,
sometimes I don't feel happy.
Bad things happen and I feel sad and afraid.
Help me to remember that You are truly my Father in Heaven
and I can always talk to You when things don't go as planned.
Remind me that you are always with me
in hard times as well as the good times.
Amen



I WONDER HOW GOD HEARS SO MANY PEOPLES PRAYERS AT ONCE?

God values everyone equally and immensely. When we express this to each other we are experiencing life with more love. This week challenges you to think critically about how your actions value others.



Fifth Sunday of Lent 25 & 26 March



Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people

whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations.

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, or by calling 1800 024 413.

They Cast Lots for His Clothes

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier.

They also took His tunic: now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

So they said to one another,

"Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it."

Thus Scripture was fulfilled:

"they divided my garments among them, they cast lots for my clothes."



Jesus is Pierced with a Spear

To make sure that Jesus was dead, a Roman soldier stabbed Him in the side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

Volunteers Needed

In preparation for Palm Sunday, we are looking for volunteers to help cut palm leaves on Friday, 31 March at the church lawn (straight after the Stations of the Cross 6PM). Please bring your garden shears with you. Thank you! !

1ST RECONCILIATION CLASSES

Yesterday being the last class, we did a visual/edible activity on the prodigal son. A pig as a reminder that no matter how low or dirty we feel, we can seek out God's goodness and sweetness in the sacrament of reconciliation.



It would be a good idea to mention to keep these kids and their families in your prayers as they receive their sacrament next week.

~Sophia Brewty, Sacramental Co-ordinator

The mystery of man's reconciliation with God

From a letter of Saint Leo the Great, pope

Lowliness is assumed by majesty, weakness by power, mortality by eternity. To pay the debt of our sinful state, a nature that was incapable of suffering was joined to one that could suffer. Thus, in keeping with the healing that we needed, one and the same mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, was able to die in one nature, and unable to die in the other.

He who is true God was therefore born in the complete and perfect nature of a true man, whole in his own nature, whole in ours. By our nature we mean what the Creator had fashioned in us from the beginning, and took to himself in order to restore it.

For in the Saviour there was no trace of what the deceiver introduced and man, being misled, allowed to enter. It does not follow that because he submitted to sharing in our human weakness he therefore shared in our sins.

He took the nature of a servant without stain of sin, enlarging our humanity without diminishing his divinity. He emptied himself; though invisible he made himself visible, though Creator and Lord of all things he chose to be one of us mortal men. Yet this was the condescension of compassion, not the loss of omnipotence. So he who in the nature of God had created man, became in the nature of a servant, man himself.

Thus the Son of God enters this lowly world. He comes down from the throne of heaven, yet does not separate himself from the Father's glory. He is born in a new condition, by a new birth.

He was born in a new condition, for, invisible in his own nature, he became visible in ours. Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp. Existing before time began, he began to exist at a moment in time. Lord of the universe, he hid his infinite glory and took the nature of a servant. Incapable of suffering as God, he did not refuse to be a man, capable of suffering. Immortal, he chose to be subject to the laws of death.

He who is true God is also true man. There is no falsehood in this unity as long as the lowliness of man and the pre-eminence of God coexist in mutual relationship.

As God does not change by his condescension, so man is not swallowed up by being exalted. Each nature exercises its own activity, in communion with the other. The Word does what is proper to the Word, the flesh fulfils what is proper to the flesh.

One nature is resplendent with miracles, the other falls victim to injuries. As the Word does not lose equality with the Father's glory, so the flesh does not leave behind the nature of our race.

One and the same person – this must be said over and over again – is truly the Son of God and truly the son of man. He is God in virtue of the fact that *in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*. He is man in virtue of the fact that *the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*.



A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."