

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/UCB8a1q1q1q1q1q1q1q1q1q1)

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.



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

Divine Mercy Sunday

16 APRIL 2023

Thomas and Faith

Churches swelled with the faithful at Easter ceremonies; the congregations doubled or tripled! The faith in resurrected Christ is popular as always. Yet seventy or so percent of Catholics in our area have not darkened the church with their shadow. They might be questioning “*Did Christ really resurrect, and is he actually with us?*” Only faith can answer that question. John is not about doubting toms. John’s Gospel, written in the early 2nd century, affirms the resurrection. For John the issue was not any doubt about Jesus’ resurrection, but the difference between those who have and haven’t seen Jesus.

By the time John was writing the Gospel, there were many converts who did not have the privilege of knowing Jesus personally. The disciples who met Jesus personally were considered superior by others. John’s narrative is to be read in this context of the presumed superiority of the early disciples over the later ones. We are also aware that John’s language is symbolic.

On the first day of the week is the beginning of creation. The disciples who locked themselves up because of the fear of the outside world were like dead men walking and their experience of the world around was that of chaotic and lifeless world. They needed the life giving presence of God, and they got it. Risen Jesus, the Word of God, appeared to them and breathed on them and said, “*Receive the Holy Spirit.*” It reminds us of the creation narrative in Genesis. The breath of God created order and life out of chaos. Humans were created by God breathing into the figure made out of the earth. Resurrected Jesus breathed on the frightened disciples and they were made into a new creation. Jesus gifted them with peace, joy and the Holy Spirit.

Eight days later, Jesus appears to the disciples again. This time, Thomas who did not meet Jesus at the beginning of the week was also present. He now represents the later converts to the Church. To them also the risen Jesus appears with gifts of forgiveness, peace and joy. It is the same Jesus who appeared at both times, the same one who was crucified. To make it clear, Jesus shows his wounds. With this vision of Jesus, Thomas makes the ultimate profession of faith; saying, “*My Lord and My God.*” Though late to meet Jesus, nevertheless Thomas is blessed same as the rest of the disciples who had met Jesus earlier. The later comers into Christianity are equally blessed as the earlier disciples.

The Gospel of John singles out Thomas to paint the picture of an ideal disciple. While other companions of Jesus were afraid to go with him to Jerusalem from Bethany, Thomas said, “*Let us also go with him and die with him*” (Ref John 11:16). He was also very eager to follow Jesus always and to all places. Therefore, Thomas said, “*Lord we do not know where you are going. Then how can we know the way?*” (Ref John 14:5). Because of the intensity of Thomas’ love for Christ, he was upset at the news that Jesus appeared to other disciples in his absence. Therefore, he said, “*Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.*” (Ref John 20:25) It is such intense love for Jesus and strong desire to follow him which makes you a true disciple of Jesus. Our bonding with the Body of Christ (the Church) help us profess Jesus as our Lord and God, just as Thomas did.



Divine Mercy Prayer

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Found of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

I trust in You! (repeat 3x)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (repeat 3x)

Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, We trust in You.

Parish Priest

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 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), 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.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 17/4	No Mass.
Tue 18/4	6.45am Mass 7.00 pm Bible Study—The Gospel of Matthew
Wed 19/4	6.45am Mass
Thu 20/4	6.45am Mass
Fri 21/4	6.45am Mass
Sat 22/4	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 23/4	7.45 Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

23 APRIL 2023**3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Dom PANGILINAN	Charlie SCULLY	Jenny MICHAEL
MUSIC & SINGING	N/A	Cyril EDWARDS Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	Alannah KASSIS
POWERPOINT	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Maria SIMEONE	Katrina YIP
	Renee SALAR	Robert MCGINN	Sharon SEBASTIAN
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**22 APRIL**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Joy SKERRITT

*"Family that pray together
 stay together"*

**Pilgrim Statue**

This week at

La Torre family

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: Virginia Naidu, Veronica Jacobs, Nazih Melhem, Danilo Carreon, Fiya

Special Intentions: Patrick Gabriel

Gourani, Zekia Al Asady, Graham Turner, Patsy Dutton, Aurora Flores, Olive Torino, Maureen Hynes, Giovanni Simeone, Joey Kiraz, Richard Langford, Maria Nobilo, Roland Javier

Other Intentions: Holy souls in purgatory.

Recently deceased : Melcom Whelan

Deceased: John Reid

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

1 Pt 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **R**

I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper. The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just. **R**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **R**

Second Reading

1 Pt 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoiled or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been

tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Communion Antiphon

Cf Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

2nd Reading: 1 Pt 1:17-21

Gospel: Lk 24:13-35

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 20:19-31

Historical Context – My Lord and my God

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God.

Have you thought? Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

Scriptural context – Not an ending?

The final two verses of today's gospel passage (Jn 20:30-31) read like the conclusion to the whole gospel. They are a statement of finality about the purpose for writing the gospel and something of a blessing for those who read it. Yet, surprisingly, there is another whole chapter that follows this passage that deals with still more post-resurrection appearances. Most scripture scholars believe that the end of Chapter 20 was the original ending of the gospel and that Chapter 21 is a later addition – possibly added by the community for whom the gospel was originally written.

NEWS



Latest news on the sacrament First Holy Communion 2023.

The parish is yet again inviting families to enrol their child for the sacrament of First Holy Communion which will be celebrated at our parish on:

Saturday 1 July 2023 at 05.00pm & Sunday 2 July 2023 at 10.00am



Kindly use the QR Code or Link for all the latest information and registration process .

[Holy Communion – St Peter Chanel & St Joseph \(stpeter-stjoseph.org.au\)](http://stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

PS: This link will expire on 4 May 2023 and you will no longer be able to access it after this date.

Please feel free to contact me via phone or email, should you need support. We look forward in sharing this journey with you and your family.

God bless,

Sophia Brewty

Sacramental Coordinator

Email: sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Phone: (02) 9644 7787

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with the church cleaning once a month, commencing in May. If you are available to help, please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787. Thank you!

Parish Feast

10th Anniversary of the Parish!

It is ten years ago two parishes were amalgamated to create the parish of St Peter Chanel and St Joseph. Therefore, this year is a milestone. Let us celebrate it!

The two patrons of the Parish, St Peter Chanel and St Joseph the Worker have their memorial feast days only a couple of days apart, 28 April (St Peter Chanel) and 1 May (St Joseph the Worker). **This year we can celebrate both feasts together on Sunday, 30 April.**

Both SPC School and SJW School will be combining the festivities for their respective patron saints on 30 April. The day will start with a procession, carrying the statue of St Joseph the Worker from SJW School grounds at Auburn South to SPC School grounds. SJW students, parents and parishioners of Auburn South area are asked to gather in the school grounds by 9 am for the procession. The solemn procession will be accompanied by ceremonial brollies, colourful flags and banners. Upon reaching Regents Park grounds, SPC families and other parishioners will join the procession. The relic of St Peter Chanel will be carried under a canopy and will join the procession to the Church. A solemn Mass to follow.



There will be a multicultural lunch in the Jubilee Hall to finish the celebrations. You are welcome bring food, especially of your home cuisine/culture to the shared lunch. **Please nominate in the form provided at the church foyer what kind of food you are bringing.**

Tateama Hehea will be leading the choir for the day. She will be happy to hear from volunteers to her to sing.

Save the date: Sunday, 30 April 2023

At 99, Dorothy's a blessing for Berala
Read about it in this week's Catholic Weekly



WARC FIRSTCPR

St Peter Chanel & St Joseph, Berala is participating in a program called FirstCPR that involves education and training in responding to cardiac arrest in the community.

As part of this program, we are hosting a 1-hour CPR education session conducted by The Michael Hughes Foundation.

Join us on **Tuesday 2nd May at 10.30am at Jubilee Hall, 62 Kingsland Road, Berala.**

- Learn how a cardiac arrest differs from a heart attack.
- Learn how to perform CPR.
- Learn how to use an Automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Practice on a CPR manikin.

Reserve your spot by registering here: <https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=8N43JJY7TPYFHYY>
For any questions, please contact warc.firstcpr@sydney.edu.au.

Congratulations the Newest Members of our Faith Family, Born of Water and the Holy Spirit

Welcome to the new members of our faith family, David Phillips and Katy Tepermann who were baptised and confirmed at the Easter Vigil. The parish congratulate these new Christians and look forward to their participation in the ministries. A special thanks to Andrew Tham and Katrina Yip who were the faith instructors and mentors for them.

Congratulations also to Mark Badar and Nancy Manalastas on their reception of Confirmation and Eli Tepermann on making his First Holy Communion.



*On this Joyous Day, may you remember, all your life, God's blessings, grace and everlasting love on this special occasion. Congratulations!
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace. Romans 15:13*



**New Catholic Inquiry
at 7 pm on Thursday, 27 April.
Contact Fr Thomas to Join**



An Extension to the Carpark. 12 more car spaces to meet the growing demands

Church Roof Work

Tendering process for the replacement of the Church roof is underway. As per the DA, we are to get a Construction Certificate and it is being organised now. The replacement of the roof with zinc is to commence in the Spring. The good news is that we have managed to reduce the cost to nearly half the original estimate. Thanks to many generous contributors for their help. Thanks to the whole parish for your patience.



THANK YOU!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2023. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion and donate online.

Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

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.

Just for Laughs

A teacher is talking to a student.
Teacher: Did your father help you with your homework?
Student: No, he did it all by himself.



A new creation in Christ

From a sermon by Saint Augustine

I speak to you who have just been reborn in baptism, my little children in Christ, you who are the new offspring of the Church, gift of the Father, proof of Mother Church's fruitfulness. All of you who stand fast in the Lord are a holy seed, a new colony of bees, the very flower of our ministry and fruit of our toil, my joy and my crown. It is the words of the Apostle that I address to you: *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh and its desires*, so that you may be clothed with the life of him whom you have put on in this sacrament. *You have all been clothed with Christ by your baptism in him. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman; there is neither male nor female; you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Such is the power of this sacrament: it is a sacrament of new life which begins here and now with the forgiveness of all past sins, and will be brought to completion in the resurrection of the dead. *You have been buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that, as Christ has risen from the dead, you also may walk in newness of life.*

You are walking now by faith, still on pilgrimage in a mortal body away from the Lord; but he to whom your steps are directed is himself the sure and certain way for you: Jesus Christ, who for our sake became man. For all who fear him he has stored up abundant happiness, which he will reveal to those who hope in him, bringing it to completion when we have attained the reality which even now we possess in hope.

This is the octave day of your new birth. Today is fulfilled in you the sign of faith that was prefigured in the Old Testament by the circumcision of the flesh on the eighth day after birth. When the Lord rose from the dead, he put off the mortality of the flesh; his risen body was still the same body, but it was no longer subject to death. By his resurrection he consecrated Sunday, or the Lord's day. Though the third after his passion, this day is the eighth after the Sabbath, and thus also the first day of the week.

And so your own hope of resurrection, though not yet realised, is sure and certain, because you have received the sacrament or sign of this reality, and have been given the pledge of the Spirit. *If, then, you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your hearts on heavenly things, not the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.*

OTHER NOTICES

An Evening with Sherry Weddell

Join international speaker and author of 'Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus', Sherry Weddell for an evening dedicated to exploring the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives and renewing the Church for mission. Endowed with spiritual gifts, each of us is chosen by God in a special way to witness to Christ in the world and to build His Kingdom here on earth.

Monday 22 May 2023 (Liverpool) and
Wednesday 24 May 2023 (Strathfield) | Cost: \$30 plus
booking fees. Refreshments served from 6:00pm –
6:45pm.

<https://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/>

Liturgy Public Lecture for 2023

On 8 May 2023 (10-11:30am AEST) the ACU Centre for Liturgy will host Dr Lizette Larson-Miller who will give an online public lecture (via Zoom) entitled "*I am what I ritualise: identity, theology, and liturgy in a secular context*". The lecture will explore the misalignment of the domestic church (the household or family) and the official church, resulting in a lack of reinforcement and continuity, and a disregard for the notion that rituals shape us. It will ask – Who are we? What does theology have to do with it? And do our liturgies and rituals need to adapt or resist these changes? For more information and to register, please go to www.acu.edu.au/News_CentreforLiturgy.

Camino of St Joseph: Overnight Walking Pilgrimage for Men

Starts Friday 28 April 8:30pm, St Mary's Cathedral with Mass celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers. Confession from 7:30pm. Pilgrimage across 9 churches in Sydney's inner west. Concludes Saturday 29 April, 6:30am, St Joseph's Enfield with Mass followed by BBQ breakfast and celebration. Adoration at each church followed by a short reflection on St Joseph.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1032826>

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. Please note: A second Marriage Preparation Program will be offered in November 2023.

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 | Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney
See www.mohmv.com.au for more information.