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 YouTube: BeralaParish

Holy Mass: Tuesday & Wednesday 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.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

7 MAY 2023

Do you see the Father?

When we are troubled, especially when existential questions haunt us, we turn to God and religion for refuge. Pain, illness, and misery were the existential questions that troubled Buddha. After much reflection on how to get out of this life gripping trouble, Buddha came up with a remedy. According to him and many of the Hindu schools of thought, the fundamental cause of misery and existential pain is "ahamkara" (ego). That means, basically human beings think of themselves as independent entities, with their own bodies, achievements, and possessions. Therefore, the solution offered by many of the eastern religions is to live as if we do not have any individual identity. Renounce not only our possessions but everything, including our desires, aspirations, and dreams. It is a life without any worth. Whereas Christian understanding of life, as we learn from Jesus, does not demand renunciation of our independent self, but about how to make the best of our individual selves.

God our creator never wants to leave us purposeless. Our life has a noble purpose, and it is meant for a great fulfilment. Jesus in his farewell discourse told his disciples that there are many rooms in my Father's house. Jesus is the way to that destiny of our life. Jesus, as someone very dear to us, wants us to make a personal commitment to him. Jesus did not say, "follow what I tell you", instead he said, "I will personally take you to your real home". Therefore we want to make a personal bonding with Jesus. Jesus being God, our bonding (Communion) with him is also a bonding (communion) with the Father in heaven. When Thomas asked for a clarification about the destination of the human life and the way to achieve it, Jesus did not give him a lecture on the principles and theories about it. Instead, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, No one comes to the Father except through me".

Jesus is present to us in Body and Blood when we approach the Eucharistic table for the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharistic fellowship is our tangible way to God's abode here on earth as well as hereafter. We make sacrifices in our life to strengthen our bond with Christ. For that we don't need to deny our God given individuality. Suffering is not our worst problem; anything that diminishes the fullness of our life is the real problem. And we should be concerned about it.

Making Jesus as the way of our life, we can do wonders like Jesus. Looking at the transformation all over the world because of the Church's ministry, we understand the meaning of Jesus' saying, 'you will do greater things' (John 14:12). We as disciples are embodiment of Jesus and we follow his way of the life which is rooted in service. Jesus is the embodiment of the Father in heaven. Therefore, through our service we show the world the true nature of God. Many of the converts to the Church say that they got attracted to Church because they saw extraordinary peace and joy in the lives of the Christians they met. What a joyous and comforting comment to listen!

Your intimacy with Jesus is also your intimacy with God the Father. Jesus said, "To have seen me is to have seen the Father" (John 14:9)

Change of Mass Schedule

The 6.45AM morning mass on Thursday and Friday are cancelled, due to an eye surgery Fr Thomas is to undergo.

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), Jenny Michael (Asst Coordinator, 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. carmel iteret reats. 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 8/5	No Mass.
Tue 9/5	6.45am Mass
Wed 10/5	6.45am Mass
Thu 11/5	No Mass.
Fri 12/5	No mass at 6.45am 9.15am Mass
Sat 13/5	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 14/5	Mother's Day 7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

14 MAY	2023	6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Robert MCGINN	William ANDREWS	
MUSIC & SINGING	N/A	N/A	SACRED HEART CHOIR	
POWERPOINT	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Sacred Heart Choir	
LECTOR/S	Amanda DOWDELL	Jenny MICHAEL	Ibrahim MATAR	
	Noeline DONNELLAN	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Phirum DUCH	
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Catherine MCGINN	Alan THAM	
OL ODO M. I. D.		Alter O. O		

Cleaners SPC: Marian Ro Group	Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Anna Manganaro, Veronica Zaitseff
Saturday 8AM	13 MAY
LECTOR FOR MASS	Joy SKERRITT

"Family that pray together stay together"



Pilgrim Statue

This week at

Lopez & Yip Families

To host the Pilgrim Statue and Rosary prayer please contact Mona on 9709 8701 / 0417 282 603 or Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Doreen Stanmore, Pauline Lian, Gerard Del Rosario, Romaine Cheema, Virginia Naidu, Veronica Jacobs, Nazih Melhem, Danilo Carreon, Fiya Gourani, Zekia Al Asady, Graham Turner, Aurora Flores, Olive Torino, Maureen Hynes, Giovanni Simeone, Joey Kiraz, Richard Langford, Maria Nobilo, Roland Javier, Mark Agravail

Deceased: Sam Capra, Giuseppe Leonardi, Eddie Leonardi

Recently Deceased: Robyn Kindred, John Veltmeyer,

Anniversary: Josefina Tan, Dominador

Birthday: Janica, Maricris & Maco

Other Intentions: Holy souls in purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 97:1-2

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. R

For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. R

Second Reading

1 Pt 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed.

That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17 2nd Reading: 1 Pt 3:15-18 Gospel: Jn 14:15-21

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 14:1-12

Historical Context – It is for the best...

At the time of this gospel's writing, some 70 years after the events it describes, amazing things have taken place in the early Christian community. Rather than everything falling apart with the death of Jesus, the message of Jesus has spread further than he himself could ever have accomplished. It is the departure of Jesus from their midst and the sending of the Spirit that really prompts the disciples to act on what they had experienced while Jesus lived among them. The gospel writer has Jesus saying that he has to go away so that the disciples can reach their potential.

Scriptural context – The gospel of John

The gospel of John is very different from the other three 'synoptic' gospels. The other three have a very narrative style and can be seen together as different recounts of the same events. Whilst the gospel of John also has some beautifully narrated stories, it is better known as a more theologically reflective piece of writing. It assumes that the readers of this gospel are already familiar with one or more of the others, so it doesn't need to tell the story again. Rather, it presents a sweeping image of God, through Jesus, reaching out, in, through, and with love to the people.

Living the Gospel – The Way, the Truth and the Life

When Thomas asks, 'we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus answers by saying, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.' The reader of the gospel has known this truth all along from the opening line of the gospel, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' Our aim, as Christian people, is to be one with God, not only by sharing in the resurrection but also in the way we live. Jesus makes clear that the way to be with God is by following his example.

NEWS

Pentecost Vigil



Saturday, 27 May at special time 6.00PM





Donate to the Charitable Works Fund May 2023 Appeal

6th & 7th May 2023 is our parish appeal.

Help keep alive vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. In hospitals, churches, schools, communities and families, your donation is making our world a loving, caring and compassionate place.

Give generously. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives. Thank you!

Donate at www.ourfaithourworks/give-to-cwf Or complete the parish envelope.



Join us and Walk with Christ on Sunday 11 June 2023. A bus will be leaving from the church car park at 12.30PM and will return by approximately 6PM. It's FREE! Spots are limited.



Book your seats by scanning the QR code and register your details or contact the Parish Office by phone: 9644 7787 or email info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.



Parish Feast Day

What a wonderful celebration of the tenth Anniversary of the parish we had! We honoured our both patrons, St Peter Chanel and St Joseph the Worker. Thanks to both parish schools for the processions, liturgical participation, and most of all the planning. It is the first time we had both schools come together as one parish to celebrate the feast of the saints. Credit goes to the leadership teams of both schools. Tateama Hehea and her singing team sang praises for not only their patron Saint Peter Chanel, but also to St Joseph the Worker in the pacific language of Tongan harmony. Soana Sekope's decoration of the sanctuary with the motif of the Pacific Islands highlighted our roots in Oceania. Thanks to all for making the Parish Feast a great celebration!

























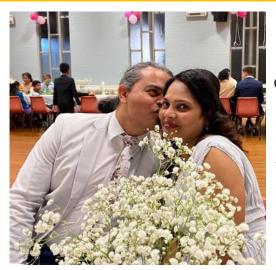












Congratulations to Sophia and Trevor Brewty on the Silver Jubilee of their Wedding!

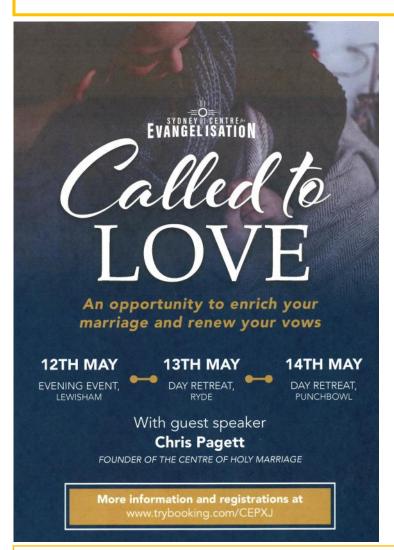
It is indeed a blessing from God. May God continue to be the centre of your marriage and family and may He continue to protect and use you as a unit to witness to those around you the love Christ has for the Church.

Congratulations on your 25th wedding anniversary!

Ministry to Geriatric (MTG)

There has been a request for a new ministry in the parish. It is to help those who are homebound with restricted mobility issues. Most times the only outing these people do are the doctor's appointments. It would be good if we could have some social function in the Parish Jubilee Hall for them to be brought there for a weekly outing. Financial support for any such initiative is offered by benefactors.

I would like to hear from any volunteers with some training or experience in Geriatric Support about the prospect of such a ministry. Someone with some nursing background will be covetable. \sim Fr Thomas



A2B, Alpha to Berala

Alpha was conducted in the parish nearly a decade ago, in my initial years. Now a revised program of Alpha is being planned for the parish. Trevor Brewty and Danni Sinisa attended an Alpha coaching last Friday. Thanks to them for their initiative and interest. Now we need a group of similarly interested people to join the Alpha Pilot Team for the parish. In the words of Tania Rimac from the Parish Renewal Team "these people will have a variety of gifts including administration, communication, hospitality etc. The things that they have in common are that they love Jesus and helping others come to know him. This team, along with the Alpha leader/s will form the small group facilitators, known as the hosts and helpers and they will also be providing hospitality for Alpha, which involves providing a meal to begin the evening."

Volunteers may contact Trevor or Danni or Fr Thomas (the Parish Office) with the contact details. The rest of the organisations and planning will happen after the Pilot Team is set up. Accordingly the date of commencing an eight week program of Alpha in the Parish will be decided.

Maintenance News

Work has commenced to repair the storm water pipes and foot path on the northern side of the Church



News from your parish school

ST. PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL info@spcregentspark.catholic.edu.au - 9644 9083

Last Friday we celebrated the feast of our patron saint, St. Peter Chanel. The day began with Mass followed by the presentation of the Archbishop's Charter to the school. Year 6 students hosted a festive carnival with face painting, lolly guessing, tug-o-war, and other outdoor activities. Students were treated to pizza, poppers, and ice blocks during the day, all the while wearing leis and bright tropical mufti. A glorious day was had by all! St. Peter Chanel, pray for us!













NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL







9646 1434 2 New St Auburn







On Monday, we took time to feast, have fun and celebrate our shared faith. We enjoyed sporting fun with Motiv8 Sports, prayer, craft and delicious goodies like jelly, sausage sizzles, ice blocks and lollies! We are truly blessed to be part of the community of St Joseph the Worker.

Yours faithfully, **Susie Mravunac** Acting Principal



Steven Hollai and Seniors' Ministry

Thanks to Steven Hollai and the CatholicCare that we have had the Master Classes on 'Aging Well'. To further the collaborative ministry with CatholicCare, a meeting with Steven Hollai and representatives of the Seniors' Ministry is called at 11 am on Thursday, 11 May.

Volunteers interested in the Seniors Ministry are welcome to this planning meeting. As the change of Pastor is imminent, having more volunteers is crucial to the survival of the ministry.



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with the church cleaning once a month.

If you are available to help, please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787. Thank you!



STJW THE BEST KEPT SECRET

New OOSH

A new OOSH service is to open in the parish. Last month Fr Thomas has signed a deed with Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services to start a new OOSH services at Auburn South. It will benefit both (SPC School Regents Park & SJW Auburn South) parish schools.

It will provide Before School Care 6.30 AM - 9AM Monday – Friday; After School Care 2PM - 6.30 PM Monday to Friday; and vacation care 6.30 AM - 6.30 PM Monday to Friday. Though the location of the service is SJW school premises, there will be a transportation facility from SPC School premises for those who want. The program is to start on 5 June 2023.

Fr Thomas commends the principals of both SPC and SJW schools for working together.

Christ is the day

From a sermon by Saint Maximus of Turin

Christ is risen! He has burst open the gates of hell and let the dead go free; he has renewed the earth through the members of his Church now born again in baptism, and has made it blossom afresh with men brought back to life. His Holy Spirit has unlocked the doors of heaven, which stand wide open to receive those who rise up from the earth. Because of Christ's resurrection the thief ascends to paradise, the bodies of the blessed enter the holy city, and the dead are restored to the company of the living. There is an upward movement in the whole of creation, each element raising itself to something higher. We see hell restoring its victims to the upper regions, earth sending its buried dead to heaven, and heaven presenting the new arrivals to the Lord. In one and the same movement, our Saviour's passion raises men from the depths, lifts them up from the earth, and sets them in the heights.

Christ is risen. His rising brings life to the dead, forgiveness to sinners, and glory to the saints. And so David the prophet summons all creation to join in celebrating the Easter festival: Rejoice and be glad, he cries, on this day which the Lord has made.

The light of Christ is an endless day that knows no night. Christ is this day, says the Apostle; such is the meaning of his words: Night is almost over; day is at hand. He tells us that night is almost over, not that it is about to fall. By this we are meant to understand that the coming of Christ's light puts Satan's darkness to flight, leaving no place for any shadow of sin. His everlasting radiance dispels the dark clouds of the past and checks the hidden growth of vice. The Son is that day to whom the day, which is the Father, communicates the mystery of his divinity. He is the day who says through the mouth of Solomon: I have caused an unfailing light to rise in heaven. And as in heaven no night can follow day, so no sin can overshadow the justice of Christ. The celestial day is perpetually bright and shining with brilliant light; clouds can never darken its skies. In the same way, the light of Christ is eternally glowing with luminous radiance and can never be extinguished by the darkness of sin. This is why John the evangelist says: *The* light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to overpower it.

And so, my brothers, each of us ought surely to rejoice on this holy day. Let no one, conscious of his sinfulness, withdraw from our common celebration, nor let anyone be kept away from our public prayer by the burden of his guilt. Sinner he may indeed be, but he must not despair of pardon on this day which is so highly privileged; for if a thief could receive the grace of paradise, how could a Christian be refused forgiveness?

OTHER NOTICES

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima procession: St Mary's Cathedral

As we prepare for World Youth Day Lisbon, August 2023 Saturday 13 May | Mass at 6pm | Procession afterwards at cathedral forecourt

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. 22 May 2023 (Liverpool) | 24 May 2023 (Strathfield) | Cost: \$30 plus booking fees. Refreshments Andrews Rd, Varroville. Join us for five days of prayer, served from 6:00pm - 6:45pm. https:// www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events/

Called to Love Marriage Enrichment Events: May 12-

Amidst the hurry of life, making time to grow in your vocation as a married couple can be hard. This May, set aside a day or evening together to experience God, who "makes all things new".

These events will feature presentations from international speaker Chris Padgett, time for reflection, discussion as a couple, prayer, sacraments and renewal of vows. www.trybooking.com/CEPXJ

Ascension Day Retreat at St Benedict's Monastery

Sunday 21 May | 10am-3pm | 121 Arcadia Rd, Arcadia. The day will feature Mass, presentations and Christian Meditation. Enquiries: anniebergman@hotmail.com or atlomas@bigpond.com/9653 2637. Possible accommodation at the monastery guest house Enquiries: Fr Michael Kelly – 0455 329 607 | mkelly@silvestrini.org

Missionaries of God's Love: Pentecost Retreat

Wednesday 24-Sunday 28 May | Carmel House, 247 St discussion and practical workshops. www.trybooking.com/CFBRF

CALIX, a Catholic path in addiction recovery.

Find out about the Calix Society. Sunday 14 May, St Joseph, Enfield. Mass with the Parish at 6pm, 7pm supper and "About Calix Talk", concluding at 7:45pm with prayer. Contact calixsydney@outlook.com "We substitute the cup that sanctifies for the cup that stupefies". https://www.calixsociety.org