



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

Holy Mass: Tuesday-Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am | **Holy Hour:** Saturday 8.30am-9.30am

Lord's Day Mass : Saturday 5.00pm Vigil - LiveStreamed, Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday 8.30am - 9.30am

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A

21 MAY 2023

Be Ready to Transform the World



Matthew who has been describing how much Jesus wanted to restrict his ministry to within the boundaries of Israel, concludes his Gospel on a very different note. Just before his departure to heaven, Jesus called his disciples to a mountain in Galilee, like the way Moses called his disciples to Mount Nebo before departure from earth. Moses blessed his disciples. At his ascension, Jesus also blessed his disciples, and that blessing was a commissioning. In his ministry time Jesus was approached by a Canaanite woman with a request to exorcise her daughter from a demon. To her he answered, *"I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel"* (Mt 15:24). The same Jesus at his ascension said, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you"*. (Mt 28:19).

During his ministry, Jesus was training his disciples how to evangelise in a real life situation like that of Israel. The Israelites who aspired for the rule of God could see only two options before them: either fight with the oppressive regime of Roman emperor like the zealots did or to flee the corrupt society and live a secluded spiritual life like the Essenes of the time. But Jesus showed the disciples, through what he did and said, how to work for the Kingdom of God (rule of God) neither by confrontation nor by fleeing the world. Now the disciples are to go to the whole world and teach them how to bring the rule of God without shirt fronting the evil powers or sneaking out of the corrupt world. The disciples are to transform the world as Jesus did.

Church continues to engage with the world, with its good and bad, not in a fighting mood but pointing out ways of transformation. We see this in the actions of Pope Francis who washed the feet of Muslim prisoners, and in the words of Saint John Paul II who stood up in communist Poland and announced, *"we want God"*. The Church did not pick up arms against ISIS terrorists who beheaded twenty-one Coptic Christians, instead these Christians are listed Martyrs. We can do it because we trust in the words of Jesus, *"I will be with you always"*, great words of encouragement from the clouds at the ascension.

Today we celebrate Christ's continued presence with us and ready ourselves for the mission of transforming the world around us as he has taught us.

Mass of Anointing

When :

Saturday, 3 June at 10 AM

Where:

St Peter Chanel Church



Elderly and Sick are specially invited to the Holy Mass of the Anointing of the Sick. It will be followed by morning tea.

Pentecost Vigil on Saturday, 27 May
at special time 6.00PM

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 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 22/5	No Mass.
Tue 23/5	6.45am Mass
Wed 24/5	Our Lady Help of Christians (Solemnity) 6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass
Thu 25/5	6.45am Mass
Fri 26/5	6.45am Mass
Sat 27/5	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 6.00pm Pentecost Vigil Mass
Sun 28/5	Pentecost Sunday 7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

28 MAY 2023**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Mass	VIGIL 6PM	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Robert MCGINN	William ANDREWS
MUSIC & SINGING	SPC & SJW FAMILY MASS PARISH CHOIR	N/A	Alannah KASSIS
POWERPOINT		Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
LECTOR/S	Renee SALAR	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Phirum DUCH
	Christine KENSEY	Michael CHOW	Roshan SEBASTIAN
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY	Catherine MCGINN	Alan THAM
Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica, Teresa Escobar, Kata Jurcic		Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Catherine Naidu-Narayan; Francis Lenette; Chantal Collet	
Saturday 8AM			27 MAY
LECTOR FOR MASS		Joy SKERRITT	

*"Family that pray together
 stay together"*

**Pilgrim Statue**

This week at

Olie & Portelli 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, Richard Langford, Mark Agravail

Deceased: Giuseppe Leonardi, Eddie Leonardi

Recently Deceased: Milka Nimac, Maria Nobilo, Teresa Frangipani, Robyn Kindred

Other Intentions: Holy souls in purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will
return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **R**

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **R**

Second Reading

Eph 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Communion Antiphon

Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Acts 2:1-11**

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13**

Gospel: **Jn 20:19-23**

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 28:16-20

Historical Context – To the ends of the earth

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.

Scriptural context – Not the only Ascension

The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.

Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.

NEWS

Dempsey Medal for Jenny & William



Congratulations to Jenny Michael and William Andrews, two great parishioners receiving a Dempsey Medal from the Archbishop this weekend. The Dempsey Medal is awarded annually by the Archbishop of Sydney to members of the Catholic clergy and laity.



This Honour is named in recognition of a lay Catholic pioneer from Sydney's early European settlement. James Dempsey was a prominent and devout member of the Catholic community in Sydney. Before Father Jeremiah Francis O'Flynn arrived in the colony in 1817, a group of

Catholic men and women met regularly at Dempsey's house in Kent Street to recite the rosary and to sing Vespers.

The brief appearance in Sydney of an unauthorised Catholic priest, Father O'Flynn, for just over six months in 1817-1818 led to a consecrated host being left behind when O'Flynn was deported. It is likely that the host was consumed in 1819 by a visiting French priest.

After 1820 Dempsey worked closely with Father Therry on the construction of a suitable chapel for Catholic worship. The site of what became St Mary's Cathedral.

Dempsey was a prominent member of the committee raising funds for the chapel. When there was no money to pay the labourers in 1823 Dempsey paid the men out of his own pocket for awhile. Without Dempsey, the first St Mary's would not have been completed.

Dempsey even travelled to Calcutta in India in October 1825 in an attempt to raise fund for the Cathedral building. He assisted in raising funds for the interior decoration and furnishing of the church and saw the arrival of Bishop Polding in 1835.

The Dempsey Medal is primarily intended to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution in the context of their local parish. William Andrews is commended for his outstanding service to St Joseph the Worker Parish initially and to the amalgamated Parish of Berala thereafter. Jenny Michael has been enthusiastic about the pastoral life of the parish always, very specially in the new parish of St Peter Chanel and St Joseph. The parish congratulates them on this well deserved recognition for their Christian witness and service.

RCIA / Catholic Inquiry

Regular sessions of the Catholic Inquiry (RCIA) will be commencing on Sunday, 4 June. For the sake of those who cannot attend Sunday sessions, there will be a repeat session on Thursday nights. Sunday sessions will be after 8am Mass (9-10 am), and the Thursday sessions will be 7-8 pm, commencing on 8 June. Both sessions will be held in the board room next the parish office. New inquirers are welcome to contact Andrew Tham on 0403 566 001 or congee1@hotmail.com. Or speak with Fr Thomas.

Congratulations to Christine and Robert Kensey on the Golden Jubilee of their Wedding



Bob and Christine, you fell in love with each other and stayed in that love for 50 years. You did that in the name of Christ. In doing this you have been a great witness to the world where people are afraid to make lifelong commitments.

A half century of marriage deserves a celebration; Your 50-year relationship rates major acclamation!



May the Lord continue to bless you both and your Children and grandchildren to show the world the joy of married life for many more years.



No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven

From a sermon by Saint Augustine

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: *If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth.* For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: *Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?* and when he said: *I was hungry and you gave me food.*

Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him? While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.

He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. The fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is borne out by his own statement: *No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.*

These words are explained by our oneness with Christ, for he is our head and we are his body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Man by his union with us, and we by our union with him are the sons of God. So the Apostle says: *Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it also with Christ.* He too has many members, but one body.

Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head.



News from your parish school

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



www



This week we had artist Danny Mulyono at our school helping us get ready for our 2024 centenary. He is transforming plain brick walls into beautiful works of art. Danny worked with the staff to design two murals. One mural highlights St. Peter Chanel. Watch this space next week for the next mural design. To learn more about Danny's art, visit <https://dmulyo.com.au/>.



NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL



9646 1434
2 New St
Auburn



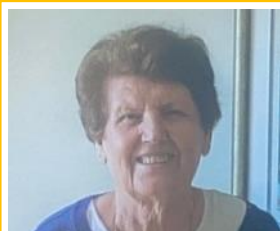
This week we have focused on Walking Safely to School! Students have engaged in lessons and our SRC has led the way in promoting our Walk Safely to School Event.

On Friday we celebrated our success as a community with breakfast and a walk around our community to show everyone that STJW knows how to walk safely to school!

I wonder if you saw us?
Yours faithfully,
Susie Mravunac
Acting Principal



STJW THE BEST KEPT SECRET



Milka Nimac (79), a parishioner gone to God on Wednesday, 17 May. Condolence to her husband Mirko, and sons Ivan, Ante and Robert. Her funeral will be at St Anthony's Croatian Catholic Church, Summer Hill on Monday 22 May.

May she rest in peace.

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 about 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-joseph.org.au.



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith



Ari Edward Fitter

May he always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout his life.

Just for Laughs

My wife was feeling awfully sick when I got home from work. It was so bad I had to carry her to the kitchen so she could prepare dinner.

