



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/UCqKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKjKj)

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.

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

2 JULY 2023

Faith Family and Natural Family

Faith is everything. The term '*Faith*' has different meanings. "*Have faith in yourself, you can do it!*" In this expression, faith means confidence. But the Gospel of Matthew is speaking not about your self-confidence. Christian Faith is the personal commitment to Jesus. For a disciple of Jesus, nothing can substitute the total allegiance to Jesus as saviour and Lord. Jesus demands us to prefer God over even your own family. There is a background to this Gospel teaching.



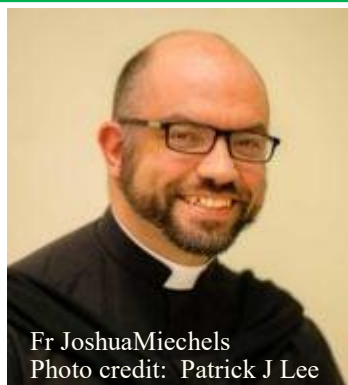
When the Romans destroyed Jerusalem city and the Temple in 70 AD, Jewish religion was devastated. Pained by the loss of their temple and religion, many Jews hardened their attitude to those who deserted Judaism, which included Christian converts. Many of the families had some members becoming Christians while others remaining loyal to Judaism. This caused tensions within families and Christian members bore the brunt of the wrath of their kins. In such a situation Matthew offers some direction. He reminds them what Jesus said, "*Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.*" (Mt 10:37-39). Though it appears to be asking to hate one's family, it is far from it. Jesus' native language was Aramaic language which lacked nuance of expressions like '*love MORE*'. Therefore, Jesus used the expression, '*hate your family*' to mean prefer God over your family. The message is not to allow family and socio-political pressures to fail your commitment to Christian faith.

The challenge you and I, as Christians, face would be different. Whether to accept job offers which blatantly promote anti-Christian values is a real challenge many believers got to recon with. We pray to the Spirit of God for the right guidance in such situations.

Keep in Touch with Fr Thomas

Some of you have been interested in the Reflection notes by Fr Thomas. If you are one of them, send him an email to Thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org and he will send you his notes regularly after his transfer from Berala.

For those who would like to keep in touch and receive updates, please send your email address (as above) to Fr Thomas.



Rev Joshua Miechels Your New Pastor

REV JOSHUA MIECHELS is appointed to Berala as its Pastor from August 1. Currently he is Assistant Priest at Sydney City South parishes.

Berala is a hospitable parish. I am sure you will make your new Pastor feel welcome. Having a new priest is a chance to have new ideas and invigorated enthusiasm.

Fr JoshuaMiechels
Photo credit: Patrick J Lee

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.jamberoobbey.org.au/
 retreats Ph: 4236 0533

Carmelites Varroville -

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
 Ph: 8795 3400

Healing After Abortion:

0400 092 555

Vincetian 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 3/7	No Mass.
Tue 4/7	6.45am Mass
Wed 5/7	6.45am Mass
Thu 6/7	6.45am Mass 7.00pm RCIA
Fri 7/7	6.45am Mass
Sat 8/7	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 9/7	7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

9 JULY 2023**14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Robert MCGINN	William ANDREWS
MUSIC & SINGING	N/A	Cyril EDWARDS Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	SACRED HEART CHOIR
POWERPOINT	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Sacred Heart Choir
LECTOR/S	Amanda DOWDELL	Jenny MICHAEL	Ibrahim MATAR
	Noeline DONNELLAN	Maria SIMEONE	Katrina YIP
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Catherine MCGINN	Alan THAM

Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group

Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Anna Manganaro, Veronica Zaitseff

Saturday 8AM**8 JULY**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Rosalind EVANS

*"Family that pray together
stay together"*

Pilgrim Statue

This week at

Azzi & Dukich 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, Maureen Hynes, Giovanni Simeone, Richard Langford, Mark Agravaill, Hoa Thi Vu, Marilyn Tangonan, Tony Rodrigues, Jane Aquino, Josephine Laing

Recently Deceased: Olive Torino, Peter Kennedy

Anniversary: Karime Michael

Deceased: Giuseppe Leonardi, Rosa Marrone

Birthday: Stella Baldoria, Silia Edwards, Ryan Edwards

Other Intentions: Holy souls in purgatory.

Deceased Members & Friends of: Michael & Baini Families

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 46:2

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

First Reading

2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-3. 16-19. R. v.2

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R**

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **R**

Second Reading

Rom 6:3-4. 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were

baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

1 Pt 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 102:1

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Zec 9:9-10**

2nd Reading: **Rom 8:9. 11-13**

Gospel: **Mt 11:25-30**

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 10:37-42

From the perspective of ...

What must it have been like to be one of those disciples of Jesus? Having followed their Rabbi, or teacher, for some time, he sends them out to 'have a go' at doing what he has been doing: preaching; proclaiming the good news; healing; curing lepers and casting out demons. The focus of a disciple is to be like their Rabbi. This is their first real test of being a disciple ... seeking to go out into the world without Jesus and do the things that they've seen their Rabbi do; to be like their Rabbi!

Historical Context – A cup of cold water

Jesus says, 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water' to a disciple spreading the gospel, then their ultimate reward is assured. To give 'a cup of cold water' or 'a cold drink' to another person was the most basic act of hospitality or service. It is a metaphor for doing the absolute least service to another. Jesus is saying that even the most trivial act of service that recognises the work of the disciple will be welcomed and acknowledged. It suggests that 'practical loving kindness' is both the test and the result of discipleship.

Gospel Focus – Anyone who welcomes

Having spelled out the difficulties of discipleship throughout Ch 10, the gospel writer has Jesus reassuring the disciples that anyone who welcomes them welcomes him. There are echoes here of other parts of the Gospel of Matthew: the Beatitudes, with its blessings on the poor and humble of heart; the welcome of children, the 'little ones' of the kingdom; and the Last Judgment (Mt 24), that reminds us that whatever we do for the least in the world we do for Jesus. Jesus even describes the disciples as 'little ones' – a reminder both to them and to those who welcome them.

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 3 July - St Thomas, Apostle (Feast)



St Thomas the Apostle was one of the twelve disciples commissioned by Jesus. In John's Gospel when upon hearing that Jesus had risen from the dead, Thomas replied, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe". But when Jesus appeared Thomas then professed his faith – this story giving rise to the name "doubting Thomas". After Jesus' death it is widely believed he sailed to India in 52AD where he established several churches in the southern state of Kerala. Tradition suggests he was martyred in 72AD; speared to death at a site now called St Thomas Mount, before being buried in Mylapore in modern day Chennai. St Thomas is one of the patron saints of India. Read in this week's Catholic Weekly more about the influence of St Thomas in the Church History.

No mass.

NEWS

Dowdell New Assistant Principal at SPC School

Congratulations to Amanda Dowdell on her appointment as substantive Assistant Principal at St Peter Chanel Primary School.

It is an added joy that she is a Liturgical Minister of the Parish and regular parishioner. Ms Dowdell is currently the acting Assistant Principal and classroom teacher at the school where she is a well-respected and enthusiastic contemporary leader.

Amanda's capacity as an educational leader, her relationships within the school, as well as her active leadership of the wider Catholic faith community will ensure the school continues to deliver excellent outcomes for students and families.



Richard Grech Principal of Trinity

Rick (Richard) Grech is appointed substantive Principal of Trinity Catholic College, Auburn / Regents Park. He has been the Acting Principal from the beginning of the Year. His commitment to reach out to the feeder parishes to present the College as a ministry of the Church will benefit Berala Parish too. Congratulations to Rick.

First Holy Communion

On Sunday, 18 June was our Reflection Day for the sacrament of First Holy Communion. It was a day of learning, sharing of our stories, fun and Faith in action for the kids, the courageous parents (willingly took part in the activities) and us as well.

As we have completed the preparation program, can I request for our parish community to keep all these children (and their families) in your prayers who will be receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time this weekend 1 & 2 July.

Ariana Giselle Cook	Luke Consiglio
Sienna Lerotic	Miranda De Sa
Emma Rose Gray	Harrison Tapia
Stella Elizabeth Martelli	Joshua Xavier Zaitseff
Tylar Stanislas	Anthony Nguyen
Kane Bronswijk	James Dinh



Berala Catechists Farewell Father Thomas



*Catechists enjoy a wonderful evening with Father Thomas.
From left: Rosanna, Dunia, Daniel, Joe, Fr Thomas, Josie, Gilda, Susan and Brenda.*

Berala catechists gathered last Thursday to farewell Father Thomas. All had a say on his unwavering support over the years for the Catechists' work in our local public schools.

The team members had the opportunity to get to know one another, how and why they became one. Our newest catechists are **Gilda Kazzi**, **Susan Romanos** and **Mavis Dankwa**, who was not able to come.

Everyone enjoyed the evening reminiscing with Father Thomas sharing dinner and their experiences as catechists. We all will miss Father Thomas.

~Josie Pangilinan, Coordinator

Holy Father's Appeal 2023



Image credit: vatikan.va

Our parish, in union with all parishes around the world, will hold the annual **Holy Father's Appeal this weekend (1 & 2nd July)** for which we ask your support. Through your gift, you can help Pope Francis bring hope, faith, and the spirit of Christ to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world. Thank you.

Donate by visiting www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-holy-fathers-appeal, phone 1800 753 959 or through our parish collection.

Alpha at Berala



"Alpha is a tool for evangelisation that creates a space, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about Jesus. Alpha is just the beginning. Once guests experience Alpha, they understand who Jesus is and can start to explore their relationship with him."

Our sincere thanks to all those who have expressed their interest in being part of the **Alpha Pilot Program** in our parish. If you're thinking about this, please put down your names and 'Come and See'. The only prerequisite needed is a love for Jesus and the desire to make Him known.

During the July school holidays, the **Alpha Pilot Program** will kick start with a *Come and See* evening. The organising team will get in touch with each of you in the upcoming weeks with the specific details of the '*Come and See*' evening. One thing for sure is that there will be good food, lots of conversation and you'll step away wanting to know more.

"He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day" - John 1:39

Got some questions? Please email alpha@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au or call the parish office on 02 9644 7787 with your queries and Trevor Brewty or Danni Sinisa will get in touch with you.

Are you passionate about music?
Do you have a voice that deserves to be heard?

JOIN OUR PARISH CHOIR

CONTACT RENEE ON 0405 558 064

SAVE THE DATE

*Father Thomas
Farewell*

You Are Invited to Celebrate the contributions Father Thomas has made to our community.

JULY 30, 2023

10am Mass followed by festivities in the Hall at 11am



Please send via email any photos or videos you may have of Father Thomas to: amanda.gahan@syd.catholic.edu.au or susie.mravunac@syd.catholic.edu.au

SUBMIT



CHURCH SHOP

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

The Church Shop is open on Saturdays before and after the 5.00pm Vigil mass and on Sundays after the 8.00am & before the 10.00am masses.

Drop by our Church shop and grab a gift for that special someone!





News from your parish school

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



In Week 9 we participated in the ZingActiv Dance Challenge. Our students learned a number of dances throughout the term and we were ready to showcase our talent! They did a fantastic job on the night of the showcase. Year 5 and Year 6 won the jive and tango events. As a school we went on to win the overall competition. We are so proud of our students!



NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL



9646 1434
2 New St
Auburn



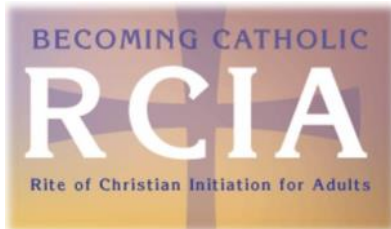
The St Joseph the Worker Community has been living out their faith in the last week. Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 hosted our last Family Mass on Sunday. The whole school wore pyjamas on Tuesday to make the link to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. We were beyond grateful to the community for their very generous donations. Our parents and friends also made over 60 litres of warm meals to be taken out on Night Patrol.

There has been a real demonstration of how STJW works to Create a Difference in our world!

Yours faithfully,
Susie Mravunac
Acting Principal



STJW THE BEST KEPT SECRET



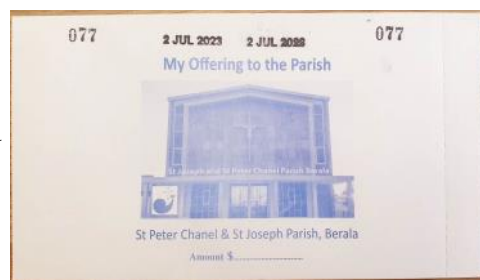
Catholic Inquiry

A new program of RCIA is up and running for those who are inquiring or wanting to join Catholic Church. Sunday morning and Thursday night are the meeting times. 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 (9am–10am), and the Thursday sessions will be 7pm–8pm. Both sessions will be held in the boardroom next the parish office.

New inquirers are welcome to contact Andrew Tham on 0403 566 001 or rcia.berala@gmail.com. Or speak with Fr Thomas.

2023/24 Planned Giving Envelopes

Planned giving envelopes for the next financial year are now available for collection at the back of the church. Please note that some planned giving numbers have been re-allocated, therefore, you may not have the same number as this year.



Only use the new planned giving envelopes from July 2023.

Should you wish to join the planned giving via monthly direct debit, please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or email info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au to obtain a copy of the form.

We proclaim Christ to the whole world

From a homily by Pope Paul VI

Not to preach the Gospel would be my undoing, for Christ himself sent me as his apostle and witness. The more remote, the more difficult the assignment, the more *my love of God spurs me on*. I am bound to proclaim that Jesus is *Christ, the Son of the living God*. Because of him we come to know the God we cannot see. *He is the firstborn of all creation; in him all things find their being*. Man's teacher and redeemer, he was born for us, died for us, and for us he rose from the dead.

All things, all history converges in Christ. A man of sorrow and hope, he knows us and loves us. As our friend he stays by us throughout our lives; at the end of time he will come to be our judge; but we also know that he will be the complete fulfilment of our lives and our great happiness for all eternity.

I can never cease to speak of Christ for he is our truth and our light; *he is the way, the truth and the life*. He is our bread, our source of living water who allays our hunger and satisfies our thirst. He is our shepherd, our leader, our ideal, our comforter and our brother.

He is like us but more perfectly human, simple, poor, humble, and yet, while burdened with work, he is more patient. He spoke on our behalf; he worked miracles; and he founded a new kingdom: in it the poor are happy; peace is the foundation of a life in common; where the pure of heart and those who mourn are uplifted and comforted; the hungry find justice; sinners are forgiven; and all discover that they are brothers.

The image I present to you is the image of Jesus Christ. As Christians you share his name; he has already made most of you his own. So once again I repeat his name to you Christians and I proclaim to all men: Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega, Lord of the new universe, the great hidden key to human history and the part we play in it. He is the mediator – the bridge, if you will – between heaven and earth. Above all he is the Son of man, more perfect than any man, being also the Son of God, eternal and infinite. He is the son of Mary his mother on earth, more blessed than any woman. She is also our mother in the spiritual communion of the mystical body.

Remember: it is Jesus Christ I preach day in and day out. His name I would see echo and re-echo for all time even to the ends of the earth.

Just for Laughs

Q: What do we call a priest that becomes a lawyer?

A: Father-in-law

