



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/UCBeralaParish)

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.

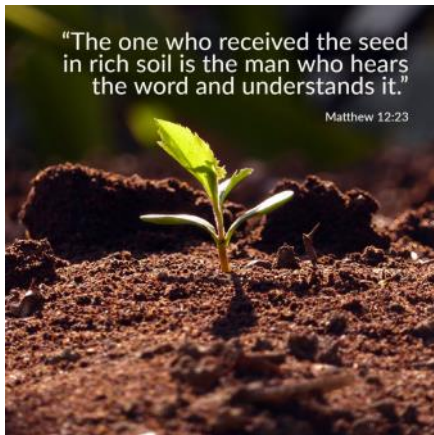
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

16 JULY 2023

Seed Wasted? Don't Worry



The number of Catholics in our parish has been steadily falling. Since the 2001 census, the numbers have fallen about 9% over ten years, the Weekend Mass attendance has been steady at about 20% of the Catholic population. Contrary to popular belief, our parish is not an aging one, though the Sunday congregation is made up of more seniors. The average age of the parishioners has been consistent between 19 and 20 according to the census during the decade. The question then is why are more people dropping out of the Church? Why the Church is not important for the 80% of those who call themselves Catholic Christians? It is not just us asking questions about the lack of response to the churches invitation. Similar questions were asked by early Christians, though the context were not the same.



The first century Christians either had witnessed risen Christ personally or were evangelised by people who had known Jesus personally. Despite the compelling evidence of Jesus' resurrection and the ardent preaching by his disciples, many members of the community and some of their own families had refused to come to faith. Therefore, the early Christians wondered why their evangelisation efforts were not fully effective. To that end, evangelist Matthew presents the parable of the Sower as Jesus' answer.

The Word of God is like the seed that is scattered. Only the ones that fall in the right soil will produce harvest. The rest, because of various reasons will be wasted. That shall not discourage the Sower to continue to spread the seed. Even though only a portion of the population will be like the tilled and prepared ground for the seed, the Kingdom of God will continue to flourish.

At a personal level, this story invites us to think of the different stages of openness in our lives to the Word of God, with varying experience of the Kingdom experience. A productive Christian is the one who does not allow the worldly concerns choke the Word of God presented to him/her. Good disciples do not harden their hearts like hard and rocky soil. They will be open to the Word of God in the Bible and in the prompting of God in their hearts. Like a tiny seed can bring about marvellous harvest, the Word of God can work wonders in our lives too.

Keep in Touch with Fr Thomas

Should you be interested to be in touch with Fr Thomas after his transfer, especially for his weekly reflections send him an email to thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org soon and he will be happy to share his thoughts and news with you.

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

Safeguarding Officer

Robert McGinn

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 17/7	No Mass.
Tue 18/7	6.45am Mass
Wed 19/7	6.45am Mass
Thu 20/7	6.45am Mass 7.00pm RCIA
Fri 21/7	6.45am Mass
Sat 22/7	St Mary Magdalene (Feast) 8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 23/7	7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mas

23 JULY 2023**16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Robert MCGINN	William ANDREWS
MUSIC & SINGING	N/A	Cyril EDWARDS Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	Alannah KASSIS
POWERPOINT	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	SPC & SJW PRIMARY FAMILY MASS
LECTOR/S	Renee SALAR	Michael CHOW	
	Christine KENSEY	Maria SIMEONE	
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY	N/A	Alan THAM
Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica, Teresa Escobar, Kata Jurcic		Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Francis Lenette; Chantal Collet	
Saturday 8AM			22 JULY
LECTOR FOR MASS		Joy SKERRITT	

*"Family that pray together
stay together"*

Pilgrim Statue

This week at

Doloures & Olie 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: Graham Turner, Aurora Flores, Giovanni Simeone, Marilyn Tangonan, Tony Rodrigues, Jane Aquino, Josephine Laing, Ana Lisica

Anniversary: Gloria Collins, Robert Dirk

Recently Deceased: Maria Vu Thi Hoa, Doreen Stanmore, Carmel Hayes

Deceased: Pablo Martin, Maria Martin, Frank Hayes, Giuseppe Leonardi, Eddie Leonardi, Rosa Marrone, Nellie Lim, Maria Matasic, Eulogio Orrego Sanchez

Other Intentions: Holy souls in purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading

Is 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **R**

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. **R**

You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R**

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R**

Second Reading

Rom 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on

the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 13:1-9 (Shorter Form)

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Wis 12:13. 16-19**

2nd Reading: **Rom 8:26-27**

Gospel: **Mt 13:24-43**

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!



REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 13:1-23

Historical Context – Matthew's community

The gospel of Matthew is written at a time and particular context in which the community audience were feeling the effects of having been ostracised from the Jewish community. They were confounded by the fact that other Jews could not accept the reality of the Jesus message as they had. This parable, and the accompanying conversation with the disciples in which they are blessed for their understanding, would have been a comfort for the Matthew community. Although they were frustrated, they were being told through this story that not everyone is ready to hear the message that they had heard and accepted.

Scriptural context – A Parable Chapter

The gospel of Matthew is nothing if not a well-crafted and highly structured piece of writing. Throughout the gospel there are five major 'discourses' or teachings. Chapter 13, which consists entirely of a collection of parables, is the central discourse of the five. It is the pivotal point of the entire gospel. The nature of the parables indicates that the message of Jesus has not been universally accepted and the parables present metaphors about the consequences for those who do and do not accept the message of Jesus about the reign of God.

Living the Gospel – Scatter that seed!

The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Saturday, 22 July - St Mary Magdalene (Feast)



St Mary of Magdala was a disciple of Christ who was healed by him when he cast out seven devils. She stood at the foot of the cross as Jesus died, and went to the tomb to anoint his body on the morning of Easter Sunday. She was the first witness to Jesus' resurrection when she found his tomb empty. In St Mark's Gospel, it is Mary Magdalene to whom the risen Jesus first appears and further to this, in St John's account, Jesus gives her a message to pass on to his brethren.

Mass at 8.00am.

NEWS

Fr Josh Arrives On 11 August

REV JOSHUA MIECHELS' appointment as Administrator of Berala is from August 1. But he will be away then on World Youth Day. After the WYD, he will arrive on Friday, 11 August. Therefore, Fr Thomas will be staying back till Thursday 10 August to supply the Masses.

Currently Fr Josh is Assistant Priest at Sydney City South parishes. For a year his title will be Administrator before the installation as Parish Priest of Berala. Archbishop has promised to appoint an Assistant Priest also in the near future.

Berala is a hospitable parish. I am sure you will make Fr Josh and his assistant (when he comes) feel welcome. With new and young priests, you can expect greater vibrancy of pastoral activities in Berala.

This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Sophie Musgrave

May she always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout her life.



Food for Farewell Lunch

Fr Thomas' Farewell is fast approaching. The Parish Pastoral Council is inviting parishioners to bring food and drinks to share at the lunch.

Please nominate in the form provided at the church foyer what kind of food you are bringing.

Let us all get together and make this event a memorable one for everyone, especially for Fr Thomas.



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

CFC Handmaids of the Lord

Handmaids of the Lord invite mature women to attend a Christian Life Program (CLP), an integrated course intended to lead the program participants into a renewed understanding of God's call to them as Christian women.

The program will run every Sunday starting on 13th August until 1st October 2023 at 2:00pm – 4:00pm at St Joseph Catholic Church, 26 Thurlow Road, Riverwood.

For more information, please contact Joy Skerritt (0401 353 826), Josielyn Dunshea (0431 870 733), Grace Mateo (0422 661 142).



2022/23 Planned Giving Receipts

If you would like to obtain a receipt for planned giving for the last financial year, please contact the Parish Office for the receipt to be printed or emailed to you.

Also contact the Parish Office should you wish to join the planned giving via envelopes or monthly direct debit. Thank 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

Just for Laughs

Question: What do you call an ear of corn with only one kernel?
Answer: A unicorn.



21 New Cardinals, No Aussie

Last Sunday, 9 July, Pope Francis announced names of 21 new cardinals to be conferred on 30 September. The list includes prelates from Jerusalem and Hong Kong where Catholics are a small minority. Bishops from Cape Town (South Africa), Juba (South Sudan), Penang (Malaysia), Lodz (Poland) are notable inclusions in the list of new cardinals. It is not just Archbishops who were selected to be Cardinals. Fr. Angel Artime, SDB, Rector Major of the Salesians and Americo Aguiar, auxiliary bishop of Lisbon, and 96 year old Fr Luis Pascual Dri from Argentina also will be receiving Cardinal's red hat in September. The red hat eluded Australia this time.

Archbishop Timothy Costelloe, President of Australian Bishops Conference, is appointed by Pope Francis as one of the nine President Delegates for the sessions of the upcoming Synod on Synodality in October this year and next year. Other presidential delegates include the head of the Coptic Catholic Church, bishops from Mexico, Ecuador, the United States and Mozambique, an Italian Priest, a Mexican religious sister, and a Japanese consecrated laywoman. They take turns presiding over Synod sessions on behalf of the Pope. They are responsible for guiding the work of the Synod and signing special tasks to certain members, when necessary, so that the assembly proceeds efficiently.

Catechesis on the rites preceding baptism

From "On the Mysteries" by St Ambrose, bishop

We gave a daily instruction on right conduct when the readings were taken from the history of the patriarchs or the maxims of Proverbs. These readings were intended to instruct and train you, so that you might grow accustomed to the ways of our forefathers, entering into their paths and walking in their footsteps, in obedience to God's commands.

Now the season reminds us that we must speak of the mysteries, setting forth the meaning of the sacraments. If we had thought fit to teach these things to those not yet initiated through baptism, we should be considered traitors rather than teachers. Then, too, the light of the mysteries is of itself more effective where people do not know what to expect than where some instruction has been given beforehand.

Open then your ears. Enjoy the fragrance of eternal life, breathed on you by means of the sacraments. We explained this to you as we celebrated the mystery of "the opening" when we said: *Effetha, that is, be opened*. Everyone who was to come for the grace of baptism had to understand what he was to be asked, and must remember what he was to answer. This mystery was celebrated by Christ when he healed the man who was deaf and dumb, in the Gospel which we proclaimed to you.

After this, the holy of holies was opened up for you; you entered into the sacred place of regeneration. Recall what you were asked; remember what you answered. You renounced the devil and his works, the world and its dissipation and sensuality. Your words are recorded, not on a monument to the dead but in the book of the living.

There you saw the levite, you saw the priest, you saw the high priest. Do not consider their outward form but the grace given by their ministries. You spoke in the presence of angels, as it is written: *The lips of a priest guard knowledge, and men seek the law from his mouth, for he is the angel of the Lord almighty*. There is no room for deception, no room for denial. He is an angel whose message is the kingdom of Christ and eternal life. You must judge him, not by his appearance but by his office. Remember what he handed on to you, weigh up his value, and so acknowledge his standing.

You entered to confront your enemy, for you intended to renounce him to his face. You turned towards the east, for one who renounces the devil turns towards Christ and fixes his gaze directly on him.

OTHER NOTICES

Overshadowed: Filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit, 18-20 August 2023

Join the MGL Sisters in a weekend retreat exploring what happens we say yes to the Holy Spirit. Experience the life-changing power of deepening in God's love, surrendering to Jesus and living under the grace of the Holy Spirit. Venue: Carmel House, 345 St Andrews Rd, Varroville NSW. Booking: <http://www.trybooking.com/CFBQX> (by 11 August)
Contact: Katherine - mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Ageing Well Masterclass

Bringing together a team of clinical experts and professionals in the field of ageing. Every Thursday from 3 Aug to 7 Sep at 10.30am-12pm (morning tea provided) | Parish Hall, St Joachim's Parish, Lidcombe, 2 Mills Street.

To register email office @stjoachimsparish.org or call 9649 7030.