



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/UCB8a1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1)

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.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

23 JULY 2023

The Synod on Synodality



Synod on synodality is a process announced by Pope Francis in October 2021. After two years of listening to lived experiences of Catholics all over the world and the voices of those often marginalised or excluded, the synod is to meet in October this year. A “synod” is a journey of discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit. In the Synod on Synodality, the entire Church has been called to discern how the Spirit is moving through and with the Body of Christ — inside and outside the Church — so that we may continue to fulfill our mission to evangelize in the world.

Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God in parables. *“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.”* (Ref Mt 13:31-32). From the tiny beginning, the Church has grown very big. One of the main characteristics of the Kingdom is hospitality. The Synod on Synodality will be discerning the hospitality we, the Church, offer and the mind of Jesus Christ in what we offer. The theme of hospitality underlines other parables about the Kingdom in Matthew also. Jesus said, *“The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through”.* (Ref Mt 13:33) Three measures of flour would make enough bread for hundred people or so. Through the plenitude the parable implies hospitality. We as Christians are called to permeate the society with our witnessing faith and puff it up for the Kingdom of fulfilment for many.

Then there is the question about the undesirable elements in the Church which are counter witness to the Kingdom. What do we do about it? Through the parable about the wheat and the darnel, the Lord teaches that we are not to be puritanic and purge all undesirable elements as they pop up. As a Church we are to be patient like the farmer and let the weed to grow with the good wheat. It is the Lord's job to sort out the evil and good ones at the end of time.

Following the teachings of the Lord, the Synod is to discern how we are to be a hospitable Church in the world riddled with questions about women in the Church, politics of power and regionalism, gender identity questions, and inclusiveness issues. While fundamentals of the faith are not be changed, the process and responses are to be discerned. Therefore, the Synod has a job in its hand. Let us pray for the help of the Holy Spirit in the whole process.

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 24/7 | No Mass. |
| Tue 25/7 | St James, Apostle (Feast) 6.45am Mass |
| Wed 26/7 | Sts Joachim & Ann (Memorial) 6.45am Mass 9.15am Mass (SPC Primary - Grandparents' Day) |
| Thu 27/7 | 6.45am Mass 7.00pm RCIA |
| Fri 28/7 | 6.45am Mass |
| Sat 29/7 | Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus (Memorial) 8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sun 30/7 | 7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass Fr Thomas Farewell 10.00am Mass 11.00am Gathering at the Hall |

30 JULY 2023**17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

| Mass | VIGIL | 8AM | 10AM |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ACOLYTE | Christine KENSEY | Jenny MICHAEL | Dom PANGILINAN |
| MUSIC & SINGING | N/A | | SPECIAL CHOIR |
| POWERPOINT | Need Volunteer | Liva or Lavinia | Need Volunteer |
| LECTOR/S | Mai NGUYEN | Rosalind EVANS | Phirum DUCH |
| | Amanda DOWDELL | Maria SIMEONE | Katrina YIP |
| CHURCH SHOP | Anita YIP | Jenny MICHAEL | Margaret THAM |

Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group

Altar & Sacristy: Group 3 Korina Kinda; Antoinette Boudaher

Saturday 8AM**29 JULY**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Rosalind EVANS

*"Family that pray together
 stay together"*

Pilgrim Statue

This week at

Pangilinan & 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, Rob McDonell, Marco Titus Sastre, Sigsy Tan, Blue Tan, Leonardo Martin

Anniversary: Gloria Collins

Recently Deceased: Anna Kutty, Janice Maria Jreige, Maria Vu Thi Hoa, Doreen Stanmore

Deceased: Bob Evans, Giuseppe Leonardi, Eddie Leonardi

Other Intentions: Holy souls in purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 53:6,8

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading

Wisdom 12:13.16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **R**

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **R**

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray

properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:24-30 (Shorter Form)

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 110:4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **1 Kgs 3:5.7-12**

2nd Reading: **Rom 8:28-30**

Gospel: **Mt 13:44-52**

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 13:24-43

Scriptural context – Matthew’s explanation

In the gospel passage, following the presentation of the three parables, Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and darnel to his disciples. It is explained in terms of a final judgment. (Compare it with Matthew 25: 31 -46.) The parable of the weeds, or darnel, and its explanation only appear in the gospel of Matthew – although the parable does occur in the non-canonical gospel of Thomas. The interpretation belongs to Matthew more than it belongs to Jesus. It is an unapologetic direction to his community that living a righteous life in the midst of wickedness will be rewarded.

Have you thought? – Leaven

The parable of the woman placing leaven in three measures of flour is an intriguing one. In some translations, the text reads, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.’ Whilst you might initially hide yeast in some dough, it doesn’t take very long for the yeast to become apparent as it makes the dough rise. Such a large quantity of flour suggests the bread is being prepared for a festival – perhaps Passover when only unleavened bread was used? That would put a different spin on the woman’s action!

Living the Gospel – Agents of change

We often hear that to fully live out the kingdom message of Jesus is to be counter-cultural. These parables are a perfect example of that call. Jesus himself acted in contrast to his cultural context and often used examples in his teaching that flew in the face of cultural expectation. What does it mean to be counter-cultural today? Our world is driven by an emphasis on the individual; an emphasis on acquisition; an emphasis on consuming. The kingdom parables of today’s gospel call us to be the agents of change that ‘irritate’ in our own small way to make a difference in the world.

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK



Tuesday, 25 July - St James, Apostle (Feast)

Born at Bethsaida in Galilee, a son of Zebedee. Died about 44, the first apostle to die, beheaded by Herod. A fisherman, summoned by Jesus together with his brother Saint John (27 December). They were called the "Sons of Thunder" (Mark 3:17). Remembered as a favoured apostle: with Saint Peter (29 June) and Saint John he was present at the transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony in the garden.

Mass at 6.45am.

Wednesday, 26 July - Sts Joachim & Ann (Memorial)

St Joachim and St Anne are named as Mary's parents in a late second century tradition. Churches dedicated to Saint Anne are found in Jerusalem and Constantinople from the middle of the sixth century.

The feast of Saint Anne was kept in Rome by the eighth century, that of Saint Joachim from the fifteenth century. The feast honours the parents of the Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord.



Mass at 6.45am and 9.15am.



Saturday, 29 July - Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus (Memorial)

Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus—Memorial. “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus” (John 11:5). This is how John's Gospel describes Jesus' relationship with these siblings whom we honor together today. Of course, Jesus loves all people equally with the perfection of divine charity.

Mass at 8.00am.

Petition to Minister Andrew Giles

RE: Permanent Residency for Mary and Joseph Alphones



We the undersigned express our deep concern regarding the immigration status of Mary and Joseph Alphones, a couple who have been living in Australia for the past 15 years. They have built their lives here, contributed positively to their community, and have three children, all of whom were born in Australia and have only known Australia as their home.

Mary and Joseph's eldest child, Hannah, is an Australian citizen by birthright, and their two other children, Dinah and Aiden, have been thriving in the Australian education system. Dinah is currently in Year 2, and Aiden is attending preschool. These children have grown up embracing the Australian way of life, culture, and values, and speaks English far better than their parents' language.

They have actively integrated into Australian society, forming strong bonds with their neighbours, colleagues, and community members. Their contributions to the local community are widely acknowledged and appreciated. It would be heartbreaking to consider the possibility of uprooting this family from the only home they have ever known.

Joseph has been working as an Aged Care Assistant in Nursing for the last 5 years and has been dutifully paying taxes for the past 15 years. His compassionate nature and dedication to caring for the elderly have made a significant difference in the lives of those he serves. He organised the annual Parish Christmas Luncheon for about 150 people on 25 December 2022. It was one of the many Charitable undertakings of Joseph.

Mary, on the other hand, runs a Family Day Care and is an Early Childhood Educator. Her passion for nurturing and educating young minds has had a positive impact on the development of numerous children in her care. Together, as a faithful Christian family, Mary and Joseph have demonstrated their commitment to their community, their work, and their shared values.

It is with deep concern that I bring to your attention the precarious immigration status of Mary and Joseph. After 15 years of residing in Australia and contributing positively to society, the uncertainty surrounding their future is causing immense distress to their family. Uprooting them from the only home they have ever known would have far-reaching consequences for their children's emotional well-being, stability, and future prospects.

Minister Giles, we implore you to exercise your discretionary powers to intervene on behalf of Mary and Joseph. Granting them permanent residency or a pathway to citizenship would not only acknowledge their long-standing contributions to Australia but also uphold the principles of fairness, inclusivity, and justice that our nation holds dear. By granting them security and stability, you would enable these children, who are already deeply connected to Australia, to continue their education, contribute to society, and build a brighter future for themselves and our country.

We have faith in your commitment to a fair and compassionate immigration system, and we sincerely hope for a positive resolution for Mary and Joseph and their children.

To support this petition, fill in the form by visiting: <https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-minister-andrew-giles-re-permanent-residency-for-mary-joseph-alphones>

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

Food for Farewell Lunch

Fr Thomas' Farewell next Sunday, 30 July. The Parish Pastoral Council is inviting parishioners to bring food and drinks to share at the lunch.

This weekend will be the last to 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

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.

There are still a few planned giving envelopes to be collected on the seats at the back of the church, next to the confessional box.

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).



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.



Berala Association of Rosary Makers (BARM)



BARM commenced in May 2021 under the guidance of Father Thomas. We have just reached a milestone of making 2 THOUSAND Rosary Beads which have been sent all over the world, most recently to the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. It is gratifying to know that somewhere in the world, someone is honouring Our Blessed Mother by praying on rosary beads made by a group of parishioners and primary school parents.

BARM meets the last Thursday of each month for 1.5 hours in the parish hall. This is a time when we gather in a relaxed way to make the rosaries over a cuppa and cake. Many new friendships have been made during this time.

All are invited to come along and join BARM. No experience is necessary and all supplies are provided.

Please contact Jenny Michael for further information.
jenny.michael@syd.catholic.edu.au



NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL



9646 1434
2 New St
Auburn



This week the students of St Joseph the Worker put on some special performances in an afternoon farewell assembly for Father Thomas.

They enjoyed singing him songs, recounting poetry, presenting speeches and taking Father Thomas on a stroll down memory lane with a short movie of his time with us. Last but not least we farewelled him with a long tunnel!

For many of our students Father Thomas has been Parish Priest for longer than they have been alive. Thank you for being there for us Father Thomas!



STJW THE BEST KEPT SECRET



News from your parish school

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



St. Peter Chanel staff began Term 3 with a retreat at Benedict XVI Centre. Staff have been walking together through the Alpha Program during Term 2 and this retreat continued that journey. The day and a half consisted of Mass, Adoration, discussions, and fellowship. We are truly blessed with an amazing staff! St. Peter Chanel, pray for us.



Just for Laughs

Why was the equal sign so humble? Because it wasn't greater than or less than anyone else.



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Jose George

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

We should be Christians in deed, as well as in name

The beginning of St Ignatius of Antioch's letter to the Magnesians

Ignatius, also called Theophorus, to the church at Magnesia on the Maeander, a church blessed with the grace of God the Father in Christ Jesus, our Saviour, in whom I salute you. I send you every good wish in God the Father and in Jesus Christ.

I was delighted to hear of your love of God, so well-ordered and devout, and so I decided to address you in the faith of Jesus Christ. Honoured as I am with a name of the greatest splendour, though I am still in chains I sing with the praises of the churches, and pray that they be united with the flesh and the spirit of Jesus Christ, who is our eternal life; a union in faith and love, to which nothing must be preferred; and above all a union with Jesus and the Father, for if in him we endure all the power of the prince of this world, and escape unharmed, we shall make our way to God.

I have had the honour of seeing you in the person of Damas your bishop, a man of God, and in the persons of your worthy presbyters, Bassus and Apollonius, and my fellow-servant, the deacon Zotion; may I continue to take delight in him for he is obedient to the bishop as to the grace of God, and to the presbyters as to the law of Jesus Christ.

Now it hardly becomes you to presume on your bishop's youth, but rather, having regard to the power of God the Father, to show him every mark of respect. This, I understand, is what your holy presbyters do, not taking advantage of his youthful condition but deferring to him with the prudence which comes from God, or rather not to him but to the Father of Jesus Christ, to the bishop of all. So then, for the honour of him who loves us, it is proper to obey without hypocrisy; for a man does not so much deceive the bishop he can see as try to deceive the bishop he cannot see. In such a case he has to reckon not with a man, but with God who knows the secrets of the heart.

We should then really live as Christians and not merely have the name; for many invoke the bishop's name but do everything apart from him. Such men, I think, do not have a good conscience, for they do not assemble lawfully as commanded.

All things have an end, and two things, life and death, are side by side set before us, and each man will go to *his own place*. Just as there are two coinages, one of God and the other of the world, each with its own image, so unbelievers bear the image of this world, and those who have faith with love bear the image of God the Father through Jesus Christ. Unless we are ready through his power to die in the likeness of his passion, his life is not in us.

OTHER NOTICES

Classroom Music Teachers Wanted

Sydney Catholic Schools (SCS) is looking for specialist Instrumental tutors in Brass, Woodwind and Strings and Classroom Music Teachers to work in our primary and secondary schools, from one to five days per week. Tutors will commence in Term 1, 2024 and to start applying, you can view the live advert on our Sydney Catholic Schools website here. All Classroom Music Teacher positions will be advertised from Monday, 24 July. For further info, contact the SCS' Recruitment team at: talentacquisition@syd.catholic.edu.au.

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.

SmartLoving Fertility

An online course for learning how to manage fertility naturally in context of the Catholic faith. Based on the Sympto-Thermal method, the course incorporates a unique blend of scientific insights, relationship frameworks and Catholic Theology. From now until 31 August you can register for the course at 50% off to celebrate Natural Fertility Awareness Week. Use NFPWEEK coupon code to claim your discount. www.smartloving.org/fertility