

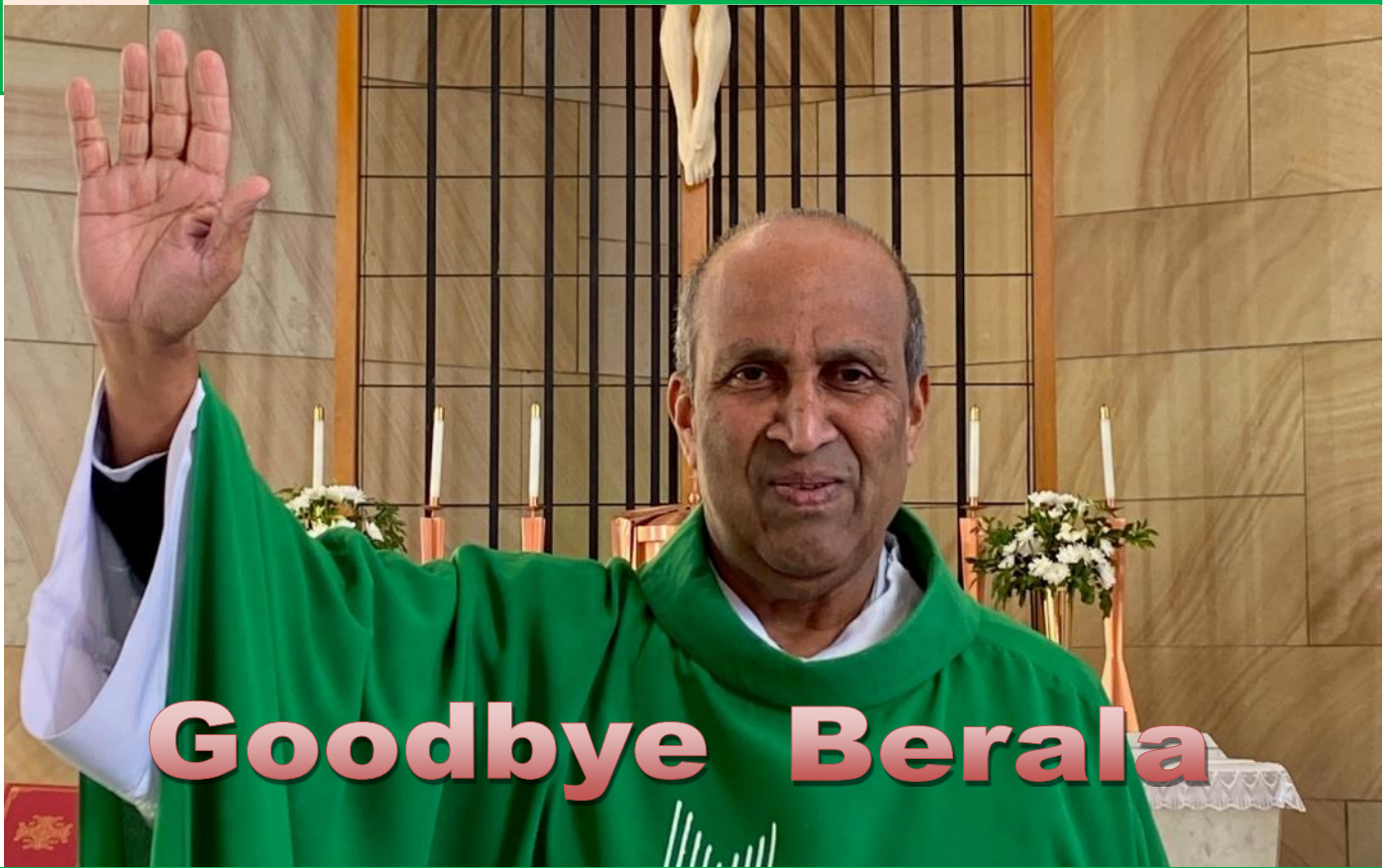


St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala

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/BeralaParish)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 30 JULY 2023



Goodbye Berala

You have the Treasure; I will be Nostalgic

Homily on Matthew 13:44-52

In recent days I have been bringing out my possessions both old and new to sort them. There are all kind of things scattered in my house and it is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. Now like a fisherman I will have to sort them out, box all good stuff and the bad stuff to be thrown into the garbage bin. It reminds me of what the Lord said about the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom will collect all sorts, but at the end the Lord will send his angels to sort out the good and the evil.

There are plenty of treasure of the old I still keep. The prayer schedule, faith practices, charity services, old friends, and the lived experience of Christian faith are worth keeping. Along the way, I have also found new insights, inspirations, and novel ways of celebrating faith. Thus my treasure is a mix of both old and new.

Jesus said, *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field."* Anyone who can see through the field, the hidden treasure in it, will sacrifice everything to buy the field for the treasure in it. Our parish as a faith community can be compared to a field with hidden treasures. While some people see only the 'field' in a parish, others with openness to the Holy Spirit perceive the hidden treasure of God's rule in the faith community. Because of the treasure they see, they are ready to make sacrifices for the good of the parish. Berala is rich with such committed and faithful people. The joy, peace and fellowship this parish could bring about has been phenomenal. Therefore, as I move on, I will always be nostalgic about this parish.

For an experience of the Kingdom of God we need not wait till our death. We have been praying *"Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven"*. God has answered. The Kingdom of God is hidden in the field of this parish. It has the fine pearls you have been looking for. Do not hesitate to make sacrifices to appropriate the precious experience of the Kingdom of God available for you here and now.

Parish Administrator

Fr Josh Miechels
 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au (Office)
 Joshua.Miechels@sydneycatholic.org
 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 (his email) 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

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 31/7	No Mass.
Tue 1/8	St Alphonsus Liguori (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Wed 2/8	No Mass.
Thu 3/8	St Dominic (Memorial) 6.45am Mass 7.00pm RCIA
Fri 4/8	St John Vianney (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Sat 5/8	CWF Collection 8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 6/8	CWF Collection 7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

6 AUGUST 2023**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Charlie SCULLY	Dom PANGILINAN
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	N/A	N/A
POWERPOINT	Parish Choir	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
LECTOR/S	Mai NGUYEN	Michael CHOW	Phirum DUCH
	Katrina YIP	Maris MARSH	Roshan SEBASTIAN
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Jenny MICHAEL	Margaret THAM
Cleaners SPC: Uisa Family		Altar & Sacristy: Group 4 Anna Manganaro, Veronica Zaitseff	

Saturday 8AM**5 AUGUST**

LECTOR FOR MASS	Christine KENSEY
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*"Family that pray together
 stay together."*

**Pilgrim Statue**

This week at

**Nazareth & Ilboudo
 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, Richard Langford, Patricia Browne

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

Deceased: Bob Evans, Giuseppe Leonardi, Eddie Leonardi

Special Intention: Celia & Nane Loloa, Hanna Rahme & Family

Other Intentions: Holy souls in purgatory.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 67:6-7,36

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5,7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. **R**

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **R**

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold. That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. **R**

Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with

all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

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 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Communion Antiphon

Psalm 102:2

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Dn 7:9-10. 13-14**

2nd Reading: **2 Pt 1:16-19**

Gospel: **Mt 17:1-9**

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 13:44-52

Gospel Focus – The Kingdom is like...

Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently uses the figures of speech of simile and metaphor to describe the kingdom. He never directly describes the kingdom. It is always described as being like some situation or person or as if... This figurative use of language means that we have no single clear picture of what the kingdom is like but we do have a multitude of metaphors and descriptions. This style of description adds to the paradoxical nature of the kingdom – it is like many things yet we don't really know what it is like at all.

Scriptural context – Matthew Ch 13

Over the last few weeks we have now heard Matthew Chapter 13 almost in its entirety. We heard first the parable of the sower then last week three short parables about weeds amongst the wheat, the mustard seed growing into a great tree and leaven in the flour. Finally, today we have had these additional pithy parables. The entire chapter seeks to paint metaphoric images of the kingdom. Woven through these images is a suggestion that the kingdom is open to all – all are presented with the invitation – but not everyone will accept that invitation or respond to it in the same way.

Have you thought? Interpretation

In today's passage the gospel writer appears to describe himself: 'every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.' It is a fantastic description of what it means to be an interpreter of the gospel. To interpret scripture, one must draw on what is old; applying understandings of the text in its original context and its original audience. But one must also draw on what is new; making connections between that original setting and the context in which it is being read today.

FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK



Monday, 31 July - St Ignatius of Loyola (Memorial)

Born at Loyola (Spain) in 1491. Died on this day at Rome in 1556. A Spanish nobleman trained in diplomacy and the use of arms, wounded in battle against the French. The experience of conversion while convalescing led

him to write the Spiritual Exercises. Then founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and became its first superior general. Remembered for his loyalty to the Church and its renewal, his ministry to the marginal, his concern for education, and his dedication "to the greater glory of God," the motto of the Jesuits.

No mass.



Tuesday, 1 August - St Alphonsus Liguori (Memorial)

Born at Naples (Italy) in 1696. Died at Nocera on this day in 1787. A lawyer before ordination. After founding the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer Redemptorists, he was for thirteen years bishop of Sant' Agata dei

Goti, but resigned due to ill health. He coped with much internal conflict within the congregation and external opposition. Remembered as a popular preacher and devotional writer and as an influential master of moral theology.

Mass at 6.45am.



Thursday, 3 August - St Dominic (Memorial)

Born at Calaruega (Spain) about 1170. Died at Bologna (Italy) on 6 August 1221. An Augustinian canon noted for prayer, penance, and an exemplary life. In a time of violent crusades he sought the reconciliation of Albigensian

heretics through instruction and prayer. Established the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) to revitalize the Church through study, teaching, preaching, and prayer. Remembered as a preacher, organiser, and patron of learning.

Mass at 6.45am.



Friday, 4 August - St John Vianney (Memorial)

Born near Lyons (France) in 1786. Died at Ars on this day in 1859. Overcame various obstacles, including little education and lack of means, to be ordained a priest. Served in a remote parish as the

Curé of Ars, where his sanctity attracted thousands of visitors. Remembered for his preaching and confessional counsel and is honoured as a model for parish clergy.

Mass at 6.45am

From Fr Josh

Dear brothers and sisters,

It was a nice surprise to bump into some parishioners while in the Holy Land accompanying pilgrims to World Youth Day. I was very touched by the welcome to the parish they gave me, and that all of you have given me so far.

Please be assured I am bringing the parish, and all of your intentions, to each of the Holy places.

I have also obtained a surprise gift for you all, which I will give you at the right time when I get back,

Saint Peter Chanel and Saint Joseph, pray for us!



Fr Joshua Miechels

Please note that there will be NO morning masses on Wednesday, 2 August and Friday 11 August and NO 8am Mass on Saturday, 12 August.

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 on the World Youth Day in Lisbon.

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.

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.

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.

Liturgy Roster

The Liturgy Roster from 5 August has been emailed out. If you would like to obtain a printed copy or if you wish to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or email info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. Thank you!

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>

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).





News from your parish school

ST. PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

info@spcregentspark.catholic.edu.au - 9644 9083



During the school holidays, SPC students received a challenge from Sister Cecilia Joseph: how many books can you read over the two weeks? Students kept a log of books, titles, and genres. Over 45 students participated in this reading challenge and received a special prize. It is clear that SPC students love to read! Keep up the amazing work!



NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL



9646 1434

2 New St
Auburn



Last week St Joseph the Worker celebrated their very first Founders Day! We began the day with Mass to honour Venerable Mary Aikenhead and the Sisters of Charity. We then engaged in a day of fun; learning about their good works, playing olden day games and then our volunteers below performed a play of Mary's life! We can't wait for Founders Day in 2024!



STJW THE BEST KEPT SECRET

Just for Laughs

A priest was being honoured at his farewell dinner after 25 years in the parish.

A leading local politician, who was also a member of the congregation, was chosen to make the presentation and give a little leaving speech at the dinner.

He was delayed so the priest decided to say his own few words while they waited.

'I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set and, when stopped by the police, had almost murdered the officer. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his place of business, had an affair with his boss's wife, taken illegal drugs. I was appalled.

But as the days went on I knew that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people.'

Just as the priest finished his talk the politician arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began to make the presentation and give his speech. 'I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived,' said the politician.'

In fact, I had the honour of being the first one to go to him in confession.'

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

I rejoice exceedingly in all my tribulations

From a homily on the 2nd letter to the Corinthians by Saint John Chrysostom

Again Paul turns to speak of love, softening the harshness of his rebuke. For after convicting and reproaching them for not loving him as he had loved them, breaking away from his love and attaching themselves to troublemakers, he again takes the edge off the reproach by saying: *Open your hearts to us*, that is, *love us*. He asks for a favour which will be no burden to them but will be more profitable to the giver than to the receiver. And he did not use the word “love” but said, more appealingly: *Open your hearts to us*.

Who, he said, has cast us out of your minds, thrust us from your hearts? How is it that you feel constraint with us? For, since he has said earlier: *You are restricted in your own affection*, he now declares himself more openly and says: *Open your heart to us*, thus once more drawing them to him. For nothing so much wins love as the knowledge that one’s lover desires most of all to be himself loved.

For I said before, he tells them, *that you are in our hearts to die together or live together*. This is love at its height, that even though in disfavour, he wishes both to die and to live with them. For you are in our hearts, not just somehow or other, but in the way I have said. It is possible to love and yet to draw back when danger threatens; but my love is not like that.

I am filled with consolation. What consolation? That which comes from you because you, being changed for the better, have consoled me by what you have done. It is natural for a lover both to complain that he is not loved in return and to fear that he may cause distress by complaining too much. Therefore, he says: *I am filled with consolation, I rejoice exceedingly*.

It is as if he said, I was much grieved on your account, but you have made it up for me in full measure and given me comfort; for you have not only removed the cause for any grief but filled me with a richer joy.

Then he shows the greatness of that joy by saying not only *I rejoice exceedingly* but also the words which follow: *in all my tribulations*. So great, he says, was the delight that you gave me that it was not even dimmed by so much tribulation, but overcame by its strength and keenness all those sorrows which had invaded my heart, and took away from me all awareness of them.

OTHER NOTICES

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.

Wesley Care Finder

Intensive assistance for aged care support. Care finders can help older people understand what aged care services are available to them, conduct

assessments, identify needs and access appropriate services. To receive Wesley care finder support, an older person must: have no carer or support person who can help; have difficulty communicating due to language or literacy problems; find it difficult to understand information or make decisions; be reluctant to engage with aged care or government; be in an unsafe situation if they don’t receive services; be eligible for government funded aged care. Contact John Foo on 0458 108 700



Donate to the Charitable Works Fund August 2023 Appeal

5th & 6th August 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.

Scan to Give

