



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)

Weekday Mass: Tue-Fri 6.45am Sat 8.00am

Weekday Confession: Tue-Fri 7.15am-7.45am | Weekday Adoration: Tue-Fri 7.15am-8.45am

Weekend Mass: Sat 5.00pm Vigil - LiveStreamed, Sun 8.00am & 10.00am

Weekend Holy Hour & Reconciliation: Sat 8.30am - 9.30am

Weekend Adoration: Sat 8.30am-9.30am

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

24 December 2023

From the Pastor

Dear brothers and sisters,

Word of God for the day: Romans 16:26

"It must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith."

Q&A: Did Pope Francis change Church teaching on sexuality on Tuesday?

No. Last Tuesday Pope Francis approved a *Declaration on the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings*. This was reported a lot in the news, and in social media, as Pope Francis changing Church teaching and now saying priests can bless same-sex unions. This is not true. If you [read the actual document](#), it just says the following:

- God loves us, and is always seeking the salvation of everyone. We must do the same.
- Jesus warns us that any sexual act outside the marriage of a man and a woman contradicts this love and salvation, is gravely immoral, and cannot be blessed. This includes 'same-sex unions' which "cannot be compared in any way to a marriage." (no.30)
- The declaration explains that asking for a blessing means asking God to make something or someone holy. This means that asking a priest for a blessing is also a form of prayer, of recognising that I need God's help, that I need God to help me be more mature, more faithful to what Jesus asks, to be healed by him, and to be able to love more like God loves. (no.31)
- The final point the declaration makes is that if it happens that a priest is asked for a blessing by two people, whether they be unmarried, divorced and remarried, or in a same-sex relationship, the priest may bless these people, if he thinks it will help the salvation of their souls, as long as as:
 - a. the priest is not trying to bless or legitimise an irregular or same-sex union (no.31, 38, 40)
 - b. it will not bring into doubt what Jesus teaches about sexuality and marriage
 - c. it will not shock or scandalise people that he does this
 - d. it is not done in the liturgy, or in a habitual way (no.39)

In other words, it is just the Church trying to do everything she possibly can to help everyone, while at the same time preaching the same helpful, beautiful and life-giving gospel to all.

Roof

Our main roof is nearly finished! Just the cross, and above the sanctuary remains to be done. It will be completed, and the scaffolding taken down, in January.

Adoration after daily mass will continue

Given the unexpected demand of adoration after daily mass during Advent, it will now become a permanent part of our daily program in the parish, from 7:15 to 8:45am every day from Tuesday to Friday. Many of our school students and parents have been popping in to present their day to Jesus for 2 minutes or 20 minutes. There are mums and nannas who come with their small children to pray. And there are other parishioners who stay the whole hour and a half after mass. Come to adoration, and experience how this daily dose of God and his goodness consoles yourself, warms your heart, brings you joy and gives you peace!

Yours in Our Lord,
J+

Parish Administrator

Fr Josh Miechels
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 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

Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham
 rcia.spcberala@gmail.com

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

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you

know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Parish Diary This Week

Mon 25/12	Christmas Day 12.00am Solemn Midnight Mass 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass
Tue 26/12	6.45am Mass 7.15am-7.45am Confession 7.15am-8.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wed 27/12	6.45am Mass 7.15am-7.45am Confession 7.15am-8.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thu 28/12	6.45am Mass 7.15am-7.45am Confession 7.15am-8.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7.00pm RCIA
Fri 29/12	6.45am Mass 7.15am-7.45am Confession 7.15am-8.45am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 30/12	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 8.30am-9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 31/12	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

31 DECEMBER 2023**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Christine KENSEY	Jenny MICHAEL	Dom PANGILINAN
MUSIC & SINGING	N/A	Damian LAWRENCE	Damian LAWRENCE
POWERPOINT	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
LECTOR/S	Noeline DONNELLAN	Rosalind EVANS	Phirum DUCH
	Mai NGUYEN	Maria SIMEONE	Soana SEKOPE
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Winnie CHIU	Margaret THAM

Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group

Altar & Sacristy: Group 1 Gwen Bergstedt; Anita Yip

Saturday 8AM**30 DECEMBER**

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

Pilgrim Statue

This week at

Flores (Junior) & Moore Families

To host the Pilgrim Statue and Rosary prayer

please contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603 or Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.

Mass Intentions

Sick: Graham Turner, Giovanni Simeone, Dot Boyd, Nguyen Thi Hoa, Pauline Lian, Monica Khi, Fr Vincent Ryan OMI, Richard Langford, Victor Rodrigues

Deceased: Ted Duffy, Maria Yen Vu, Eddie Leonardi, Giuseppe Leonardi

Anniversary: Alejandro Garcia Sr

Deceased Members & Friends: Leonardi & Deromedi Families

Recently Deceased: Hank Facer

Other Intentions: Holy souls in purgatory.

**Fourth Week of Advent - Purple Candle on Wreath - Love**

We pray for the love which is patient and kind, and the love which goes on caring and believing. May we show this love to one another and be open to welcome the love of God into our hearts. We pray for everyone who feels unloved, and for every time it is difficult to love others. Lord Jesus Christ, you showed us that God is love. Help us to live in this way of love. Come close to us this Advent. Amen.

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon (Cf Isaiah 45:8)

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading (2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16)

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2)

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading (Romans 16:25-27)

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim

Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation (Luke 1:38)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel (Luke 1:26-38)

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Communion Antiphon (Isaiah 7:14)

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14**

2nd Reading: **Colossians 3:12-21**

Gospel: **Luke 2:22-40**

News



The Parish Office will be **closed from 3PM on Friday 22 December** and will **reopen on Thursday, 18 January.**

For urgent queries, please send email to info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas!

CHURCH SHOP

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

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!



Message from Fr Thomas

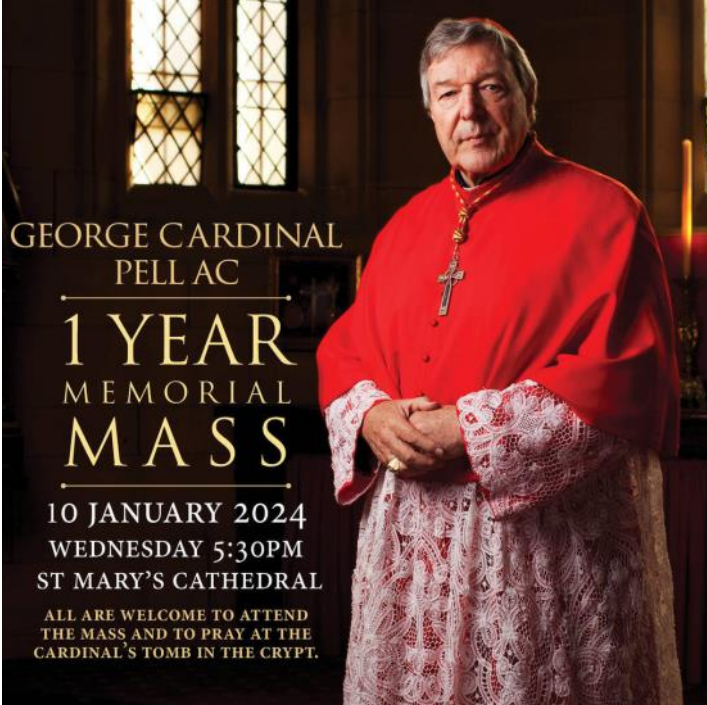
Dear Berala parishioners

You may like to know that I have had a very good sabbatical program. Having renewed, I will commence my next assignment as Parish Priest of St Joan of Arc, Haberfield on 20th January 2024.

Currently I am with my mum in India, getting ready to celebrate Christmas with her, after a long time.

I wish all of you also a Happy and blessed Christmas. Should anyone is looking to contact me, my email thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org.

God bless you all!



GEORGE CARDINAL
PELL AC

1 YEAR
MEMORIAL
MASS

10 JANUARY 2024
WEDNESDAY 5:30PM
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
THE MASS AND TO PRAY AT THE
CARDINAL'S TOMB IN THE CRYPT.

Sacraments 2024

Registrations for sacraments 2024 is open!

Please use the QR Code or link under the respective sacrament for further information and registration.

Reconciliation



<https://stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/reconciliation/>

First Holy Communion



<https://stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/holy-communion/>

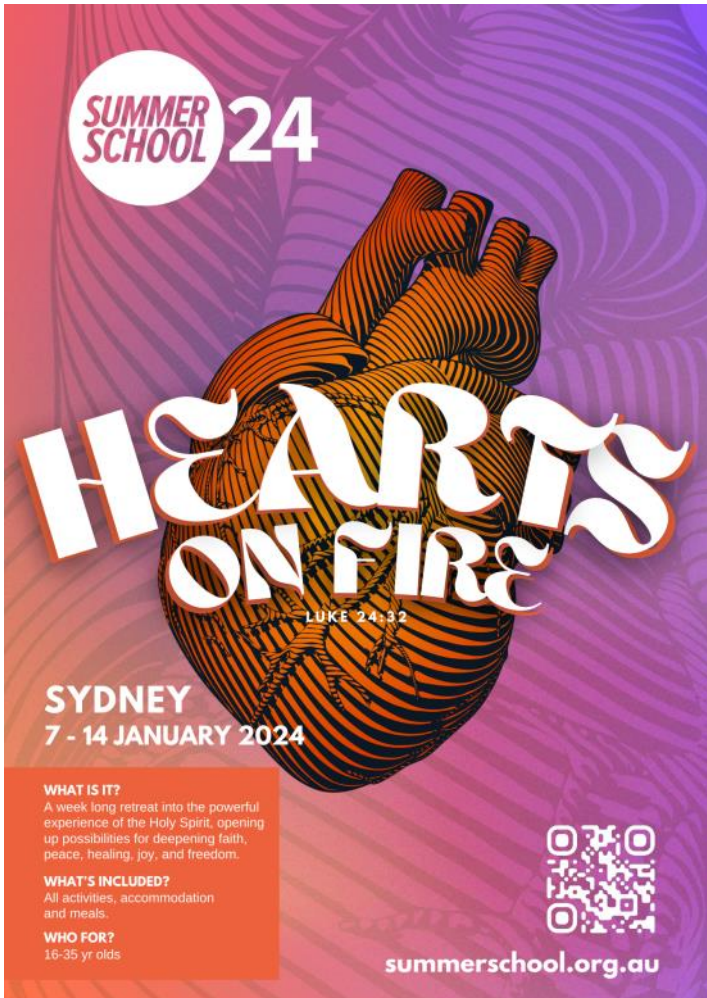


Confirmation

<https://stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/confirmation/>

If for any reason you do not have access to the above options or are having difficulty with the above process, please do not hesitate to contact our office via email. God bless!

Sophia Brewty | Sacramental Coordinator | Email: sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au



SUMMER SCHOOL 24

HEARTS ON FIRE

LUKE 24:32

SYDNEY
7 - 14 JANUARY 2024

WHAT IS IT?
A week long retreat into the powerful experience of the Holy Spirit, opening up possibilities for deepening faith, peace, healing, joy, and freedom.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?
All activities, accommodation and meals.

WHO FOR?
16-35 yr olds

summerschool.org.au

Just for Laughs



I was visiting my son the other night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.
"Dad, this is the 21st century," he said. "I don't waste my money on newspapers. But if you like, you can borrow my iPad."
I can tell you this: that spider never knew what hit him.