

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141
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www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
f Berala Catholic Parish

**Parish Priest**

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
 pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
 T (02) 9644 7787

Priests in Residence

Mgr Michael Barbari
 Cor Bishop
 T (02)9738 1491
 M 0418 459 431

Fr Mark Spora

Pastor Emeritus SJW
 T (02) 9649 9089

Parish Secretary

Marisa Squadrito
 Tues to Fri 9am -3pm

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair)
 T. 0402071849
 Karim Kassis (Vice Chair)
 T. 0408404130
 Maureen Hynes
 (Secretary)
 Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),
 Micheline Botham (Social
 Committee) Jenny Michael
 (Liturgy Committee)
 Pat Kavanagh (Social
 Justice), Jann Rockliff,
 (Hospital Visit) Sam Duch,
 Joe Moses, Rhia Victorino,
 Arthur Doumit and
 Principals of
 the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
 T (02) 9644 8859
 Micheline Botham
 (Secretary) 0422939342,
 Joe Moses & Ingrid
 Scharenguivel.

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel
 Regents Park
 Principal - Phil Townsend
 T. 96449083
 Family Educator - Barbara
 Mucha

St Joseph the Worker
 Auburn South
 Principal - Gai Melville
 T. 96461434

Is our Faith Futile?

Hearing about the persecutions of Christians in Syria and other places, one might ask is our faith in Christ futile. There was a similar case about three decades after Jesus' death and resurrection. Emperor Nero of Rome blamed Christians for the disaster of a terrible fire that swept through Rome and started to persecute Christians. Around 80 AD when Luke wrote the Gospel, the Christians might have been wondering what good their faith was in the face of persecution. The Christian community needed encouraging words. Therefore the evangelist reminded them of what Jesus said and did to encourage his disciples who were upset to know that their master was on his way to be crucified.

Jesus took his disciples for a long walk along the Jezreel valley in Galilee. All along he was telling them that the Son of God was going to be handed down to his persecutors who would crucify him. But after his death, he would victoriously resurrect from the dead. But this was a difficult teaching to understand. Therefore Jesus made his close friends climb up about 460 meters to the top of Mt Tabor. There, at prayer, they were given a glimpse of his divine nature. The dazzling white appearance of Jesus was assurance of the light of hope at the end of the tunnel of persecution and suffering.

The transfigured appearance of Moses and Elijah, the two most revered prophets of the Jews, indicated the glory they had achieved. But they too had to go through suffering as part of their partaking in God's plan. Moses had to wander through the harsh desert of Sinai. Elijah had to endure harsh famine which gripped his people for many years. Hardship, suffering, and persecutions are all part of God's plan. It may be hard to make sense of the sufferings while you are enduring them. But with faith, you get to wait till the end and God will reveal the meaning of it to you. Jesus told his disciples not to tell anyone about the experience of transfiguration until they had witnessed the resurrected Christ. Because the suffering the Son of God had to endure was a scandal to everyone until they saw the resurrected Christ.

There are a lot of people in our time too scandalised at various downfalls of church leaders, persecutions of Christians, and personal sufferings due to illness or ill treatment by immediate family. In all these circumstances we need to take courage and soldier on with hope that the glory of God is awaiting us. Our faith and experience of the suffering of Christ is not futile. Our own share in the suffering of Christ is not futile. Lent is a time to build up strength and to stand up to all kinds of trials. Spend some time each day in Bible meditation and enter into the mercy of God being with us. It will encourage and prepare you for the hard road of Christian life ahead.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are held at St Peter Chanel Church on each Friday in Lent at 7.00 PM



While on earth, Jesus healed
all who came to Him.

Through the Power
of the Cross...

He still does.

"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed."
(1 Peter 2:24)

www.shadihrici.com

St Peter Chanel and St Joseph Parish invites you to the

Mass of the Anointing of the Sick

On 12 March 2016 (Saturday)

10:00 am start

St Peter Chanel Church

62 Kingsland Road, Berala

**Do join us after Mass in the Jubilee Hall for light
refreshments.**

If you require transport, please phone Alan Tham on 9646 1756

Volunteers needed to help on the day. Please contact
Carmel Martin on: 0421 019 672 or
email: carmel_martin25@yahoo.com.au
to register your interest.

SPC Roof Repair



The repair of the roof of St Peter Chanel Church is now complete. For the last few weeks you must have seen the scaffolding around the church and hearing the hammering noises. Now it is over. The good news is that the Catholic Church Insurance has paid for it. It took nearly a year of planning; but at the end it is rewarding. Hopefully we will not have to worry any more about a leaking roof. The painters will be back after Easter to complete the painting of the



ceiling and the interior of the Church. Many thanks to Charlie Scully who has been managing the project for the parish.

A Family for Baptism

Chris Lucas and his wife Ok Sook (Sue) Shin and their two children, Chloe and Teo, have been preparing for initiation into the Catholic Church. After year long studies and participation in parish liturgies, they are now enrolled for Baptism, Communion and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil Mass. The formal enrolment was done last Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. There were hundreds of other catechumens and candidates with their



sponsors from other parishes of the Archdiocese at the ceremony. It was a wonderful experience to see the cathedral nearly full with people involved with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. In the absence of our Archbishop due to his illness, Bishop Terry Brady presided over the Rite of Election. Now that Chris and Sue are formally enrolled, they will have the ritual 'Scrutinies' the following Sundays at St Peter Chanel Church. At the Easter Vigil they will be solemnly baptised and fully initiated into the Church. After the Easter Vigil parishioners will be invited to the Hall to join a light supper to celebrate their initiation with them.

Over the last few weeks I have been getting a number of other inquiries, especially from young people regarding baptism and initiation into the Church. To assist them and others in Catholic Inquiry, I would like to have some more volunteers with some theological training. Let me know if you wish to volunteer.

Josie Pangilinan - Catechist Auburn West & Berala Public Schools

I had many hang-ups before I actually did become a Catechist. Classroom management is where I struggle most. One time, I thought it better to send two kids out of the classroom during a lesson. I felt so bad about it, wanting to quit. My son, a teacher himself, opened my eyes as to my mission – to be the face of Jesus – welcoming and loving even their naughtiness. When they saw me relax and excited with the lessons on hand, my students started to do the same. I feel so blessed to be part of their spiritual journey.

I may not be in Sudan like Sister Dorothy, but in my scripture classes in the past few yearsmy faith is most active..... Josie Pangilinan



***“Faith is a pure gift ...
a gift received and a gift given.
A catechist is right there,
at the centre of this exchange of gifts”
Pope Francis.***



Funeral Notice

Philomena Eggins, who was a parishioner at Berala for many years before moving to Newcastle, passed away on 15 February aged 94. Philomena was a very active member of our Church community, regularly playing the organ at Mass. Her late husband, John, was also very involved in parish life. Her funeral will be held at St Peter Chanel Church at 11.00am on Tuesday 23 February. May she be granted eternal rest.

Communion



Parents are invited to enrol their children for First Holy Communion on 27/28 February. If your child is in Year 4 or older they are eligible to enrol. Please arrive at SJW or SPC Church half an hour before the start of the Mass. The Sacramental team will collect \$15 as registration fee and provide the families with forms to fill in. The children are to present these forms during the Mass to the priest. Parents are then invited to a meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday 1 March (not May as previously advised) at SPC Church. Details of the program will be explained at this meeting and resource materials will be distributed to the parents. Using the material the parents will be able to explain Holy Eucharist to the

children and entuse them to participate in Sunday Liturgies. The children and their parents are to meet for one hour catechetical sessions on each Sundays in June after 10 AM Mass in the Jubilee Hall. Alternatively the parents can prepare the children at home. Fr Thomas would like to meet with each family individually, before mid August, to check the preparedness of the child before the reception of the Sacrament. Thursday 18 August is the retreat day for the children at St Peter Chanel Primary School. First Holy Communion will be celebrated at SJW at 8 AM on Sunday 21 August and at SPC on Saturday 27 August at 5pm or at 10am on Sunday 28 August.

Reconciliation

The First Reconciliation Program will start this year with enrolment at all Masses on the first weekend of September. A parents meeting will be held on the following Tuesday evening and the catechetical classes will be held in the Jubilee hall four consecutive Sundays starting on 16 October. The First Reconciliation will be celebrated on 15 and 16 November.

Any further inquiry can be directed Marisa in the parish Office or Maureen Hynes, Sr Karen Nguyen, Josie Pangilinan, or Fr Thomas.

KEY DATES 2016	Confirmation	Communion	Reconciliation
Enrolments	20/21 February 30 Minutes before Mass	27/28 February 30 Minutes before Mass	3/4 September 30 Minutes before Mass
Parent Meetings	23 February & 10 May	1 March	7 September
Celebration Dates	25 May	21,27 & 28 August	15 & 16 November

Please note, enrolments will only be accepted at these times and during the Mass

Living Mercy - Sharing the Music of the Heart

Two Sisters of Mercy, Sr Helen and Sr Valda, would love to hear what touches your heart, at his time, about environmental, earth and human needs. As Pope Francis puts it, "Where do you hear the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor?" We are hoping that together we can increase our understanding and compassion and come up with an appropriate response to these cries—one that is both merciful and practical. We believe that together we can make a difference.

"The heartbeat of God, Jesus and the Church, at its best, is tenderness and mercy." - Francis

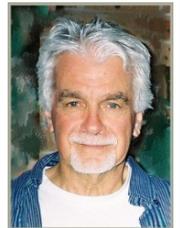
The first meeting will be Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 7.30pm in the jubilee Hall . Light supper-pizza provided.

Daily Prayers and Scripture on the Parish Web

Our Parish Website has recently updated to include a new section called "Liturgy Today" on our home page. This is a great resource to explore the liturgy of the day including Readings of the Mass of the day, morning, noon and evening prayers, and Office of Readings. There is also a 2016 Liturgical Calendar. Please visit www.stpeterchanel-stjoseph.org.au and click on "Liturgy Today"

Lenten Concert - Ashes to Easter with Peter Kearney

Peter Kearney is an Australian Catholic songwriter whose hymns and songs include 'Fill My House' and 'The Beatitudes'. His 'Ashes to Easter' concert weaves songs and stories and reflections on Lenten themes and looks ahead to Holy Week and Easter. The concert program is mainly for adults though upper-primary and older students could also enjoy. Admission by donation. The concert will be held on Saturday March 19th, after 5.00pm Mass and barbecue in the Jubilee Hall, Kingsland Road, Berala.



Pastoral Planning

At the last Pastoral Council it was decided that we should have a Pastoral Planning Meeting on Saturday, 7 May. The program is to start at 10AM and finish by 4 PM. All major stake holders of the parish are invited to the Planning Meeting. Anyone wishing to attend or nominate any item for discussion is welcome to contact Fr Thomas.

Other Notices

"Win a way to World Youth Day" Competition— Closes 14 March. Up to 7 state school students in the Sydney Archdiocese in Year10 - 12 will win pilgrimages to World Youth Day in Poland via Prague. Interested? Contact the CCD Parish Catechist Office on 9307 8330 or email office@ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au

Stations of the Cross—Rookwood Cemetery Presided by Bishop Terry Brady on Saturday, 27 February 2016 at 2.00pm in The Waterway Chapel. The Stations of the Cross procession will take place along the Way of the Cross Memorial Garden followed by afternoon tea. RSVP by 19 February 2016 to email: bereavementsupport@catholiccemeteries.com.au or phone 02 9646 6908. All are welcome.

Afternoon for couples hoping to conceive Married couples (Catholic or otherwise) who are hoping for children, struggling to conceive, or who wish to better understand what the church offers and promotes in regards fertility awareness and assistance are invited to an afternoon of information and discussion. Where: Dooleys Waterview Club, Silverwater Rd, Silverwater. When: Saturday 12 March , 2.00-4.30pm. Ph; 93078403 or visit lifemarriagefamily@sydneycatholic.org

City Silence is back in 2016. Each Tuesday join Catholic Youth Services and the NET Team for an hour of Adoration and Confession followed by a casual dinner. City Silence is a time of prayer, music, meditation and adoration and is open to all young adults looking for a deeper relationship with Christ. Tuesday, 2 February 2016 from 6:30pm at St Mary's Cathedral, entrance via the Eastern Door. For more information www.catholicyouthservices.org

Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45 AM Mass	
Tuesday	6.45 AM Mass 7.00 PM Confirmation Parent Meeting in the Church	7.00 PM Legion of Mary (SJW Hall) 9.00 AM Mass
Wednesday	6.45 AM Mass & 9.15 AM Mass	
Thursday	6.45 AM Mass & 9.15 AM Mass 7.30 PM Group 2 singing practice at 8 Wallace St Sefton	9.00AM - 10.00AM Playgroup in the Mark Spora Room.
Friday	6.45 AM Mass & 9.15 AM Mass 1.30 PM - 2.15 PM Reconciliation 7.00 PM Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	8.00 AM Mass 9.00 - 10.00 AM Adoration, Novena, Reconciliation 4.30 PM First Communion Enrolments in the Church 5.00 PM Mass	
Sunday	9.30 AM First Communion Enrolments in the Church 10.00 AM Mass 5.00 PM Choir practice in the Church	7.30 AM First Communion Enrolments 8.00 AM Mass

Mass Intentions

Sick: Archbishop Anthony Fisher

Anniversaries: Gloria Mari Eamiguel, Cenon Uy Alinson

Recently Deceased: Krste Orlovic, Philomena Eggins

Deceased: Mirijana Lisica,

Deceased members and friends of : Ross & Mitchell Family, Irwin & O'Dwyer Families,

Alcohol and Drug Information Service: (Confidential) (02) 9361 8000

Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo T/F: (02) 4236 0533 E: cottageretreats@bigpond.com

Carmelites Varroville E: retreats@carmelite.com;

Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby E: clary.antaogmail.com

Sara's place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 96998190

Feast of the Week.

2 February - The Chair of St Peter The chair (cathedra) of a bishop is a pre-eminent sign of his teaching authority and pastoral oversight of a local Church. This feast, observed in Rome since the fourth century, celebrates Peter, first among the apostles, as founder of the See of Rome and the focus of unity in the communion of one faith.



Project Compassion: Hum Noy's story - Laos

Duangmala wished for a bright future for her eight-year-old son, Hum Noy, who has Down Syndrome. However, she feared he would remain isolated and never reach his full potential due to a lack of support services for children living with Intellectual disabilities in Laos.

Thankfully, everything changed when Duangmala and Hum Noy were introduced to the Intellectual Disabilities Unit, which was set up by the Lao Disabled People's Association with the support of Caritas Australia. This specialised school provides learning support and nurturing care to 50 children with intellectual disabilities in the Laos capital, Vientiane.

Since starting school, Hum Noy's behaviour and abilities have changed remarkably. He is no longer isolated, lonely or frustrated, and his communication skills have advanced quickly. "Hum Noy is learning how to follow instructions and say the names of his teachers and friends," says Duangmala proudly. "He likes to draw, play instruments, and when they do aerobics he joins in!"

The program has also opened new opportunities for Duangmala, who received training to become a teacher at Hum Noy's school. Now, she is hopeful that her son and his classmates can lead more prosperous, fulfilling lives. "It's important to use our knowledge to help our children grow and develop," she says. "We are lucky to have this program."

Project Compassion envelopes and boxes are available in the Church foyer. Your generous donations are greatly appreciated



Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' **R.**

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. **R.**

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord! **R**

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well
pleased; listen to him.

Today's Readings

Gen 15:5-12

Phil 3:17-4:1

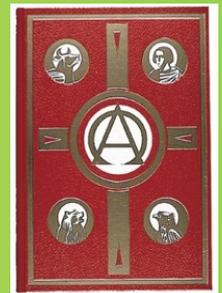
Lk 9:28-36

Next Sunday's Readings

Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

Lk 13:1-9



St Peter Chanel & St Joseph the Worker Rosters - Next Week

28 FEBRUARY 2016		THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Joseph MARMAN	Mario CAPRA
ORGANIST	Kate PARISH		SAMOAN
CANTOR	Sergio EAMIGUEL		YOUTH
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Karim KASSIS	Margarette NGUYEN
	Christine KENSEY	Jenny MICHAEL	Pam SNELL
COMMENTATOR	Lawrence LOPEZ	Ingrid SCHARENGUIVEL	Mai VU
GIFTS	Graham TOBY family		Micheline BOTHAM Family
PIETY STALL	Adele MELER		Margaret THAM
SP. MINISTER	Phirum DUCH		Hoa NGUYEN
SP. MINISTER	Joy SKERRITT		Mai VU
HOSPITAL: Charlie & Kay Scully		ALTAR: Group 1 G De Alkstrand; M Lewis; A Manganaro	
SPC CLEANERS: Howard Duff & Friends		COUNTERS: Group 1 John Le Mottee; John Shanley	
SJW CLEANERS: Maronite Group		CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Vinita Nazareth	
HOSPITALITY SPC: Anne Marie			



"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel at the Kensey home,
57A Regent St, Regents Park. Please join any evening at 5.30pm for the Rosary
To host the Pilgrim Statue from St Peter Chanel contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

ROSARY STATUE from St Joseph the Worker
To host the Rosary Statue from St Joseph the Worker contact the Legion of Mary.

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45AM, Wednesday to Friday 9.15 AM

Saturday 8.00AM, 9.00AM Adoration & Novena. **Lord's Day Mass:** Saturday 5.00PM (Vigil), Sunday 10.00AM.

Holy Mass at Auburn South: Tues 9.00 AM (During school term only) **Lord's Day Mass:** Sunday 8.00 AM

Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 9.00AM - 10.00AM.

Planned Giving Program Request Form

Your contribution to the Planned Giving Program of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the Financial Year you will receive a Receipt for your contributions which will enable you to claim Tax deduction. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate

Your Name:

Telephone No Email

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.

YES/NO Tax deduction (*please circle*)

Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (*An authority form will be sent for completion*)