



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

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Wednesday to Friday 9.15am, Saturday 8.00am, Saturday 9.00am Adoration & Novena. **Holy Mass at Auburn South:** Tuesday 9.00am (during school term only)
Lord's Day Mass Berala: Saturday 5.00am (Vigil) Sunday 10.00am **Lord's Day Mass Auburn South:** Sunday 8.00am
Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 9.00am - 10.00am. Or contact the parish office for any other time.
For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

Third Sunday of Advent - Year B

17 December 2017

First Reading

Is 61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Second Reading

1 Thes 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel

Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. **(R.)**

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. **(R.)**
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)
Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

Next Week's Readings:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

Reflections on John 1:6-8, 19-28

Have You Thought? A time to Rejoice!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose—a celebratory colour—and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

Living the Gospel: A Witness? Me?

It came as something of a surprise to me to think that other people might observe the way I treated others and draw conclusions about my motivation. It was when I started to work with young people that the truth of this was revealed. I realised that my actions could speak so much louder than anything I might say. I hoped that the young people I was working with might stop some time and think to themselves, 'I wonder why he treats us all that way? I wonder how it fits with that religion stuff he talks about?' Well, I can hope can't I?

Gospel Focus: Same but Different

Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery – it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John's gospel greater emphasis on the conversion around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
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T. (02) 9644 7787

Priest in Residence

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T. (02) 8723 9192
M. 0418 459 431

Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria
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Tues to Fri 9am -3pm T. (02) 9644 7787

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator

Tommy Francisco
tommy.bolin.francisco@gmail.com

Pastoral Relations Officer

Mariana Tannous T. (02) 9644 7787

Pastoral Council

Charlie Scully (Chair) T. 0402 071 849
Karim Kassis (Vice Chair) T. 0408 404 130
Maureen Hynes (Secretary)
Joji Salar (Asst Secretary),
Micheline Botham (Social Committee)
T. 0422 939 342
Jenny Michael (Liturgy Committee)
Pat Kavanagh (Social Justice),
Jann Rockliff (Hospitality Visit),
Rhia Victorino, Arthur Doumit (SVDP) and
Principals of the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T. (02) 9644 8859
Micheline Botham (Secretary) 0422 939 342
Joe Moses, Ingrid Scharenguivel, Brendon
Nazareth (Finance Controller)

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park
T. (02) 9644 9083
Principal - Phil Townsend
Family Educator - Barbara Mucha

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South
T. (02) 9646 1434
Principal - Gai Melville
Family Educator - Angela Finnane

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

CatholicCare: Ph:13 18 19

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

Parish Diary This Week

Monday	6.45am	Mass
Tuesday	6.45am	Mass
Wednesday	6.45am 9.15am 7.30pm	Mass Mass SPC Carols Festival (SPC)
Thursday	6.45am 9.15am 4.00pm 7.00pm	Mass Mass Legion of Mary (St Joseph's House) Christmas Choir Practice at Maureen's House (9644 5818)
Friday	6.45am 9.15am 12.30pm 7.30pm	Mass Mass Pastoral Care of Sick Meeting (St Joseph's House) Second Rite of Reconciliation (SPC)
Saturday	8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 5.00pm 7.00pm	Mass Rosary Novena, Adoration, Confession, Sunday Vigil Mass (SPC) Malayalam Christmas Mass (SPC)
Sunday	8.00am 10.00am 7.00pm	Mass (SJW) Mass (SPC) Christmas Vigil Mass (SPC)

Family that pray together stay together"
PILGRIM STATUE

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL**

at Javier Home
39 Fifth Avenue, Berala
Please join them any evening at
7.30pm for the Rosary.

To host the Pilgrim Statue and
Rosary prayer please contact Mona
on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

FROM ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

at the Kassis Home

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

Roster Next Week

24 DECEMBER 2017		4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
Mass	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	William ANDREWS	E J HOEFLICH
ORGANIST	Kate PARISH		DRAW
CANTOR	S EAMIGUEL & PARISH CHOIR		YOUTH CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Joe MOSES	Hoa NGUYEN
	Noelene Donnellan	Ken HARTMAN	Sharon IACONO
COMMENTATOR	Lawrence LOPEZ	Karim KASSIS	Hilary NGUYEN
GIFTS	Anita YIP Family		Alan & Margaret THAM
SP. MINISTER	Kay SCULLY		Jenny MICHAEL
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Mai VU
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY		Margaret THAM
GREETERS	J ROCKLIFF & J ZHANG	Loutoa OLIE	A FACER & P KAVANAGH
HOSPITALITY		Anka BUTERIN	

Hospital Visitation Sat: Amato Hehea & Bernadette Hawthorn

Altar: Group 2 Bolonia Family

Hospital Communion Sun: : Joyce McDonald & Anna Manganaro

Cleaners SPC: Vietnamese Group

Children's liturgy: : School Holidays

Saturday**23 DECEMBER**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Christine KENSEY

25 December 2017**CHRISTMAS**

Mass	7PM Vigil (SPC)	Midnight (SPC)	8am (SJW)	10am (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob Kensey	Charlie Scully	Bob Kensey	Mario Capra
CHOIR				
LECTOR/S	Anna Manganaro	Lawrence Lopez	Ken Hartman	Michael Chow
	Noelene Donnellan	Lita Edwards	Ingrid Scharenguivel	Micheline Botham
COMMENTATOR	Joy Skerritt	Rhia Victorino	Karim Kassis	
SP. MINISTER	Chris Kensey	Kay Scully	Ingrid Scharenguivel	Micheline Botham
SP. MINISTER	Anna Manganaro	Angela Tang		Angela Tang

Christ is our Gift



Johnny told mum that some of the toys she bought are girls' toys and how come she bought them for him. Mum told him, "Dear they are not for you. We are going to gift wrap them and place them under the Christmas tree in the Church." Jonny asked, "Why?" Mummy explained to him that there are children out there who are too poor to get toys and gifts this Christmas. Therefore the Society of St Vincent de Paul of the parish is collecting these gifts through the church and making hampers to distribute to the poor families. Mummy also told her child the importance of sharing and the need to look after the welfare of others. Making others happy is our happiness. Surely this mother was training her child not to be selfish in his life but to be other-centred in his life.

The most destructive sin is selfishness and self-centeredness. Self-centredness is the seed of greed and violence. It also can generate unhealthy pride and arrogance. Turning away from this sin is very important to receive God's gifts. John the Baptist baptised people who confessed their sins and prayed for the forgiveness of their sins. John who came to make a path straight for the Lord, was focussed on repentance and renewal in life. Australians as a rule like to help people in need. Most people in our country are prepared to make sacrifices in their lives to help others. We are living in a humanitarian society. As we participate in many charity activities, we are doing what John the Baptist is asking for, turning away from self-centeredness to other-centeredness. So far so good.

John the Baptist does not stop there. He told them that his baptism is only a preparation for something more profound. There is someone greater than him is coming after him. That is Jesus Christ. John through his call for repentance was preparing the way for Jesus Christ to come. John the Baptist asked his followers to turn to Jesus and follow him, because he is the saviour.

So if we can't be just content with our works of charity and humanitarian concerns. Our spirituality should go much beyond being good and useful for others. Then we will be in tune with what John the Baptist is calling us to do. We as Christians should do more than being good people. We need to follow Jesus Christ. Let us acknowledge Christ as our Saviour and connect with him by praying with Bible and participating in Eucharist. See your works of charity and self-sacrifices as preparation to receive Christ. Thus we shall become Christ bearers. It will also enable us to present Christ to others. The ultimate Gift we can receive as well as give for this Christmas and afterwards is Christ.

Could you distribute Christmas Hampers?

The parish looking for volunteers to distribute 15 Christmas Hampers to the needy in our parish. Society St Vincent de Paul are preparing the hampers for the parish. Parishioners distributing them to the needy will make it truly a parish gift to those people. You will be provided the list of addresses to deliver these gifts. Anyone volunteering is welcome to contact Fr Thomas.

Final Report by the Royal Commission for Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse

The Royal Commission has handed over to Governor General on Friday 15 December, its report on the institutional response to child sexual abuse. It is a massive 17 volume document covering nearly five years of hearing. The leaders of the Church will be studying the report. Meanwhile Archbishop Anthony Fisher has issued a statement. He said, "*Many told their stories with great courage, even at great personal cost, revisiting traumatic experiences. I say again how sorry I am that you were hurt in this way by people you should have been able to trust. I hope the release of this report provides some comfort to you, your family and friends with the determination that what has been revealed in the pages of this report can never be repeated.*" He also said, "*I can assure you I will not rest there and I commit myself and the Catholic Church in Sydney to do our best for survivors of abuse to ensure this terrible chapter is never repeated.*

We will, I pray, be a humbler, purer, more compassionate Church as a result of the Commission's work and the scrutiny we have received. "

Copies of his statement in full are made available for you in the foyer of the Church.

Mass Intentions

Sick: Anne Nguyen

Recently Deceased: Maria Pagarno, Shinta Widjaja, Harry Willoughby, Juliet Andino - Festejo

Anniversary: Eddie Leonardi, Erwin Domenico Patti, Mary Gabrielle, Fatima Bolonia, Colleen Willoughby (70th), Ivan Medved, Stella Mills, Colin Baudille, Gary Williams

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

**The Catholic Parish of
St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala**

invite all who wish
to share the joy of Christmas with others to a Christmas Lunch.

Food, drink, entertainment and face painting provided

Date: 25 December 2017

Place: Jubilee Hall, 64 Kingsland Rd Berala (next to church)

Time: 11am to 3pm

RSVP for transport: Please phone Anne or Christine no later than

Monday 18 December on 9643 7794

For further details please contact

Evelene Safadi on 0416 140 378

*Do not let
anyone be alone
on Christmas
Day!*

*Invite them to
the Parish
Christmas Lunch
on 25 December
at the Jubilee
Hall.*

Christmas Schedule 2017

Wednesday 20 December

7.30pm Carols Festival at SPC Berala

Friday 22 December

7.30pm Second Rite Reconciliation at SPC Berala

Sunday 24 December

8.00am Mass at SJW Auburn South

10.00am Mass at SPC Berala

7.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at SPC Berala

12.00am Solemn Midnight Mass at SPC Berala

Monday 25 December

8.00am Christmas Mass at SJW Auburn South

10.00am Christmas Mass at SPC Berala

11.00am - 3.00pm Christmas Lunch in the
Jubilee Hall

Tuesday 26 December (Boxing Day)

6.45am Mass

9.15am Mass

SPREADING

BERALA KIDS CAMP

11-13 January 2018

Joy

BERALA KIDS CAMP 11-13 January 2018

To be held over three amazing days over the summer holidays, this will be a day camp (10am - 4pm) on the grounds of St Peter Chanel for all 6-12 year olds.

Filled with fun activity and teaching based on our Catholic faith, it is an event not to be missed.

Cost is \$25 per child (with concessions for siblings - \$35 for two children and \$40 for three children).

Please register your interest now as places are limited.

Please contact Rhia Victorino (SPC) on 0420 966 463 /
Angela Finnane (SJW) on 0425 312 302
angela.finnane@syd.catholic.edu.au

2018 Year of Youth: Open new horizons for spreading joy

Sr Dorothy Bayliss RSC

The Parishioners may know Sister Dorothy Bayliss who returned to South Sudan to be missionary there. She has returned from South Sudan, due to ill health. I visited her last Wednesday. After some rest and a retreat she will be moving to Brisbane to resume a ministry with Refugees, Asylum Seekers, the Homeless and with Trafficked Women and Girls. Sr Dorothy said,

“My arrival there where my little clinic was situated was a horrific scene I was shocked to see the change and to hear what the people have been suffering for month. Just outside my door were thousands of men women and children who had fled from various areas due to the ongoing violence and killings. I was the lone person offering medical attention so once again it was a 24/7 days a week which I didn't mind but got a bit tired especially from the night calls.”

She went on tell about the circumstances that made her to leave South Sudan. “In the camp I fell and broke a bone in my right hand, badly bruised my hip but tried to manage until I got pneumonia and a severe case of malaria my first ever in all my years on mission.

As there was no medical help readily available I had to come home for treatment, which broke my heart. I am now feeling very much better thank God except for the heart ache that goes with leaving the suffering poor, and not understanding God's plan in all of this.

I know now that my time in SS has come to an end, which is very sad but I know God has His own plan so I am trusting in Him which I have always tried to do all of my years.”

Sr Dorothy thanked all parishioners and friends for your prayers and support. She begged the parish to continue to pray for the suffering and voiceless poor in South Sudan. Their sufferings are hidden from the world these days.

She also wished all parishioners and friends peace and blessings for this festive season.

I have also included some of the photos she shared with me. These pictures give us glimpse into the mission in South Sudan



The clinic Sr Dorothy set up



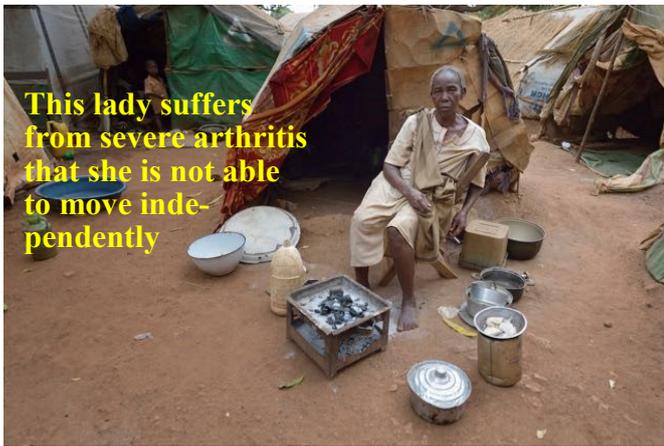
The clinic which is the only health facility for the people in this area.



Sr Dorothy is attending to a man is severely beaten by the rebels



The Kitchen



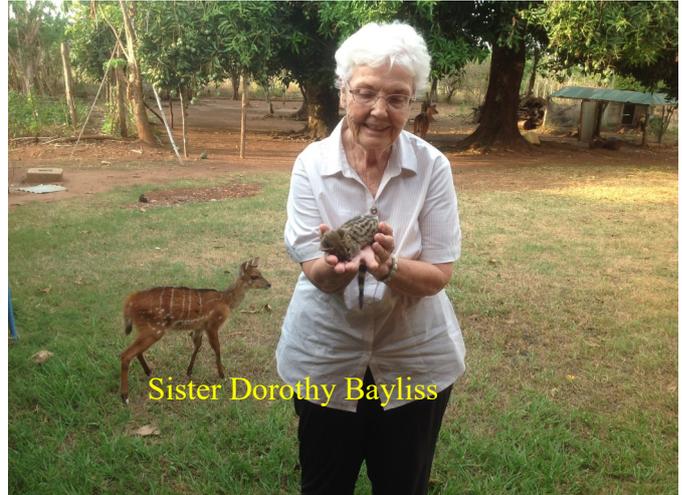
This lady suffers from severe arthritis that she is not able to move independently



They make a meal out of things they can find in the bush



UNCHR food reaches them some times. This is a porridge of maize.



Sister Dorothy Bayliss

Fr George Kallumkal

Fr George Kallumkal sends his Christmas greetings to parishioners and all other friends of him. He has recovered from the bad malaria he had. He is very happy to hear about the success of the fund raising we had for him. The response to the "Sponsor a Brick" our major fund raising program was very good. The money will be transferred to his mission soon. He will be able to stabilise the school building with our contribution. He would like to thank all benefactors for their good will and generosity.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

It would be good to revive Berala Conference of St Vincent de Paul. Therefore anyone interested in becoming a member of the Conference in Berala is welcome to contact the parish office. Should there be enough interest we will be able to resume the Conference some time in the New Year. Currently the Parish Schools have their own Mini Vinnies.

Lenten Programs

It might look too early to think of Lenten Program now, even before Christmas. Really it is not so. By the time the holiday month finishes, it will be Lent. By the time we tried to order Lenten Program books in the past years, it was too late and the books were sold out. Therefore we had to pay for the licence to print them ourselves in house. Therefore this year I would like you to inform the parish office well in advance, preferably early January, how many copies of the program book you will require. We will be getting the resource from Brisbane Liturgy Office.

Reading Mark

Following the enthusiastic reception I had for the Bible Study Program on Matthew's Gospel this year, I will be offering a Bible Study, 'Reading Mark' during Lent 2018. It will be 90 minutes sessions on Wednesday evenings, starting at 7 PM. The venue will be St Joseph House Berala. If you are interested enrol for it by the end of January 2018.

Children to be nativity characters, Human Couple and Baby for Nativity Scene

Christmas vigil at 7 PM on Sunday 24 December will have special focus on families with small children. To keep up with the tradition, all children are invited to dress up as one of the characters in the nativity scene. This includes, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Magi, and Angels. Simple costumes can do the job. All dressed up children may come the Mass 15 minutes early so that they can be organised to walk in the entrance procession. We are looking for a couple with a baby to form a still presentation of the nativity in front of the Altar in the first half of the Mass. Any volunteers are welcome to speak with Fr Thomas for the details.

Christmas Giving Tree

A tree has been erected in the foyer of the church and all are invited to leave a gift. Please label wrapped gifts with who they may be most appropriate for (i.e. child, man). Your generosity will help bring a smile to those less fortunate.



Christmas Carol Festival

You are invited to come along and bring the whole family, some rugs to sit on and your Christmas voices of course!

You can purchase battery candles for \$2 and glowsticks for only \$1. Carol booklets will also be available so that we can sing with joy in anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child!

Practices for Carol Festival & Midnight Mass

Thursday Evening Practice: Maureen's house (8 Wallace St Sefton) from 7pm to 9pm on Thursday 21 Dec.

If you love singing, do come along and join us as we prepare to celebrate this Joyful Christmas Season.

For more information, please call Maureen on 9644 5818.



GOD'S WORD 2018: DAILY REFLECTIONS LITURGICAL DIARY

Designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God. Includes the Bible readings set down for each day, with a reflection. God's Word 2018: Daily Reflections brings you:

- ◆ Liturgical readings of the day from the New Jerusalem Bible
- ◆ Inspiring reflection of the Gospel of the day by eminent homilists
- ◆ Liturgical information for the day
- ◆ Space to note down important events and reflections of the day
- ◆ Australian Feasts and Solemnities.

The retail price is \$15.95. But you can buy it now from the Parish Church Shop for \$12 today. It will make a good Christmas Gift to your friends.

Church Shop

Drop by our Church Shop and grab a gift for that special someone. The stall is filled with a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The stall is open on Sundays before and after the 10.00am mass.



Other Notices

Tell your MPs: Hands off our freedoms! Take action to defend religious freedom and parental rights over the education their children receive. Contact your local federal MP today to demand your freedoms are protected in any legislation for same-sex marriage. For more information: www.marriagealliance.com.au

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse – is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held April 8th – 13th 2018. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftograceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griefftograce.org

CATHOLICARE..... Looking for parenting resources? CatholicCare's new online parenting resource provides information and tips to help build positive parent-child relationships. Call our Ccareline Team 13 18 19 or email connect@catholiccare.org.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival has been an outstanding success. There were more than 20,000 registrations and the young people participated with joy and enthusiasm in the prayers, workshops, plenaries and general activities. The Closing Mass was very well attended by festival participants and by parishioners of Sydney. It was a beautiful celebration with the Archbishop of Sydney, 29 Bishops of Australia, 200 priests and 15,000 in the congregation. The Festival was an extraordinary achievement for our Archdiocese and the support of the priests and parishioners is greatly appreciated. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who gave up their time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to make it such a special event. Go to www.xt3.com/live and watch "on demand" the major events including the Closing Mass.

Christmas Remembrance Service – 17 December 2017 at 7:30pm

All are welcome to join in St Mary's Cathedral as we remember and pray for all those who have died and whose memory we cherish over the Christmas season.

The Lights of Christmas – St Mary's Cathedral 6 – 25 December 2017 8.30pm-Midnight

Celebrate the season at Sydney's most popular Christmas lights show.

Join us at the annual *Lights of Christmas* at St Mary's Cathedral Square, in the heart of Sydney's CBD, for a spectacular free sound and light show every night from Wednesday 6 December until Christmas Night 2017. Choirs will sing Christmas carols from 7.30pm, and the new sound and light show celebrating the season of peace, joy and goodwill will illuminate the huge 75m façade of St Mary's Cathedral at 8.30pm and continue through until midnight. This event continues to capture the imagination of adults and children alike and is now firmly Sydney's most popular Christmas lights show.

For more details: <http://lightsofchristmas.com.au/>

CatholicCare's NDIS Therapy Team

We help children 0-18 years living with a disability to access the therapy they need to reach their potential. We offer speech therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy at locations across Sydney.

For more information, contact our friendly Ccareline team on **13 18 19**.

Pray for the Parish Priest Emeritus

Fr Mark Spora, and Fr Graham Kings are in need of our prayer. They both are not well. Fr Kings is suffering from advanced form of dementia and Fr Spora is very frail. He is recovering from fall he had a few weeks ago. During this Christmas season, please include them and all other priests and religious who have worked to bring the experience of God near to us, in your prayers.

Just for Laughs

On Christmas Eve, Nathan thought it would be nice to buy his wife a little gift for the next day. Always short of money, he thought long and hard about what that present might be. Unable to decide, Nathan entered Debenhams and in the cosmetics section he asked the girl, 'How about some perfume?' She showed him a bottle costing \$150. 'Too expensive,' muttered Nathan. The young lady returned with a smaller bottle for \$50. 'Oh dear,' Nathan groused, 'still far too much.' Growing rather annoyed at Nathan's meanness, the sales girl brought out a tiny \$10 bottle and offered it to him. Nathan became really agitated, 'What I mean', he whined, 'is I'd like to see something really cheap.' So the sales girl handed him a mirror.



Planned Giving Request Form

Your financial contribution to the Planned Giving of the Parish is your appreciation for the Parish. At the end of the financial year you will receive a receipt for your contributions. To join the Planned Giving Program fill this form, tear this part off and place it in the Sunday Collection plate.

Your Name:.....

Telephone NoEmail

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes. Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions. (An authority form will be sent)