

ST PETER CHANEL & ST JOSEPH BERALA



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The Baptism of Our
Lord - Year B
11 January 2015

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Parish Secretary

Marisa Squadrito
Tues to Fri 9am -3pm

Pastoral Council

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Joji Salar (Secretary)
Pat Kavanagh(Asst
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Joe Moses, Arthur Doumit,
Afiafi Alai, Micheline
Botham and Principals of the
Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

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Micheline Botham
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Joe Moses & Ingrid
Scharenguivel.

Parish Schools

St Peter Chanel
Regents Park
Principal—Phil Townsend
T. 96449083

St Joseph the Worker
Auburn South
Principal—John Kennedy
T. 96461434

Baptism in Jordan different to our baptism today

In October 2008, making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I had the privilege of visiting the Qumaran Desert in Israel and the excavations in it. Qumaran started to get its importance with the finding of a scroll in a jar in a cave. It was a shepherd boy who found it in 1947. Since then, the Dominicans excavated the whole area and scholars have studied the numerous scrolls found. The conclusion of these studies was that there was a religious community of Jews living in that area and their writings provided a picture of religious life at the time of John the Baptist and Jesus. The scrolls they found also include the prayers the communities used and their hopes for a Messiah. The monks led a disciplined life of prayer and work. They were trying to carry on the tradition of the prophets Elijah and Elisha and follow the spirit of the dictum, “in the wilderness prepare a way for the Lord, and make straight the path of the Lord.”

This is the background of John the Baptist. He emerges from the desert wearing camel skin – a prophet’s habit. In the Advent season we read the scripture passage about his invitation to repentance. Today the focus is on Our Lord receiving baptism from John. Jesus marked his public ministry with this baptism. Whilst repentance is the beginning of a new phase in an individual’s life, Jesus made a new beginning in the very history of salvation. Unlike John who baptised with water, Jesus established the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, though fully God and completely free of any sin, wanted to show his solidarity with humanity through his baptism in the river Jordan by John. He also made the waters of baptism holy through his baptism. Therefore our baptism is a sacrament in a fuller sense than that of John.

This weekend we have Rahman Christopher, an Iranian born adult, receiving baptism. His baptism is different to the baptism John was performing in the river Jordan. In Rahman’s baptism, like in any other Christian baptism, he is becoming a Christ bearer. He, not only is forgiven of all his sins, but also is admitted to Eucharistic Gatherings which becomes the real presence of Christ to our world here and now. In other words he becomes part of the sign and symbol of God’s real presence here and now.

Each time we dip our fingers in the holy water font at the door we are reminded of our rebirth in baptism. It also reminds us of our baptismal commitments. Through christening we are Christ-bearers. We therefore should be showing the light of Christ to the world. Being instruments of hope, love, and faith we make Christ present to the world around us. The hope we present to others and the love we show towards them goes beyond financial security and physical well-being. It helps them transcend beyond the limitations of the world. The hope and faith we present is spiritual and it never fails. In that sense it is like stepping into the river Jordan from the desert to go across to the promised land of hope and joy. In an environment where joy is built up on the values of consumerism, an approach which takes you beyond it will be radical. The inability to believe in anything not tangible may even see them ridiculing this idea. But when issues of meaning and purpose of life are to be dealt with, one would easily understand the inadequacy and folly of joy based on the worldly values. I pray that you experience hope and joy beyond the limits of this worldly setting.



Renovations and Maintenance

We have been planning maintenance and upgrading of St Peter Chanel Church and building an Office space for the parish. Accordingly an application was made to the Archbishop of Sydney for his permission to do so. Now we have a reply from Archbishop Anthony Fisher. He has approved the work on the church, but the parish office building needs further investigation to make it more cost effective. With this permission we shall start immediately with the maintenance and improvements works on SPC church. It includes converting one of the Confessionals to a shrine of Divine Mercy, modifying the Sanctuary floor, making a wheelchair access to the front of the church and painting and repairing the windows. These works will be starting soon. I am hoping to have all these works finished in time for the Parish Day in July. The estimated expense of this project is 170 thousand dollars. There has been some approach from a few people, offering financial support to the project. Should anyone like to contribute to or sponsor any part of the project, I will be happy hear from them. St Peter Chanel Church, though was consecrated, was never dedicated. Therefore I am proposing to invite our New Archbishop Anthony Fisher to dedicate the church at Parish Day this year.

Welcome to Rahman Christopher

Rahman is from Iran and has been preparing for Baptism. Since he is not fluent in English, Fr Joseph Kachappilly from the Chaldean Catholic Church has been preparing him using the Persian language. Now that he is ready, I am baptising him this weekend. The Eucharistic Community of Berala and at large congratulates him and prays for God's continued blessing on him so that he will bear Christ effectively to the world around him.

We have a number of new inquiries to the Catholic faith. Some of them have started their preparation. Others are planning to start it soon. Not everyone is available for classes at the same time. Also not every inquirer is at the same level of understanding about the Catholic faith. Therefore we need to have different sessions during the year. I am seeking more volunteers from the parish to help me with preparing new candidates.

The Wednesday evening Schedule of Catholic Inquiry Sessions in the Donovan Room will resume on 21 January after the Christmas break.

Thank you

This week we conclude the Christmas season liturgically. On this occasion I would like to thank the Liturgy Committee, God's House Keepers / Altar Society, the Musicians and singers, the various teams who cleaned the churches, the liturgical ministers, those who set up the cribs (in SJW & SPC Churches, in front of SPC Church, in Jubilee Hall) and all who supported the Christmas liturgies and celebrations. The dedicated work of many parishioners as a faith family has brought about the true Christmas Spirit. One of the special events this Christmas was the Christmas Luncheon on 25th December. A lot of people worked with much dedication towards it. Arthur Doumit was the general organiser of it. I would like to acknowledge that they did a wonderful job and thank you all for a job very well done.

On Boxing Day, I celebrated the 30th Anniversary of my Ordination into priesthood. It was a special feeling to celebrate that day with fifteen priest friends and a Church full of friends and parishioners. I was overwhelmed with the gifts and greeting cards I got. I pray God's blessing on all those friends of mine and thank you all for being good to me.

Second Family Synod Questionnaire

The subject of the 2015 Synod of Bishops is "The Vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and the Contemporary World". A series of 30 questions on this theme has been made available by the Australian Bishops for the further consideration of the faithful. People are welcome to respond to as many or as few of the questions on this list as they would like. Responses are due by 2 February 2015. Further information and the list of questions are available electronically at www.sydneycatholic.org/survey2015

Catechist Meeting

On 21 January there will be a Catechist meeting at 12.30pm at Dooleys Regents Park. All catechists are invited to discuss planning for 2015

Liturgy Rosters

New liturgy rosters are now being organised. If you would like to be included or your availability has changed, please contact Marisa in the parish office.

Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45 AM Mass.	
Tuesday	6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass	No Mass
Wednesday	6.45 AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass 7.00 PM (14th) Group 2 practice at Maureen's house	
Thursday	6.45 AM Mass, 9.15 AM Mass	
Friday	6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass 11.00 AM Mass at Berala on the Park	
Saturday	8.00AM Mass 9 -10 AM Adoration & Novena & Reconciliation 5.00 PM Mass	
Sunday	10.00 AM	8.00 AM

Mass Intentions - May They Rest In Peace

Deceased: Francesco Reitano, Steve McLaren, Gunilla Hogberg

Deceased members and friends of the following families: Ross & Mitchell Family

Other Notices

Looking for a Job

Creative Art School and Gallery in Bankstown is looking for a part time secretary for 3 or 4 days a week, 10.30AM-5.30PM. For more information contact Mona on 97098701 or art@creativeartschool.com.au

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.antaog@gmail.com

Feasts of the Week.

17 January - St Anthony Born in 251 in upper Egypt. Died in 356. At an early age he gave away his possessions and sought the austere life and solitude in the desert. Yet he remained involved in the theological controversies of his day, defending the divinity of Christ. He attracted disciples who formed communities of hermits. The account of his life by Saint Athanasius (2 May) was extremely influential in the development and spread of monasticism. Remembered as the father of monasticism.



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 NoEmail ID

Yes, please organise a set of envelopes.

YES/NO Tax deduction

Yes, please organise automatic credit card deductions.
(A credit card authority form will be sent to you for completion)

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)

2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)

3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them know to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him, and said:
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of
the world. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Today's Readings

Is 55:1-11

1 Jn 5:1-9

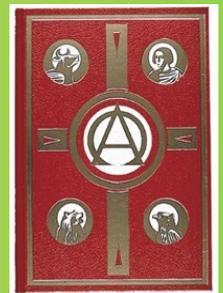
Mk 1:7-11

Next Sunday's Readings

1 Sam 3:3-10

1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

Jn 1:35-42



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

18 JANUARY 2015		2 ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Joseph MARMAN	Robert JAKSIC
ORGANIST		SJW YOUTH	SAMOAN
CANTOR	YOUTH CHOIR	CHOIR	CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Pirum DUCH	Ken HARTMAN	Carmel MARTIN
	Patricia DUFFY	Jenny MICHAEL	Mai VU
COMMENTATOR	Jann ROCKLIFF	Joe MOSES	Monica SMITH
GIFTS	D BOYD & E FITZPATRICK		Micheline BOTHAM Family
PIETY STALL	Maureen HEYS		Margaret THAM
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Micheline BOTHAM
SP. MINISTER	Janet RYAN		Rita JAKSIC

HOSPITAL: Joyce MacDonald	ALTAR: Group 3 C Estrada; H Le Mottee; J Rockliff
SPC CLEANERS: Laurence & Phil Lopez	COUNTERS: Group 3 K Hartman; A Tham; R Cheema
SJW CLEANERS: Maronite Group	CHILDREN'S LITURGY: None during school holidays
HOSPITALITY: This week Antoinette will be hosting morning tea after 10.00am Mass. Next week Alex Baldoria will be hosting. Thank you to our hospitality team for providing this very important ministry	

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel at the Azzi home, 41 Amy St, Berala

Please join them any evening at **7.30pm** for the Rosary.

To host the Pilgrim Statue contact Mona on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.

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



Holy Mass at Berala: Monday-Friday:6.45AM. Wednesday - Friday 9.15 AM

Saturday 8 AM, 9 AM Adoration & Novena. **Lord's Day Mass:** Saturday 5 PM (Vigil), Sunday 10 AM.

Holy Mass at Auburn South: Tuesday 9 AM (school term only); **Lord's Day Mass:** Sunday 8 AM.

Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 9.00 AM - 10 AM.