

Parish Office: 60 Kingsland Rd, Berala, 2141

Tel: 96447787 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

f Stpeter Stjoseph t Fr Thomas@TKurunthanam

www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

**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 431Fr 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. 96449083St Joseph the Worker
Auburn South
Principal - John Kennedy
T. 96461434**It's not Jesus' Birthday**

It is nearly Christmas time, or in some cases it is already Christmas. In the last week, I have been to some Christmas celebrations already. The joy of Christmas and the worries of how to effectively celebrate it is in the air and you can almost smell it. Yet the readings of this Sunday do not sound Christmas like. There is a reason for it. Christmas is fundamentally the celebration of God's coming into our human life, more than the birthday of Jesus.

For the persecuted Christians in many parts of the world it would be a struggle to believe that our saviour and God is here and now, to save us and to help us. Similarly the early Christians also were wondering about their persecution. When Jesus spoke to his disciples about the troubled times they will face, he is telling them not to lose heart or be discouraged when adverse situations encircle them. "they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand." (Lk 21:28)

Thank God we do not have to endure persecutions on account of our faith, here in Australia. But personal tragedies may be worrying many of us. Even if there is no tragedy there is that unfulfilled longing for God in our lives. This time of advent is the time to connect with God and realise that our God is with us, in the highs and lows of our lives. Therefore preparation for Christmas is more than preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus; it is the celebration of our God's coming into our life.

Commencing the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis will open the Jubilee Door in St Peter's Basilica on 8th December. Archbishop Anthony Fisher has invited us to St Mary's Cathedral on 13th December, Sunday morning, to the opening of the Holy Door in Sydney. This is a year for us to enter into the mercy of God in a special way. Pilgrimages, Acts of mercy like supporting the Syrian refugees or becoming involved with parish activities like GEM or the Christmas luncheon which are aimed at people who are lonely or neglected, are efforts to enter into the mercy of God.

At a personal level, it is the time to appreciate the sacramental presence of Christ in our midst. Confession / Reconciliation / Penance is the main sacrament of God's mercy for us to benefit from personally. In addition to the normal schedule of the sacrament, there will be special initiatives in the parish, especially during lent. Archbishop Fisher himself will be presiding over a celebration of the sacrament in our area. So your thoughts of preparing to celebrate God's coming into our life should go beyond this advent season. But let us make a start now, knowing that Christmas is more than Jesus' birthday. Let us prepare for the Coming of Christ with peace, hope, and joy.

Summer Bonanza Raffle

Many thanks to all who purchased tickets in the Summer Bonanza Raffle. It will be drawn on 11 December, 2015. Good Luck!

Tuesday Mass at St Joseph the Worker

Due to a Clergy Conference that Fr Thomas will be attending, there will be no Tuesday morning Mass at St Joseph the Worker, Auburn. The next Tuesday Mass will be on 8 December 2015

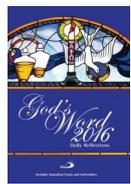


Sister Dorothy Anne Bayliss

Sister Dorothy Ann Bayliss is a Sister of Charity. She has been working with refugees and people in detention. When I met her in our parish for the first time, she said she is here for a short break from her mission in Christmas Island, one of Australia's notorious detention centres. Last Monday she has flown into another very difficult part of the world with her mission of compassion and charity. She will be joining a small group of Charity Sisters in the war torn South Sudan. Our prayers are with her and her mission.

FRANKLY Magazine

FRANKLY celebrates the joy of Catholic living with informative and relatable articles reflecting every day experience and sourced from some of the best Catholic writers in Australia and overseas. Inspired by Pope Francis' warm and engaging style, FRANKLY is a 128-page book presented in a high-quality magazine format. It is available in the Piety Stall for only \$5.00. It is usually \$14.95 in Christian Bookshops. A great Christmas gift!



God's Word 2016

This book is a Daily Reflections Liturgical Diary and is designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. It includes Liturgical readings of the day, Inspiring reflections of the Gospel of the day and space to note down important events. The Diary is currently being used in the divine Mercy Chapel. It is now available at the Piety Stall for \$15.95

Christmas Lunch 2015

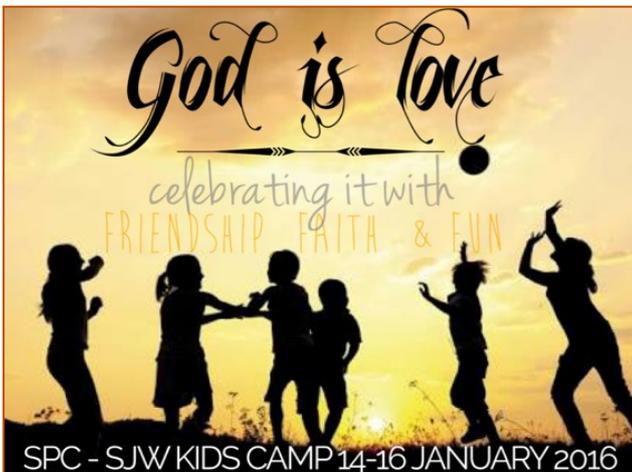
As we are nearing Christmas Evelyne Safadi on 0416140378 would like to know who is donating what. You may nominate food or drink you would like to donate. You could offer your time on Christmas day to help with the lunch between 11 AM and 2.30 PM. There is a form available at the entrance of the church for you to nominate your donation to Christmas Lunch.

Holy Family for Christmas

We need a BABY JESUS, Mary, and Joseph to dress up for Christmas Vigil at 7 PM. Any parents wishing to dress up their baby to be Jesus, and any teenager wishing to be either Mary or Joseph at the Vigil Mass is welcome to contact Fr Thomas or the parish office. Parents also may start planning to dress up your children as shepherds or angels, or kings for the Vigil Mass.

GEM Group

A group of volunteers are starting a GEM (Greet, Eat, Meet) Group. The first GEM gathering will be in February 2016. Thereafter it is envisaged there will be a gathering once a month. For further information you are welcome to contact Pat Kavanagh on 96464283 or Email ozziek@bigpond.net.au.



SPC - SJW KIDS CAMP 14-16 JANUARY 2016

We are proud to present our parish's very first kids camp -

GOD IS LOVE: CELEBRATING WITH FRIENDSHIP, FAITH AND FUN!

To be held over three amazing days over the summer holidays, this will be a day camp (no sleepover required!) on the grounds of St Peter Chanel for all 7-12 year olds.

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

Cost is \$15 per child (with concessions for siblings - \$25 for two children and \$30 for 3 children)

Please register your interest now as places are limited.

Please contact Rhia Victorino (SPC) on 0420 966 463 or Karim/Gloria Kassis (SJW) on 0408 404 130/0414 493 154.

Kids Camp 2016

The SPC-SJW Kids camp organisers are looking for volunteers - both adults and high school/uni students. If you are available for any or all of the days of the camp and are interested in sharing your friendship, faith and fun with our kids, please contact Rhia Victorino on 0420 966 463.

Parish Diary This Week!

	St Peter Chanel	St Joseph the Worker
Monday	6.45 AM Mass	
Tuesday	6.45 AM Mass	7.45 PM Legion of Mary (SJW Hall)
Wednesday	6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass	
Thursday	6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass 7.30 PM (3rd) Group 2 singing practice at 8 Wallace St Sefton – All welcome	9.00 -10.00 AM Playgroup in Mark Spora Room
Friday	6.45 AM Mass 9.15 AM Mass	
Saturday	8.00 AM Mass 9.00 - 10.00 AM Adoration, Novena, Reconciliation 5.00 PM Mass	
Sunday	10.00 AM Mass 5.00 PM Christmas Singing Practice in the Church-All Welcome	8.00 AM Mass

Mass Intentions

Sick: Fr Graham Kings

Recently deceased: Mary Roche

Deceased: Fatima Bolonia

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

Other Notices

The Order of Malta's annual Lourdes Day Mass for the sick and infirm is taking place at 10am Saturday 5 December at St Mary's Cathedral. The mass is open to all and attendees will receive a blessing for good health and a bottle of healing Lourdes water.

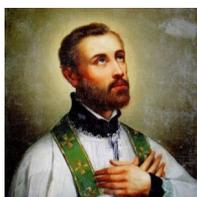
A Christmas celebration! Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra including congregational carols and music. Friday, 18 December at 7.30pm Tickets available online at www.cityrecitalhall.com/events/st-marys-cathedral or 02 8256 2222.

The Face of Mercy daily Advent reflection program: This program has been written around the interrelationship between mercy and the season of Advent. Sign up to receive a daily reflection and prayer for the whole of Advent - a great way to prepare for the coming of our Lord.. This program is free and is provided by the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. Visit www.thefaceofmercy.org.au

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries offers a confidential voicemail number: 0400 092 555. There are healing retreats regularly in the Sydney area that offer women and me a spiritual way through grief and loss. Contact them for a non judgemental listening ear through one on one support or a referral to a trained counsellor or a trained, compassionate priest. Visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.au

Feasts of the Week.

30 November - St Andrew Born at Bethsaida (Galilee). A fisherman and perhaps a disciple of John the Baptist (24 June). Introduced his brother, Simon Peter (29 June), to Jesus and became one of the first to follow Christ. Mentioned a number of times in the gospels, for example, in introducing some Gentiles to Jesus (John 12:20ff.). Widely venerated since ancient times and remembered as one of the twelve who bore witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.



3 December - St Francis Xavier Born in 1506 in Navarre (Spain). Died on this day in 1552 off the coast of China. Met Saint Ignatius of Loyola (31 July) while studying in Paris, became one of the first Jesuits, and went to Goa (India) as a missionary. Travelled extensively through southeast Asia to Japan, winning many converts and leaving behind organised Christian communities. Remembered for the witness of his poverty and for his tireless efforts as a missionary.

Antiphons & Readings

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm:

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor **R.**

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and will.
The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant **R.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

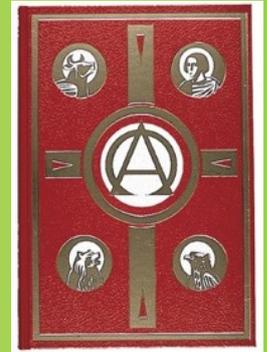
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall
yield its increase .

Today's Readings

Jer 33:14-16
1 Thess 3:12-4:2
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Next Sunday's Readings

Baruch 5:1-9
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Lk 3:1-6



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

6 DECEMBER 2015		2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
MASS	VIGIL (SPC)	8AM (SJW)	10AM (SPC)
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Joseph MARMAN	Mario CAPRA
ORGANIST			SAMOAN
CANTOR	Joji SALAR		CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Joy SKERRITT	Karim KASSIS	Margarette NGUYEN
	Christine KENSEY	Michael CHOW	Maureen HYNES
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;	
SPC CLEANERS: Samoan Youth Group		COUNTERS: Group 1 John Le Mottee; John Shanley	
SJW CLEANERS: Maronite Group		CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Sharon Iacono	
HOSPITALITY SPC: Sharon Iacono			



"Family that pray together stay together"

PILGRIM STATUE from St Peter Chanel at the Chiu home,
65 Fourth Ave, Berala . Please join any evening at 7.30pm 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 No Mass (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 NoEmail

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)