



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)

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Wednesday to Friday 9.15am, Saturday 8.00am

Adoration & Novena: Saturday 9.00am

Lord's Day Mass Berala: Saturday 5.00pm (Vigil), Sunday 8.00am & Sunday 10.00am

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.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - YEAR A 29 DECEMBER 2019

First Reading Sir 3:2-6. 12-14

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Mt 2:13-15. 19-23

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon Lk 2:16

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **R**

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **R**

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! **R**

Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his

message live within you. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon Bar 3:38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Is 60:1-6**

2nd Reading: **Eph 3:2-3. 5-6**

Gospel: **Mt 2:1-12**

New Year Day Mass at 9 AM

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
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T. (02) 9644 7787

Priest in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari, Cor Bishop
T. (02) 8723 9192
M. 0418 459 431

Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria
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T. (02) 9644 7787

Sacramental Co-ordinator

Gloria Kassis (0414 493 154)
sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Youth Ministry

amanda.gahan@syd.catholic.edu.au
susie.mravunac@syd.catholic.edu.au

Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

Pastoral Council

Karim Kassis (Chair)
T. 0408 404 130
Charlie Scully (Vice Chair, Project Manager)
T. 0402 071 849
Maureen Hynes (Secretary, Parish Choir)
Jennifer Rush (Asst Secretary, Safeguarding)
Anthony Kasule, Arthur Doumit (Retreats),
Brenda Wendt-Hussein (Catechists), Amanda
Gahan (SVDP & Youth), Jenny Michael, Joji
Salar, Micheline Botham, Renee Salar, Rhia
Victorino, Vinita Nazareth, and Principals of
the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T. (02) 9644 8859
Joe Moses, Sylvia Jukic, Brendon Nazareth
(Finance Controller)

Plenary 2020

Alicia Moore

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

Safeguarding Office. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office: Phone (02) 9390 5810

CatholicCare. Provides caring advice and advocacy to help families. CCareline 13 18 19 | CatholicCare.org

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

Healing After Abortion: 0400 092 555

Sara's Place: For pregnancy support or grieving after abortion visit
www.sarasplace.org.au Ph: 9699 8190

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon 30/12	6.45am	Mass
Tue 31/12	6.45am	Mass
Wed 1/1	Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity) & New Year 9.00am Mass	
Thu 2/1	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Fri 3/1	6.45am 9.15am	Mass Mass
Sat 4/1	8.00am 8.30am 9.00am 5.00pm	Mass Rosary Novena, Adoration, Confession Vigil Mass
Sun 5/1	8.00am 10.00am	Mass Mass



*"Family that pray together
stay together"*
PILGRIM STATUE

**FROM ST PETER CHANEL
at Melicor Family
42a Fourth 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 Legion of Mary, Berala
at the Mitchell Home**

5 JANUARY 2020		THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Dom PANGILINAN	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR		Salt enLight
LECTOR/S	Flavia NARAYAN	Ken HARTMAN	Amanda GAHAN
	John DONNELLAN	Joe MOSES	Suzie MRVUNAC
COMMENTATOR	Katrina YIP	Maris MARSH	Sharon IACONO
SP. MINISTER	Warren RYAN		Amanda GAHAN
SP. MINISTER	Christine KENSEY		Isabella ARAUJO
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY	Jenny MICHAEL	Winnie CHIU
GREETERS	Roshan & Sharon SEBASTIAN	Loutoa OLIE	Rhia & Merv VICTORINO
HOSPITALITY		Cyril & Jenny EDWARDS	Eveline LUI
Hospital Visitation Sat: Christine Parish		Altar & Sacristy: Group 5 Margaret Heys, Carol Mabon, Maria Wood	
Hospital Communion Sun: Joyce McDonald & Anna Manganaro			
Cleaners SPC: Uisa Family		Children's liturgy: N/A	
Saturday 8AM		4 JANUARY	
LECTOR FOR MASS	Jann ROCKLIFF		

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Tony Draybi

Deceased: Jack Gemmel, Tadeusz Bukala, Ted Duffy, Nellie Lim, Archie Chan, Gabrielle, Betty Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Carmela Portelli, Bert Portelli, George Spiteri

Anniversary: Siobhan Morris

Deceased Members and Friends of:
Rodrigues & Lopez Families,
O'Dwyer & Erwin Families

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord;
and let the perpetual light shine
upon them. May the souls of all the
faithful departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

In Time of Drought Prayer

O God, Lord of all creation, by whose power the whole earth came to be,
look upon our parched land, we pray,
and bestow upon it abundant rain, That pastures, fields and paddocks may
by your goodness thrive once more.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit One God, for ever and ever.

Holy Family

We are, to a great extent, a product of our families. My own upbringing involved my devout parents instructing me on the importance of the Parish Church and family prayer. Every Sunday I walked about two kilometres to the Parish Church. Then, every evening, I sat with my siblings and parents for the rosary and other prayers. In making us do so, my parents were placing their family in the care of our loving Father in heaven. Later, as a teenager, I decided to be a missionary. When I started to correspond with missionaries and still later decided to go to the seminary, I could not settle on my first choice, a missionary, because my parents did not approve of it. My parents' desire was that I study for a good career in life. But I did not look for a career-orientated study. Obliging to my parents' reluctance to let me go, I compromised and joined the local diocese. In spite of their wishes for their son, my parents did not dictate my future, but they made sure that I had a meaningful life. Knowing my aspiration to be a priest, they supported me wholeheartedly. Thanks to our Father in heaven and my parents who supported me morally and spiritually, I am what I am today.



The child Jesus was raised as a pious Jew by his devout parents. As a boy, Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph in observing all the Jewish religion demanded. However, he was also clear about his vocation. At the age of twelve, the normal age of initiation for Jewish boys (Bar Mitzva), the boy Jesus said that he wanted to spend his life doing what the Father in Heaven wanted him to do. In doing so Jesus was establishing that our human family is to be based on the divine family of God the Father.

These days, one would wonder what things are actually influencing the formation of children. Easy availability of computer and internet technology is having its influence on the formation of children. The commercial world is always trying to cash in on this new development of the human world. In such a situation, parents need to work harder to make children grow up with family values. Fragile and broken families are not helping, but the unshaken love of God the Father is to be the foundation of the formation of children. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is the model for us to see how to respond to God's love through the thick and thin of human lives. I wish you all a new year of God's blessings.

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 2:1-12

Historical Context – The Magi

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

Church Shop Drop by our Church Store and grab a gift for that special someone. We have a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The Church Shop is open on weekends before and after the 5.00pm Saturday Vigil and Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am masses. If you have any product enquiry, please contact the Parish Office.

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)

The Example of Nazareth

From an address given at Nazareth by Pope Paul VI

The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus – the school of the Gospel.

The first lesson we learn here is to look, to listen, to meditate and penetrate the meaning – at once so deep and so mysterious – of this very simple, very humble and very beautiful manifestation of the Son of God. Perhaps we learn, even imperceptibly, the lesson of imitation.

Here we learn the method which will permit us to understand who Christ is. Here above all is made clear the importance of taking into account the general picture of his life among us, with its varied background of place, of time, of customs, of language, of religious practices – in fact, everything Jesus made use of to reveal himself to the world. Here everything is eloquent, all has a meaning.

Here, in this school, one learns why it is necessary to have a spiritual rule of life, if one wishes to follow the teaching of the Gospel and become a disciple of Christ.

How gladly would I become a child again, and go to school once more in this humble and sublime school of Nazareth: close to Mary, I wish I could make a fresh start at learning the true science of life and the higher wisdom of divine truths.

But I am only a passing pilgrim. I must renounce this desire to pursue in this home my still incomplete education in the understanding of the Gospel. I will not go on my way however without having gathered – hurriedly, it is true, and as if wanting to escape notice – some brief lessons from Nazareth.

First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us, besieged as we are by so many uplifted voices, the general noise and uproar, in our seething and over-sensitized modern life.

May the silence of Nazareth teach us recollection, inwardness, the disposition to listen to good inspirations and the teachings of true masters. May it teach us the need for and the value of preparation, of study, of meditation, of personal inner life, of the prayer which God alone sees in secret.

Next, there is a lesson on family life. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character. Let us learn from Nazareth that the formation received at home is gentle and irreplaceable. Let us learn the prime importance of the role of the family in the social order.

Finally, there is a lesson of work. Nazareth, home of the ‘Carpenter’s Son’, in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work; here I would restore the awareness of the nobility of work; and reaffirm that work cannot be an end in itself, but that its freedom and its excellence derive, over and above its economic worth, from the value of those for whose sake it is undertaken. And here at Nazareth, to conclude, I want to greet all the workers of the world, holding up to them their great pattern, their brother who is God. He is the prophet of all their just causes, Christ our Lord.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, 1 January - Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)



Venerated as Mother of God from ancient times, the Virgin Mary was acclaimed Theotokos (God-bearer) in 431 by the Council of Ephesus, and commemorated on this day in Rome in the seventh century. Soon eclipsed by other feasts of Mary. Restored to the liturgical calendar in 1931, and to this day in 1969. Celebrates Mary’s role in the mystery of the incarnation, enriches the octave of Christmas with a Marian perspective, and provides a solemn beginning to the New Year.

Thursday, 2 January - Sts Basil the Great and Gregory (Memorial)



Basil: Born about 330 at Caesarea (Turkey). Died there on 1 January 379. First a hermit, then bishop of his native city. Remembered for his pioneering monastic rule, and for writings which developed the doctrines of the incarnation and of the divinity of the Holy Spirit. Gregory: Born at Nazianzus (Turkey) in 329. Died there in 389. Also a hermit before becoming bishop of Constantinople. Remembered as the "Theologian" because of his wisdom and acumen in maintaining orthodox doctrine against the Arians. Basil and Gregory are commemorated together because of their friendship in life and their enduring influence on the Church, especially in the East.

Just for Laughs

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living. Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the

Pilgrimage of The Relics of Saints Therese, Louis & Zélie Martin

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most popular Saints of modern times, will visit Australia on a four-month pilgrimage along with the major relics of her parents, Saints Louis and Zélie Martin.

From February to May 2020, the family's relics will travel across the country to 17 dioceses in city and rural areas, with major opportunities for devotees in Sydney. The pilgrimage is being coordinated by Catholic Mission, in partnership with InvoCare, and will link with InvoCare's funeral homes, including WN Bull Funerals and Guardian Funerals in Sydney. As part of the National Pilgrimage of The Relics of Saints Therese, Louis & Zélie Martin, we are privileged to have them visit our Church on Monday 16 March. We shall solemnly welcome the relics at 8.30 AM and they will be available for our veneration till 12.30 PM.

We require volunteers to carry the Reliquaries, sing at the prayer services and liturgies, set up place for the Relics, public relations and so on. I am looking forward to hearing from available volunteers. I have a Parish Guide to help the volunteers.



Saint Therese of Lisieux

Generations of Catholics have admired this Saint, referred to as the “Little Flower”, and found in her short life more inspiration for their own lives than in volumes by theologians.

Thérèse was born in France in 1873, and died when she was 24, after having lived as a cloistered Carmelite for less than 10 years. She never went on missions, never founded a religious order, and never performed any explicitly great works.

The only book of hers, published after her death, was a brief edited version of her journal *Story of a Soul*. Collections of her letters and restored versions of her journals have been recently re-published. Within just 28 years of her death, the public demand was so great that she was canonised.

Saint Zélie Martin

Zélie Guerin (1831 - 1877) was a lace maker. Born into a military family, Zélie described her childhood and youth as “dismal”. Her mother and father showed her little affection.

As a young lady, she sought unsuccessfully to enter the religious life. Zélie then learned the Alençon lace-making technique and soon mastered this painstaking craft. Richly talented, creative, eager and endowed with common sense, she started her own business and became quite successful.



Notable as these achievements were, Zélie was yet to reveal the depths of the strength, faith and courage she possessed until she wholeheartedly undertook her life as a wife and mother.



Saint Louis Martin

Louis Martin (1823 - 1894) was a watchmaker by trade. He also skilfully managed his wife's lace business and was born too into a family of soldiers. Louis absorbed the sense of order and discipline that army life engenders, but his temperament tended toward things of the spirit.

At age 22, young Louis sought to enter religious life at the monastery of the Augustinian Canons of the Great St Bernard Hospice in the Alps. The Abbot insisted the young candidate learn Latin, which he found extremely challenging, and he eventually had to leave the monastery due to illness.

Fortunately, Louis' desire for holiness was realised through his love for his wife, his redemptive suffering, and his later years as a single father following Zélie's death. He is now venerated as a Patron Saint of mental health issues due to his struggles with dementia toward the end of his life.

ST PETER CHANEL AND ST JOSEPH PARISH PRESENTS

BERALA KIDS CAMP

19-21 January 2020 (10am-3pm daily) | St Peter Chanel Jubilee Hall



'Be brave! I have defeated the world!'

Come join us for THREE fun faith-filled days over the SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS.
For children aged 6 - 14 YEARS OLD, this day camp is not to be missed!

Cost includes food and drink - great value for money!

One child \$30 | Second child \$20 | Third child \$10

We are also calling young people in or starting high school next year to be
CAMP LEADERS.

Book online to secure your spot www.trybooking.com/580441

For more info - ANGELA FINNANE angela.finnanesyd.catholic.edu.au |

BARBARA MUCHA barbara.muchaesydney.catholic.edu.au | PARISH OFFICE 9644 7787 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Holy Land Pilgrimage with Fr Thomas

Dates will be between Mid September – mid October 2020 (including school holidays).

COST: From AUD 3890 PP (All Inclusive Land Package) | \$150 per person tips & gratuities for guides and drivers additional (pre-collected) | Costing is based on a minimum of 25 pilgrims.

Optional Costs: Single room supplement: AUD 1050 | Return Economy Airfare#: Approx. \$1900 – \$2200 (To be confirmed.) | Cover More Travel Insurance: Quote provided based on D.O.B and Medical History disclosure.

Please contact the Parish Office to express your interest or obtain more information.

Save the date: Sisterhood Conference 2020

Catholic women, take note! The Sisterhood Conference will feature a stellar line-up of keynote speakers including Karen Doyle, Monica Doumit and Sr Maria Joy OP, as well as a range of high quality workshops to help you grow in your identity as a daughter of God. **20 – 22 March, 2020** | The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops Registrations: www.sisterhood.org.au

OTHER NOTICES

EVENTS, WORKSHOPS & RETREATS

Campion College Summer Program 5-9 Jan 2020

Young people aged 16-20 interested in history, literature, philosophy and theology are invited to register for Campion College's five-day Summer Program and get a taste of a Catholic tertiary education in the liberal arts. Free to attend thanks to Campion's generous donors (including meals, activities and accommodation on campus in Toongabbie) but spaces are limited! Find out more and register at: www.campion.edu.au/summer-program.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal 2020 Retreat

18-19 January at 9am to 4:30pm
St Agatha's Catholic Primary School Hall
Entry and parking at 7 Trebor Road, Pennant Hills
Cost: \$50 | Registrations close Friday January 11 2020.
Phone 9810 2499 or email email@ccrns.org.au

Youth Leaders Evangelisation School 2020

From **25 January to 1 February, 2020**, a week long live-in experience for youth leaders and young adults between 18 and 35 years old. The school will allow leaders to explore their call to discipleship through community life, daily prayer and through building a culture of responsibility for themselves and others in their daily lives. The program is developed to encourage leaders to exercise their call to evangelisation within the many contexts of their lives, including ministry. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pasion on (02) 9307 8152 or elizabeth.pasion@sydneycatholicityouth.org

SUPPORT & SERVICES

Love, joy and peace at Christmas

The CatholicCare family wish you a happy, holy and peace-filled Christmas. May the birth of our Lord renew you with love, joy and peace this Christmas time. For help finding help, call CCareline **13 18 19** connect@catholiccare.org open 8am – 8pm Monday – Friday

Poinsettia used in Christmas Floral Arrangements will be on sale after Epiphany (Next Sunday). Book yours with Parish Office