

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading

Jer 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more. Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **R**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **R**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R**

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **R**

Second Reading

Rom 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy

sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation

See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Communion Antiphon

Ps 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: Ez 33:7-9

2nd Reading: Rom 13:8-10

Gospel: Mt 18:15-20

ZOOM Bible Study

Topic: Conflicts about the Kingdom in the Gospel of Matthew

Time: 7pm-8pm on Tuesday

To join send and email request to info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au and the link will be send to you.



REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 16:21-27

Historical Context. Whoever loses his life for my sake...

At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain.

Scriptural context. Not quite there...

This passage immediately follows the passage of last week's gospel which featured Peter's confession of faith – his inspired revelation that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' The reader might think, 'Aha, the disciples have finally got it!' But in a very clever piece of writing, the author of Matthew's gospel follows this revelation of faith immediately with an example of the lack of clarity that the disciples, including Peter, still possess. This happens throughout the gospels. Whenever the disciples have a bit of an insight, they are almost immediately shown to only have a partial understanding of the truth. The full revelation of Jesus' mission and ministry is not easy to grasp and even the disciples were not quite there until they had seen the 'full story' played out before and within them.

Living the Gospel. Have you got what it takes?

For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

The Lord has had pity on us men

From a sermon by Saint Augustine (AD 354-430)

Happy are we if we do the deeds of which we have heard and sung. Our hearing of them means having them planted in us, while our doing them shows that the seed has borne fruit. By saying this, I wish to caution you, dearly beloved, not to enter the Church fruitlessly, satisfied with mere hearing of such mighty blessings and failing to do good works. For we have been saved by his grace, says the Apostle, and not by our works, lest anyone may boast; for it is by his grace that we have been saved. It is not as if a good life of some sort came first, and that thereupon God showed his love and esteem for it from on high, saying: "Let us come to the aid of these men and assist them quickly because they are living a good life." No, our life was displeasing to him. He will, therefore, condemn what we have done but he will save what he himself has done in us.

We were not good, but God had pity on us and sent his Son to die, not for good men but for bad ones, not for the just but for the wicked. Yes, Christ died for the ungodly. Notice what is written next: One will hardly die for a righteous man, though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. Perhaps someone can be found who will dare to die for a good man; but for the unjust man, for the wicked one, the sinner, who would be willing to die except Christ alone who is so just that he justifies even the unjust?

And so, my brothers, we had no good works, for all our works were evil. Yet although men's actions were such, God in his mercy did not abandon men. He sent his Son to redeem us, not with gold or silver but at the price of his blood poured out for us. Christ, the spotless lamb, became the sacrificial victim, led to the slaughter for the sheep that were blemished – if indeed one can say that they were blemished and not entirely corrupt. Such is the grace we have received! Let us live so as to be worthy of that great grace, and not do injury to it. So mighty is the physician who has come to us that he has healed all our sins! If we choose to be sick once again, we will not only harm ourselves, but show ingratitude to the physician as well.

Let us then follow Christ's paths which he has revealed to us, above all the path of humility, which he himself became for us. He showed us that path by his precepts, and he himself followed it by his suffering on our behalf. In order to die for us – because as God he could not die – the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The immortal One took on mortality that he might die for us, and by dying put to death our death. This is what the Lord did, this the gift he granted to us. The mighty one was brought low, the lowly one was slain, and after he was slain, he rose again and was exalted. For he did not intend to leave us dead in hell, but to exalt in himself at the resurrection of the dead those whom he had already exalted and made just by the faith and praise they gave him. Yes, he gave us the path of humility. If we keep to it we shall confess our belief in the Lord and have good reason to sing: *We shall praise you, God, we shall praise you and call upon your name.*

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK



Thursday, 3 September - St Gregory the Great (Memorial)

Born about 540. Died in Rome in 604. While prefect of Rome, he founded monasteries there and in Sicily and himself became a monk. Called to be a deacon of Rome by Benedict I, and then sent as papal legate to Constantinople. Elected pope in 590. Reorganised Church life and administration in a time of crisis, sponsored liturgical reform, and initiated the evangelisation of the English. Remembered also for his extensive writings on pastoral care, spirituality, and morals, and for his self-designation as "servant of the servants of God."

WHAT'S NEW?

John & Noeline



They were married on 27 August 1960 at Holy Trinity Church, Granville. They moved to Berala in October 1960 and have resided there ever since. They have been blessed with 4 children, 12 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. They have always been involved in various parish activities, like liturgical ministry.

Congratulations on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary, John & Noeline! At the heart of marriage is a love nourished by God. May His blessings be upon you two on your anniversary and always.

Joyce and Sergio Received Dempsey Medal

Joyce and Sergio were acknowledged for their selfless service to the church. During last Saturday's Vigil mass Fr Thomas presented them the Dempsey Medal on behalf of The Archbishop.

Congratulations Joyce & Sergio on your dedication and for providing many years of ministry to our Parish!



Recommencing Group Masses

Some of the Group Masses will be recommencing in the month of September. The Ugandan Community Mass will be on First Sunday of each month and the Malayalam Mass for Marian Japamala Sakhyam will be on the fourth Sunday of each month. They both will be in the afternoon. For more information on either of these Masses, 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)

26 August 2020

Dear Parishioners

Restrictions on gatherings, including religious, seems to continue for some more time, even beyond Christmas this year. In this pandemic time, we all take care to foster health and well-being of everyone. We cooperate with the government and health authorities to accommodate the necessary changes to social behaviour and organisation of our life. Accordingly, we have suspended social gatherings before and after Mass, and other celebrations requiring larger social gatherings.

The Sacramental programs are done mostly through interactive internet media. Bible Study and such other Adult Faith Formation programs of the parish are also done mostly through electronic media. The parish Mass is also made available on Berala Parish YouTube. These are the stop gaps and never fully satisfactory. Human proximity and spiritual fellowships are integral parts of our faith life. Spiritual Communion cannot be a permanent substitute for real Communion in the Eucharist with blessed bread and wine. We are called to be the mystical but the 'real body' of Christ through the gathering of the physical people, not virtual body. Nobody wants to make YouTube Masses the new normal. Therefore, I would like to explore ways of providing more opportunities for the faithful to participate in Mass. Should that require more Masses in addition to the scheduled ones, I am prepared for that. All parishioners should be able to participate safely in the Eucharist on a weekly basis.

The present schedule of Vigil Mass at 5 pm on Saturdays, and the Sunday Masses at 8 am and 10 am are well attended, though the Vigil and 8am Sunday Masses are short of the maximum 90 attendees allowed. Most Sundays, 10am Masses attracts more than 90 people and these are conducted with closed doors to restrict the numbers. Yet I do not want anyone to miss out on the Sunday Mass. If additional Masses on Sunday or Saturday evening is the solution I am prepared to consider it. In the event of special occasions in the family or in the cultural groups or friends association seek a special Mass that too is doable. Therefore, may I ask you to send me a response indicating your preference of Mass times. The following is a guide to help you.

I would like to attend

- Saturday Vigil
- an additional vigil at
- 8 am Sunday
- 10 am Sunday
- additional Mass after 11 am on Sunday ...
- a special group Mass for (name of the group)

The above survey will help me tailor the Mass schedule for the benefit of greater number of parishioners.

You are also welcome to discuss with me other pastoral needs such as baptisms, marriages, special prayer groups, Sacrament of Reconciliation, children's Sacramental programs, and spiritual guidance.

The parish finances rely on donations and Sunday collections. It has declined to less than half in this COVID time. My thanks to all those who are making their contributions using various means of 'touch free' facilities provided. Instead of the collection plates, now we have two jars on the offertory table for cash donation, along with tap on facility (Quest) and QR Code for electronic transfers. The 'Support Us' button on the parish website is also available for secure donation using internet. I acknowledge that there are people who have lost jobs and in financial hardship. But there may be others who are able to support their parish. I would like to appeal for their support to keep the parish going.

First Collection supports the fund that pays priest's expenses. Presently the priests of the archdiocese are supported by the job keeper payment. Should that reduce or cease then the Clergy Remuneration Fund will have to think of other ways of supporting your clergy in the ministry.

The fund that supports the retired clergy depends on donations to cater for the retired priests. There is a special, annual, appeal in September towards the fund that support the retired clergy. Your contributions towards this appeal will be greatly appreciated.

Without compromising the COVID precautions, we can keep up the fellowship of the faithful; and we can live our lives fuller. My inspiration is John 10:10 "*I have come so that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.*" I would like to continue to be your minister, providing pastoral care of you. Let me know how I can help you better.

God bless you all!

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam

Social Justice Sunday



We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on 30 August. This year, the Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement is titled: *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today*. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. The Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health, and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Download the Statement at http://bit.ly/SocialJustice_2020.



Sacramental Updates

Confirmation - Registrations close on the 6th of September 2020.

Registration: To obtain the form go to the Parish Website www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au, click on Sacraments, the link will be under the heading 'Confirmation'. **Enrolments close on the 6th of September 2020.** Please note that we will not be accepting any more applications after the above date. Hence, kindly log on to our website and enrol at your earliest to avoid any disappointments.

Could you kindly lock in all these dates in your calendars.

Sacrament of Confirmation – Wednesday, 18 November 2020 at 7.00pm at St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Parish, Berala by The Most Reverend Anthony Fisher, Archbishop of Sydney

Mass and Commitment ceremony for Parents and the candidates: 19 September 2020 at 7.00pm. (Kindly note, this is a special mass organised just for the Confirmation children and their families. Thanks to Fr Thomas for making this personal and possible).

Classes: 14 Oct, 21 Oct, 28 Oct, and 04 Nov – Wednesday @ 7.00pm – 8.00pm.

As we come closer to the preparations of this sacrament, may you be drawn closer to God and know that he will indeed As you await, continue to dwell on the below message and see what God is speaking to you. "Jesus commanded us to *"WAIT for the promise of the Father"*. Just like the apostles did at Pentecost, as you wait for this day to draw near let your waiting be active, active in prayer and preparation and in return know that, the Holy Spirit will guide your way and help you to grow stronger in your faith and love each day".

We the sacramental team are working towards the preparations of this program and looking forward to guiding each one of you on this journey. Let's remind ourselves that, in this waiting we will bear much fruit.

Please feel free to contact me via email to sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au if you need further information. Have a blessed Sunday!
~Sophia Brewty, Sacramental Co-ordinator

Priests' Retirement Foundation - Father's Day Appeal 2020



Remember our Retired Priest's this Father's Day

The **Priests' Retirement Foundation** Father's Day Appeal will be held on **5 and 6 September 2020**. Your donation will help care for our sick and retired priests, so please consider a gift towards this appeal. Thank you.

Donations

Paying donations to the church is made easy by introducing a QR Code. Using a smart phone camera scan the QR code. The phone will come up with prompting to open the donation App (using Commonwealth Bank security). Open the App and select the item from the pull down menu and enter the amount you wish to donate. This is a touch free and convenient way of donating to the church. This facility is also more versatile than Quest Tap on facility in the Church. The Tap on facility and cash donation facilities continue to be available for you to use.



New QR Code

Current Church COVID Restrictions

- ◆ Number of people allowed in the church 90 (one person per 4 square metre rule). Church doors will be closed when the 90th person enters for the Mass.
- ◆ The church doors will be left open as long as there is someone to monitor the registrations. Should you wish to make a visit and the church doors are closed, contact the office to open the church door for you.
- ◆ The use of face mask when attending church is recommended but not mandatory.
- ◆ Parish Bulletins are sent by email. Printed Bulletin can be collected AFTER Mass, and not to be put back in the church.
- ◆ Vigil Mass (Saturday 5 PM) will be Live streamed, and it will be available on demand thereafter on YouTube Channel BERALA PARISH.
- ◆ 8am and 10 am Masses will continue to be celebrated. Holy Hour and Confessions on Saturdays 8.30 am – 9.30 am.
- ◆ Bookings for Baptisms, anointing of the sick, marriages are welcome. Schedule for Confessions will be 8.30 am to 9.30 am on Saturdays. But you are also welcome to call and make an appointment for any other time.
- ◆ If you are unwell consult your GP, and should not attend the church.

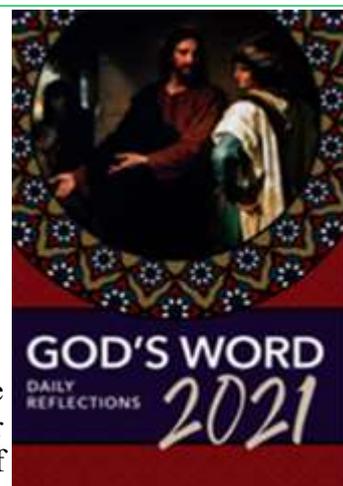
God's Word Daily Reflections 2021

You can pre order for \$19.95. Available in November.

Bible readings and reflections for each day of the Liturgical Year. These daily reflections are prepared by a group of eminent spiritual guides and are the fruits of their personal reflection and prayers.

Designed to guide you to keep the Word of God close to your heart and be nourished by the life-giving Word, to help you to meditate, to pray and to grow in God's love in all circumstances.

The beautiful icons, art and use of colours based on the Liturgical Season make it an attractive and easy to read Bible diary and a life changing gift to your dear ones that will last for the whole year. No wonder God's Word remains one of the bestselling Bible Diaries for many years.



*Liturgical readings of the day from the Jerusalem Bible | Liturgical information for the day | **Prayer for Healing** | Prayer for Covid19 | Prayer for Plenary Council | Prayer Before Communion | Chaplet to the Divine Mercy | Space to note down important events and reflections of the day | Produced in the popular flexi-cover format, full colour throughout*

Marriage Enrichment Weekend



Learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love!

November 20 - 22, 2020 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville

Book online at www.wwme.org.au

Alternatively contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or nswbookings@wwme.org.au | Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Is your family facing financial stress?

Connect with financial counsellors who can offer information, guidance and advocacy for people in financial distress who are at risk of or not able to pay bills or make repayments.

Call CCareline to find out more

CCareline 131819

CatholicCare.org

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

OTHER NOTICES

Aid to the Church In Need - Fundraiser on 10th anniversary of MacKillop Canonisation

In celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia is proud to have commissioned a commemorative set of Rosary Beads. All proceeds from the sale of these beads will directly support needy religious sisters around the world who - like Mary MacKillop - continue to take care of all people in so many ways. www.aidtochurch.org for more info.

CatholicCare supporting seniors

CatholicCare Home Care services for seniors can help parishioners navigate the complicated My Aged Care system and provide services for seniors so they can live life to the full. Call 13 18 19 to for one of our Home Care Specialists to talk you through the process.

Parent Line: 1300 1300 52

Many families are in the midst of or are facing serious challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and need extra support but don't know where to start. Parent Line can help parents by providing support and strategies to manage. Call us 7 days a week on 1300 1300 52.

CatholicCare: Can you picture yourself being a foster carer?

Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer. To book a one on one appointment call CCareline connect@familyspirit.org | 13 18 19 | 8am – 6pm, Monday – Friday

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare, through its CCareline 13 18 19 number and the Parish Volunteer Program in partnership with the Archdiocese of Sydney, is working together as the 'hands and feet of Christ in the community' reaching out to those most in need in our parishes and beyond. To register or learn more about the Parish Volunteer

Program call CCareline on 13 18 19. If you are struggling and need help or support, or you are worried about someone else, please call CCareline on 13 18 19 today.

Is your family facing financial stress?

Connect with financial counsellors who can offer information, guidance and advocacy for people in financial distress who are at risk of or not able to pay bills or make repayments. Call CCareline on 13 18 19 to find out more | CatholicCare.org

Epetition to proclaim Modern Slavery Act 2018

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is encouraging people to sign an ePetition calling on the Premier and the NSW Government to take immediate steps to proclaim the state's Modern Slavery Act 2018. Despite this law having passed parliament over two years ago, it still hasn't been brought into law, thanks to stalling tactics which have failed some of our state's most vulnerable citizens.

You'll find a link to the petition here: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/la/pages/epetitions-list.aspx>. Please note the closing date for this ePetition is 1st September 2020.

With the securing of 20,000 or more e-signatures, a debate on the subject of the ePetition will be activated in the Legislative Assembly.

How to Rebuild a Catholic Society

Next week on the Maximus Podcast, the National Civic Council's Luke McCormack. Few men have dedicated more of their lives to fight for Australians to understand and live out Catholic Social Teaching than Luke McCormack. Following the legacy of Bob Santamaria, Luke's work involves both educating Catholics and the broader public on pro-family policy and social changes, as well as lobbying state and federal governments for the same. Tune in to Maximus – Men Striving for Greatness next Friday, the 4th of September at 4 pm!

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office by phone at (02) 9390 5810 or email safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



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Just for Laughs

My boss came to me at lunch, "Where the heck have you been? I've been trying to find you all morning!" I shrugged and said, "Good employees are hard to find!"



St Joseph the Worker
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stjwauburn.catholic.edu.au (02) 9646 1434