



## 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](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](http://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au), **facebook:** [stpeterstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/stpeterstjoseph) **YouTube:** [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCB8a1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1m1)

**Holy Mass at Berala:** Monday to Friday 6.45am, Saturday 8.00am | **Holy Hour:** Saturday 8.30am-9.30am

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

**Reconciliation at Berala:** Saturday 8.30am - 9.30am. 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 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10 JANUARY 2021

## Baptism of the Lord

In September 2018, when I was in Jerusalem for a Bible study, I visited the place of Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan. It was at Qasr al-Yahud (tower of the Jews), bordering the Kingdom of Jordan. On the other side of the river which was small but famous, was the Orthodox monastery. Military personnel with powerful guns were guarding the international border, a rope running through the middle of the water between the two countries. The banks of the river were only a few meters apart. We were not to deviate from the designated path to the riverbank for the fear of any un-cleared landmines from the six day war in 1967. Even in this uneasy situation people were flocking there. Many of the pilgrims got into the muddy water to re-enact the ritual of baptism for its historical and spiritual significance. What is the significance of Jesus' baptism?



Jesus, the Son of God, did not require a baptism that marked repentance. Yet he humbled himself and sought baptism from John to identify himself with the people who were repentant of their sins. That is who Jesus is, God incarnate who is with us. When Jesus came out of the water, there was a revelation from heaven that he is the beloved Son of God.

Through our own baptism, you and I are called to be children of God, not just children, but the beloved of God. The pilgrims walking through the reminders of war and hostility to get to Jordan River, because they were the beloved of God, make me reflect on how God has adopted me also as his beloved. No adversities thrown at us by the world shall stop us celebrating the joy of being God's beloved. It would

help you to do so, if you can identify the milestone in your life that helped you discover your status as the beloved of God and other persons.

It is the descent of the Holy Spirit that declared Jesus as the beloved Son of God. Are you aware of the Holy Spirit coming on you, enabling you to produce the fruits of the Spirit which have made you pleasing to God and to the people? The fruits of the Spirit at work in you will bring greater hope and joy to the people who could be your dear and near ones. There is no greater joy than being the beloved of God and the witness to the people.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Sick:** Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Sr Salve Stuart, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Ann Bechioni, Grazyna Lukasiewicz, Jill Skerritt, Lydia Amores, Ben Villanueva

**Recently Deceased:** Elena Figueras

**Deceased:** Tadeusz Bukala, Diogo Cardozo

**Deceased Members and Friends of:** O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Ross & Mitchell Families

**Other Intentions:** For all those affected by the Corona Virus. The intention of the Holy Father.

### USE QR CODE

I have been advised that the Government wants everyone to use NSW QR code to sign in. Therefore, please bring your smartphones (with NSW App) and scan the QR code (provided at the entrance of the church) to sign in. That will make the signing more efficient. For those who do not have a smartphone, you can still sign in using the paper form. But that will be an exception, rather than norm. **It is mandatory to wear face mask in the church.** Therefore, please come prepared. *~Fr Thomas*



Please do not put the  
bulletin back in the church.

### SUPPORT US

Scan the QR Code to make a donation.  
Thank you for your generosity!



## ANTIPHONS & READINGS

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Mt 3:16-17

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.

### First Reading

Is 42:1-4. 6-7

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

**R The Lord will bless his people with peace.**

O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. **R**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. **R**

The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood: the Lord sits as king for ever. **R**

### Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

### Gospel Acclamation

See Mk 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Alleluia!

### Gospel

Mk 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

### Communion Antiphon

Jn 1:32, 34

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

### Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **1 Sm 3:3-10.19**

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20**

Gospel: **Jn 1:35-42**

### 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 please contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or email [info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au) to obtain the Parish Census Form & Direct Debit Form (for those who are opting to donate automatically by credit card) so that your details can be added in our system.

## REFLECTIONS ON MARK 1:7-11

### Scriptural context – Mark and Isaiah

Today's first reading from Isaiah 42 begins with the very words that come from heaven during the baptism of Jesus in the gospel. It comes from the first of four passages from the book of Isaiah that are known as the Servant Songs. The Servant Songs in Isaiah provided a great deal of inspiration to Mark. The imagery and even specific language used in Isaiah to describe the messiah who will come is scattered throughout the gospel of Mark and subsequently the other gospels as well. Mark's depiction of Jesus as the messiah is characterised by the image of the suffering servant.

### Gospel Focus – A matter of fact approach

Unlike the other synoptic gospels of Matthew and Luke, the gospel of Mark includes no infancy narrative or genealogy of Jesus. It begins with John the Baptist proclaiming the coming of Jesus and the baptism scene takes place in just the ninth verse of the gospel. The gospel of Mark is something of a no-nonsense gospel. It is the shortest of the four and moves very swiftly through the events in Jesus' life. Just as Jesus emerged from the crowd to be baptised by John in an unremarkable manner, so too, the approach of the gospel throughout is very matter of fact.

### Have you thought? – Baptism

Whilst today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it is also a reminder and celebration of our own Baptism. Today's gospel is a reminder that we are baptised with the Holy Spirit, not merely with water. To be baptised with the Holy Spirit means that we are drawn into communion with God and we are also empowered by that communion to make a difference in the world – to reach out a helping hand to those in need and to proclaim the good news of Jesus through our actions and our words.

### The baptism of Christ

*From a sermon by Saint Gregory Nazianzen (4th century)*

Christ is bathed in light; let us also be bathed in light. Christ is baptized; let us also go down with him, and rise with him.

John is baptizing when Jesus draws near. Perhaps he comes to sanctify his baptizer; certainly he comes to bury sinful humanity in the waters. He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake and in readiness for us; he who is spirit and flesh comes to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water.

The Baptist protests; Jesus insists. Then John says: I ought to be baptized by you. He is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother's womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again. I ought to be baptized by you: we should also add, "and for you," for John is to be baptized in blood, washed clean like Peter, not only by the washing of his feet.

Jesus rises from the waters; the world rises with him. The heavens, like Paradise with its flaming sword, closed by Adam for himself and his descendants, are rent open. The Spirit comes to him as to an equal, bearing witness to his Godhead. A voice bears witness to him from heaven, his place of origin. The Spirit descends in bodily form like the dove that so long ago announced the ending of the flood and so gives honour to the body that is one with God.

Today let us do honour to Christ's baptism and celebrate this feast in holiness. Be cleansed entirely and continue to be cleansed. Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. He wants you to become a living force for all mankind, lights shining in the world. You are to be radiant lights as you stand beside Christ, the great light, bathed in the glory of him who is the light of heaven. You are to enjoy more and more the pure and dazzling light of the Trinity, as now you have received – though not in its fullness – a ray of its splendour, proceeding from the one God, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.

### A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child 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: phone (02) 9390 5810 or email [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto: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.





# Zoom Bible Study

*An introduction to Bible*

**2, 9, 16 February 2021**

*The Gospel of Mark Today*

**20 April to 31 August 2021 (20 weeks)**

Zoom Lectures will be on Tuesdays at 7PM to 8PM.

Contact the Parish Office for Registration Forms.

## OTHER NOTICES

### Job Opportunity with Caritas Australia- Youth Participation Coordinator

The aid agency, Caritas Australia is looking for an energetic person who can implement an Australia-wide Caritas Youth Participation Strategy. A signature program is our walking 'With God Program' or faith inspiring bush walks in groups around Australia, and this is the key focus along with helping to animate the stories of Caritas' work through virtual engagements with schools. Ideally this is a full time role based in Sydney however we understand that for some youth they may be studying or have other part-time jobs therefore flexibility in location and work hours will be considered for the right person. More information is available online at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/about/jobs/positions-vacant#YouthParticipationCoordinator>

### Home Care Services for Seniors

CatholicCare's Home Care Services for seniors can support you or a loved one to live at home independently with comfort and confidence and to remain connected to your parish community. To learn more call our Home Care Team 13 18 19 or [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

### 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.

### The 2021 Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation course, Of Life and Love

Will be held on Saturday 27 February commencing at 10am and then Thursday evenings 4, 11, 18 March 2021  
Saturday 14 August commencing at 10am and then Thursday evenings 19, 26 August & 02 September 2021  
To Book Online - <https://www.trybooking.com/BMTLF>  
For further information, please contact - The Life, Marriage and Family team on (02) 9307 8480 or e-mail [steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org).

### 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.

## 17 JANUARY 2021

## 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Roland JAVIER	William ANDREWS
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	William ANDREWS	Maureen HYNES
	Lawrence LOPEZ	Jenny MICHAEL	Amanda DOWDELL
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Winnie CHIU	John SHANLEY

Cleaners SPC: Maria Perica & Teresa Escobar | Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Gwen Bergstedt

Saturday 8AM

16 JANUARY

LECTOR FOR MASS

Jann ROCKLIFF

## Are you struggling financially?

If you or you know anyone needing financial assistance during this time may contact Fr Thomas. He may be able to help you. Send a confidential email to [pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au).