



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) **YouTube:** [BeralaParish](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBeralaParish)

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

Lord's Day Mass : Saturday 5.00pm Vigil - LiveStreamed, Sunday 8.00am & 10.00am

Reconciliation: 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

11 APRIL 2021

Love of Thomas the Late Comer

At the Easter Vigil, to our great joy, four catechumens were initiated into the Church. I baptised, Confirmed, and gave Holy Communion to Christina Kailahi, Prescila Mafi, Christopher Hayes, and Edwin Kong. Unlike most parishioners who are cradle Catholics, these neophytes cannot claim knowing Christ from very early in their life. Does that make them second class Catholics? None of you might have even dreamt of asking such a question. But in the early church such questions were real. Aren't the first generation Christians who knew Jesus of Nazareth personally more blessed than the later additions to the Church? John the Evangelist addresses this question of the time by presenting Thomas and encounter with resurrected Jesus, in the Gospel.



The group of specially chosen disciples, minus Thomas, were privileged to meet Jesus on the day of his resurrection itself. They were over the moon, because they were the first ones to meet resurrected Jesus. Not only that; like the breath of God, as we read in Genesis, which created everything and gave life to his creation in the beginning, resurrected Jesus breathed on the disciples and made them a new creation. They were given the power to forgive or retain sins of others; thus made apostles of Jesus and his mission. Thomas, the late comer, missed out on all this. He therefore made a demand. To understand the demands of Thomas you need to know the language of John the evangelist. John's Gospel uses symbolic language. When Thomas

wanted to see the nail marks on the hands of Jesus he is asked for the blood that was shed from the wounds which, to John, represents the blood of Christ in the Eucharist. The wound made by the sphere on the side of Jesus body is where the water came out according to the Gospel. This water is symbolic of baptism. Thus, the expression 'water and blood' means the sacramental life of the Church, the living Body of Christ. The late comers get the experience of the resurrected Christ through the Sacramental presence of the Church. Thomas the late comer had the encounter with the risen Lord a week later than the others, but still on the first day of the week, the day the Church gathers to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. Thomas, having met resurrected Christ, though later, was also overjoyed. His joy was so much that he made a profound proclamation of faith which none of the other disciples made at the first encounter. Thomas said, "My God, My Lord". The response of Jesus was, "*Blessed are those who believe although they have not seen*" (John 20:29). What Jesus told Thomas was his message to all those who are not the first generation disciples.

All you Disciples of Christ are equally blessed as the first generation Christians like the apostles. John who said, God is love, gives a model of faith filled life in the person of Thomas who said, "*Let us also go, that we may die with him*" (John 11:16). It is the love of Thomas for his Lord that makes him an inspiring model of faith for everyone.

USE QR CODE TO SIGN IN

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.

DONATE

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



ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

1 Pt 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading

Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **R**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. **R**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **R**

Second Reading

1 Jn 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who

came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.' 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

2nd Reading: 1 Jn 2:1-5

Gospel: Lk 24:35-48

REFLECTIONS ON JOHN 20:19-31

Historical Context – My Lord and my God

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God.

Scriptural context – Not an ending?

The final two verses of today's gospel passage (Jn 20:30-31) read like the conclusion to the whole gospel. They are a statement of finality about the purpose for writing the gospel and something of a blessing for those who read it. Yet, surprisingly, there is another whole chapter that follows this passage that deals with still more post-resurrection appearances. Most scripture scholars believe that the end of Chapter 20 was the original ending of the gospel and that Chapter 21 is a later addition – possibly added by the community for whom the gospel was originally written.

Have you thought? Those who have not seen

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

A new creation in Christ

From a sermon by Saint Augustine

I speak to you who have just been reborn in baptism, my little children in Christ, you who are the new offspring of the Church, gift of the Father, proof of Mother Church's fruitfulness. All of you who stand fast in the Lord are a holy seed, a new colony of bees, the very flower of our ministry and fruit of our toil, my joy and my crown. It is the words of the Apostle that I address to you: *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh and its desires*, so that you may be clothed with the life of him whom you have put on in this sacrament. *You have all been clothed with Christ by your baptism in him. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor freeman; there is neither male nor female; you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Such is the power of this sacrament: it is a sacrament of new life which begins here and now with the forgiveness of all past sins, and will be brought to completion in the resurrection of the dead. *You have been buried with Christ by baptism into death in order that, as Christ has risen from the dead, you also may walk in newness of life.*

You are walking now by faith, still on pilgrimage in a mortal body away from the Lord; but he to whom your steps are directed is himself the sure and certain way for you: Jesus Christ, who for our sake became man. For all who fear him he has stored up abundant happiness, which he will reveal to those who hope in him, bringing it to completion when we have attained the reality which even now we possess in hope.

This is the octave day of your new birth. Today is fulfilled in you the sign of faith that was prefigured in the Old Testament by the circumcision of the flesh on the eighth day after birth. When the Lord rose from the dead, he put off the mortality of the flesh; his risen body was still the same body, but it was no longer subject to death. By his resurrection he consecrated Sunday, or the Lord's day. Though the third after his passion, this day is the eighth after the Sabbath, and thus also the first day of the week.

And so your own hope of resurrection, though not yet realised, is sure and certain, because you have received the sacrament or sign of this reality, and have been given the pledge of the Spirit. *If, then, you have risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your hearts on heavenly things, not the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.*

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, phone (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.



PARISH NOTICES

First Reconciliation



Congratulations to the 33 candidates who received their First Reconciliation last Wednesday, 31 March. May you all be blessed with new and meaningful experiences of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Registration for the First Holy Communion is now open!

If your child was baptised at **St Peter Chanel Church** or **St Joseph the Worker Church**, you do not need to submit a copy of the baptism certificate. However, if baptised elsewhere, you will need to email a copy of the baptism certificate.

Payment of the \$30 Registration Fee can be made by bank transfer to our account under St Peter Chanel & St Joseph Berala Parish Account, BSB: 062 784 A/C: 4665001.

Kindly email copy of baptism certificate and remittance for payment of registration fee to sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au. (In your bank transfer, please put reference as FHC Child's Firstname Initial Surname, eg FHC S BREWTY).

Registration closes 30 April. Click on link below to register:

<https://us8.list-manage.com/survey?u=65b2124a8202060424c7ed0b0&id=1843ad5233&e=|UNIQID|>



Zoom Bible Study

The Gospel of Mark Today Bible Study will be held from 20 April to 31 August 2021 (20 weeks). Zoom Lectures will be on Tuesdays at 7PM to 8PM.

Register through the Parish Website or office.

Liturgy Roster

The roster for the quarter commencing 4 April has been emailed. Printed copies of the roster are available for collection at the church foyer. For those who wish to volunteer to serve morning tea after the Sunday 8AM and 10AM masses, please contact the Parish Office.



Thank you!



Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion 2021. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion #projectcompassion 1800 024 413

New RCIA

There are always people making inquiries about becoming Catholics. A new program of RCIA will be commencing in the Parish this year.

Anyone interested in the Catholic Church and faith is welcome to contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787 or info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au.

Fr Thomas will be meeting with the applicants before a suitable program of instructions is presented.



BARM—Berala Association of Rosary Makers



A number of parishioners have expressed a desire to make CORDED ROSARY BEADS (as pictured) for various missions. All are invited to join this group which will meet one Thursday a month in St Peter Chanel Church foyer or hall from 10AM to 11.30AM.

No experience is necessary - only a desire to encourage the praying of the Rosary in missions and schools. All supplies will be provided as well as a 'cuppa'. This will be a wonderful spiritual and social ministry.

If you would like to be involved, please call Jenny Michael on 0413 679 931 and leave your name and contact details or email jenny@psmichael.com.au. This could really grow into something amazing to honour our Blessed Mother.

Year of St Joseph



Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

May 1st is the major celebration for our parish as one of our patrons. We shall have a solemn consecration of the Parish to St Joseph on a day closer to the 1st May. All parishioners are invited to pray a Novena to St Joseph before the 1st of May. You may use either the prayer printed in the bulletin or from the prayer card that was put out by the Archdiocese. In our consecration we will be joining a world-wide initiative of consecration.

Novena Prayer

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Sr Tomsy, Graham Turner, Theo Bergstedt, Tony Michael, Doreen Stanmore, Ann Bechiom, Grazyna Lukasiewicz, Joseph Anthony Gabrielle, Josephine Attard, Jacinta Moses, Kathleen Cassie Resuello, Melchor dela Cruz Jr, Angelia dela Cruz, Clarita Naumanen, Jane Aquino, Corazon Lopez, Kathleen Goh

Recently Deceased: Les Thomas Sullivan

Deceased: Mark Man-Wah Chiu, Betty Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Carmena Portelli, Anthony Spiteri, Carmela

Spiteri, Bert Portelli, George Spiteri, Pou Rin, Stipe Venci Ivan, Franko Lisica, Anka Ana Frane

Thanksgiving /Good Health: Patrick Gabriel

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

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



Morning Tea

Our usual Morning Tea after the weekend Masses has been suspended during the pandemic. Now we can resume it. Let us recommence our fellowship around a 'cuppa' after Mass. After Easter is a good time to do it.

Therefore, all those who are ready to help with Morning Tea including those who used to help contact the parish office so that we can prepare a roster.

OTHER NOTICES

Position Vacant: Part-time Sacramental Co-Coordinator (12 hours per week) at St Brigid's Parish, Coogee

Sacramental Co-Ordinator is to work as an active member of the Parish Pastoral team. Working closely with the Parish Priest and the Parish team to prepare, implement and manage the parish programs for Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation and RCIA. Contact the parish office on or 9315 7562 stbparish_coogee@yahoo.com.au for more info (Fr Phillip Hicks msc, Parish Priest).

The 2021 Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation course, Of Life and Love

Saturday 14 August commencing at 10 am and then Thursday evenings 19, 26 August & 02 September 2021 To Book Online - <https://www.trybooking.com/BMTLF> For further info, please contact - The Life, Marriage and Family team on (02) 9307 8480 or e-mail steven.buhagiar@sydneycatholic.org.

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

If you are struggling and need help or support, or you are

worried about someone else, please call CCareline on 13 18 19.

Day Retreat 23-29 April 2021 "Become Like Water" Fr John Armstrong

Cost: \$870 (Prayer Weekend 23-25 April: \$290) St. Mary's Towers Retreat Centre, Douglas Park. Download More info: <http://towersretreat.org.au> or RSVP Ph:4630-0233 or Email contact@towersretreat.org.au.

Foster Carers Needed

Family Spirit needs your help to find part-time, short-term or long-term carers for children and young people of all ages. We invite you to place this ad in your bulletin and consider asking families or individuals in your parish to consider opening their hearts and homes to children in need. Some people have never thought about it – but would be open to it. A personal invitation and encouraging word is the best way to inspire them to think about it.

18 APRIL		THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	Roland JAVIER	William ANDREWS
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR		TONGAN CHOIR
LECTOR/S	Christine KENSEY	Jenny MICHAEL	Roshan SEBASTIAN
	Lawrence LOPEZ	Rosalind EVANS	Sharon SEBASTIAN
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Winnie CHIU	John SHANLEY
Cleaners SPC: Roland & Aida Javier		Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Gwen Bergstedt	
Saturday 8AM			17 APRIL
LECTOR FOR MASS		Jann ROCKLIFF	