



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.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

23 JANUARY 2022

Relax: You are Accepted

Homily by Fr Michael Tate

I had the great good fortune to visit Jerusalem some years ago. In a special building constructed to display ancient texts, there is a special helium-filled display case. In it are pieces of a scroll of parchment with excerpts from the prophet Isaiah. Written in ancient Hebrew, it is thousands of years old.

It was a scroll like that which Jesus would have been handed in the middle of the synagogue. His teachers in the little village must have given him a great love and familiarity with this long, long scroll. He seems to have unhesitatingly found some of the short passages which would announce his mission.

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth is divine action in the world, and He adopted the manifesto wholeheartedly.

'The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free ...'

So far, so good. Many of His fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of their own was anointed by God to 'set the downtrodden free.' After all, they were downtrodden by the Roman occupying army. To throw off that oppression would be freedom indeed.

But, the next part caused them unrest which, as we shall see next week, erupted into fury. It reads: '... to proclaim the Lord's year of Acceptance.' This is the key: acceptance, acceptance. The religious revolution which Jesus inaugurated within Judaism was that God allows us to relax. Holiness is not a matter of our striving, but of accepting that we are accepted by the All Merciful God.

Good works should follow in response, but 'good works' don't gain our acceptance by God. The contemporaries of Jesus found that they could experience this acceptance, and then holiness, simply by brushing up against Jesus, simply by being touched by Jesus.

We have been touched by Jesus and have thereby been drawn into the sphere of God's holiness. We have been 'accepted' at our baptisms, we enjoy God's favour, without regard to who we were by reference to the usual separating categories: race, gender, ethnicity, class, caste, sinner.

How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One shares a meal. This was the distinctive action of Jesus in inviting those on the outer to eat and drink with him. Divine action in the world is characterised by the intimacy of sharing a meal. Sunday by Sunday we are accepted in this way into the sphere of divine holiness. We commune with Divinity by sharing the bread of life and spiritual drink which is the Real Presence of our Risen Lord.

We call it Holy Communion. Both parts of the title are true. We have Communion with the life of the Holy God. Despite everything, we have found acceptance and favour.

We can relax in this saving fact. But when we become aware of this, we have to respond in many ways, and our response will count. One response is signified by our title: Catholic, which means universal. We have to be at the forefront of overcoming all the phenomena which divide human beings in ways which violate their common humanity whether it be race, caste, class, gender and so on.

Only then can we mirror Jesus of Nazareth in proclaiming for our own time 'the Lord's year of Acceptance'.

Australia Day

Australia Day is a special occasion for us to pray for our nation. **Mass will be at 9AM on Wednesday 26 January followed by morning tea.** There will be **no 6.45AM mass** on this day. Please make welcome, Fr Mirko Integlia, who's supplying masses for us while Fr Thomas is away.



It is also the Republic Day of India, an important national Day for people of Indian origin and is dear to Fr Thomas, who is currently there visiting loved ones. We also invite you to pray for India on this day.

Parish Priest

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 pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au (for confidential)
 T. (02) 9644 7787

Parish Secretary

Lea Baldoria
 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
 Tue to Fri 9am -3pm
 T. (02) 9644 7787

Sacramental Co-ordinator

Sophia Brewty
 Tue & Wed 10am-3pm
 sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Community Care Worker

Patricia Lay
 0447 529 122

Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

Pastoral Council

Daniel Boland (Chair), Joe Kristianto, (Vice.
 Chair) Alicia Moore (Sec), Rosalind Evans
 (Asst Sec), Gai Melville (SJW), Jenny Makerry
 (SJW), Jenny Michael, Katrina Yip, Nathasha
 Ellis (SJW), William Andrews, Amanda Gahan,
 Susie Mravunac, Phil Townsend

Finance Committee

Brendon Nazareth (Chair)
 Joe Moses
 Sylvia Jukic
 Nader Badra

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 - Natasha Ellis

CatholicCare. Patricia Lay. Provides caring
 advice and advocacy to help families . 0447
 529 122 | CCareline 13 18 19

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Spiritual Retreats:

Benedictine Abbey
 Jamberoo - www.jamberoobbey.org.au/
 retreats Ph: 4236 0533

Carmelites Varroville -

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
 Ph: 8795 3400

Healing After Abortion:

0400 092 555
Vincentian Retreat Centre Somersby -
 www.divineretreatcentre.org.au
 Ph: 4372 1598

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

PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon 24/1	St Francis de Sales (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Tue 25/1	The Conversion of St Paul (Feast) 6.45am Mass
Wed 26/1	Australia Day 9.00am Mass & Morning Tea
Thu 27/1	6.45am Mass
Fri 28/1	St Thomas Aquinas (Memorial) 6.45am Mass
Sat 29/1	8.00am Mass 8.30am Rosary, Confession 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 30/1	8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

30 JANUARY 2022**4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	William ANDREWS	Roland JAVIER
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	Liva Funaki & Lavinia Fifta	
POWERPOINT SLIDES	Jennifer RUSH	Liva or Lavinia	Need Volunteer
LECTOR/S	Mai NGUYEN	Rosalind EVANS	Jenny MICHAEL
	Joy SKERRITT	Daniel BOLAND	Hilary RIOFRIO
CHURCH SHOP	Anita YIP	Winnie CHIU	John SHANLEY
Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group		Altar & Sacristy: Group 3 Helen Le Mottee	
Saturday 8AM		29 JANUARY	
LECTOR FOR MASS		Christine KENSEY	

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



FROM ST PETER CHANEL

Ryan Family

**To host the Pilgrim Statue and
 Rosary prayer please contact Mona
 on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603.**

**FROM THE LEGION OF MARY,
 BERALA**

**To host the Rosary Statue Legion of
 Mary, Berala call
 Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Graham Turner, Theo Bergstedt,
 Doreen Stanmore, Judith Anderson,
 John Rodrigues, Sr Tomsy, Ken
 Higgins

Anniversary: Sam Capra

Birthday Thanksgiving: Edna Rahmat

Recently Deceased: Doreen Murphy,
 Mila Amores-Prades

Other Intentions: Holy Souls in
 Purgatory. The intention of the Holy
 Father.

Deceased: Jess Sanchez, Noel Felix
 Gabrielle, Percy Hodges

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Ps 95:1-6

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading

Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **R**

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **R**

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **R**

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **R**

Second Reading

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Gospel Acclamation

See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

Communion Antiphon

Cf Ps 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

Next week’s Readings:

1st Reading: Jer 1:4-5. 17-19

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13

Gospel: Lk 4:21-30

REFLECTIONS ON LUKE 1:1-4. 4:14-21

Scriptural context – Framing

On either side of the quote from Isaiah in today's gospel there are very symmetrical actions. Before reading, Jesus stands, is handed the scroll and then unrolls the scroll. On completion he rolls up the scroll, hands it back and then sits down. There is a balance to every action. This framing or bracketing technique is used throughout the gospel of Luke as a cue to the audience. Whenever this framing occurs, it means that there is a very important teaching or action that occurs within the frame. On this occasion, the frame surrounds Jesus declaring his intentions for his ministry.

Have you thought? – Different accounts

The gospel of Luke begins, 'Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us ...' It indicates that there were many different accounts of Jesus' life circulating at the time of writing. In the years following Jesus' death there developed many different oral traditions that described the life and teachings of Jesus. A large number of these traditions were written down as what are now regarded as non-canonical or apocryphal writings – not recognised as part of the 'canon' of the Bible. They include gospels of Thomas, Peter, Mary, Phillip and Barnabas.

Historical Context – Theophilus

The gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles are written by the same person, or at least the same community. They are often regarded as a single work – Luke-Acts – as one flows directly into the other. Both books begin with an inscription to Theophilus. The Greek name, Theophilus, translates as 'lover of God'. Some scholars suggest that the name is a pseudonym for any lover of God or someone in particular whose identity must be shielded. Others argue that Theophilus was an influential Roman who had taken a great interest in the early Christian movement.

FEASTS & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

Monday, 24 January - St Francis de Sales (Memorial)



Proclaimed patron of writers and journalists for his use of books and broadsheets in order to convert. He also developed a sign language in order to teach a deaf man about God. Because of this, he is the patron saint of the deaf.

Tuesday, 25 January - The Conversion of St Paul (Feast)



This date, first linked with the conversion of Saint Paul in the so-called Martyrdom of Jerome (c. 431), became established in the liturgy of Gaul. Celebrates the work of God's grace at a major turning point in the life of Paul himself and in the history of the infant Church.

Wednesday, 26 January - Australia Day



This is the date of the arrival in 1788 of the first European settlers in Australia. The liturgy marks Australia's national day with prayers seeking God's blessing on all its peoples and commending its destiny into God's hands.

Friday, 28 January - St Thomas Aquinas (Memorial)



Born near Aquino (Italy) about 1225. Died on his way to the Council of Lyons in 1274. Educated at Monte Cassino, Naples, Paris, and Cologne, he became a Dominican in 1244. Regarded as one of the greatest theologians in the history of the

Church. Despite ecclesiastical opposition at the time, the substance of his life's work has endured as an authentic exposition of Christian teaching and carries unique official approval. Remembered for his modesty, the prayerfulness of his personal life, and the abiding influence of his thought.

Church Shop

The Church Shop is open on Saturdays before and after the 5.00pm Vigil mass and on Sundays after the 8.00am & before the 10.00am masses. Drop by our Church shop and grab a gift for that special someone.

The shop is filled with a range of religious items perfect as presents for those celebrating the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Baptism, Reconciliation and Confirmation.



PLEASE NOTE: New start date of the Bible Study is 26 April 2022.

Bible Study

When: 26 April to 27 September 2022
Time: 7-8PM on Tuesdays
Lent: Special Program During Lent 2022
Registration Fee: \$10

Online or face to face option.

E-book Handout at the end of the course.



To Register Scan the QR Code or Visit the Parish Website:
<http://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au>

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE TODAY



GROW

A Guide to Reading the Gospel with historical and Old Testament background

For any queries, email thomas.kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org.

Become a Catechist or Helper in 2022



Half of Catholic children in Sydney are in public primary and high schools. Share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with them and become a catechist or helper, ready to start in Term 1, 2022. Starting off as a helper, you'll receive easy step-by-step lessons and hand out activity books in primary schools. Find out more about the work catechists do here, whether at primary or secondary level: <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org/>

"Being a catechist is the most spiritually fulfilling thing I've done" ~Rose.

Contact: Fr Thomas on 9644 7787 or Brenda Wendt-Hussein, Catechist Coordinator on 0402 051 365.

Sacraments 2022

Registrations for sacraments 2022 are now open! Please use the QR Code or link under the respective sacrament for further information and registration.

Reconciliation



<https://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/reconciliation/>

First Holy Communion



<https://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/holy-communion/>

Confirmation



<https://www.stpeter-stjoseph.org.au/confirmation/>

If for any reason you do not have access to the above options or are having difficulty with the above process, please do not hesitate to contact our office via email.

Sophia Brewty, Sacramental Coordinator | Email: sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

Just for Laughs

Teacher: What do you call a woman in heaven?
Johnny: An angel.
Teacher: A crowd of women in heaven?
Johnny: A host of angels.
Teacher: And all women in heaven?
Johnny: Peace on earth.



OTHER NOTICES

Aid to the Church in Need

As we begin a new year we ask for your support to help the Suffering Church. Your offering allows ACN to aid our suffering brothers and sisters to keep the faith alive in countries that are becoming increasingly harder to practice the faith. Please visit www.aidtochurch.org

Divine Retreat Centre: January Program

Based in Somersby on the NSW Central Coast, Divine Retreat Centre has a number of retreats it is leading throughout January, led by the spiritual arm of the Vincentian Missionaries. Visit their website for more information: www.divineretreatcentre.org

Got Your Wedding Plans Under Control?

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. www.engagedencounter.org.au. Choose any of the coming Weekends: Feb 19-20, Apr 30 - May 01, Aug 06-07, Nov 12-13. If COVID-19 restrictions prevent a face-to-face seminar, the CEE weekend will be held via Zoom.

Reclaiming Evangelisation Series Continues with Dr Mary Healy

Live Online, Saturday 12 February 2022, 10 – 11:30 AM. You are invited to attend Dr Mary Healy's live online address to the faithful of Sydney on the topic 'Why Make Disciples? What Scripture tells us about calling and forming disciples.' Dr Mary Healy is a professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, as well as an accomplished author and international speaker. Places limited. Registrations essential via www.gomakedisciples.org.au

House of Welcome Food Bank

Foodbank provides household necessities for people seeking asylum who have limited or no income. People can access groceries on a weekly basis to alleviate the cost of living. The Foodbank program is largely stocked through the generosity of people in the community. No contribution is too small. Contact: office@houseofwelcome.com.au | 197 The Trongate, Granville | Phone: 02 9727 9290 | Website: stfrancis.org.au/house-of-welcome

Devotion must be practiced in different ways

From The Introduction to the Devout Life by Saint Francis de Sales, bishop

When God the Creator made all things, he commanded the plants to bring forth fruit each according to its own kind; he has likewise commanded Christians, who are the living plants of his Church, to bring forth the fruits of devotion, each one in accord with his character, his station and his calling.

I say that devotion must be practised in different ways by the nobleman and by the working man, by the servant and by the prince, by the widow, by the unmarried girl and by the married woman. But even this distinction is not sufficient; for the practice of devotion must be adapted to the strength, to the occupation and to the duties of each one in particular.

Tell me, please, my Philothea, whether it is proper for a bishop to want to lead a solitary life like a Carthusian; or for married people to be no more concerned than a Capuchin about increasing their income; or for a working man to spend his whole day in church like a religious; or on the other hand for a religious to be constantly exposed like a bishop to all the events and circumstances that bear on the needs of our neighbour. Is not this sort of devotion ridiculous, unorganised and intolerable? Yet this absurd error occurs very frequently; but in no way does true devotion, my Philothea, destroy anything at all. On the contrary, it perfects and fulfils all things. In fact if it ever works against, or is inimical to, anyone's legitimate station and calling, then it is very definitely false devotion.

The bee collects honey from flowers in such a way as to do the least damage or destruction to them, and he leaves them whole, undamaged and fresh, just as he found them. True devotion does still better. Not only does it not injure any sort of calling or occupation, it even embellishes and enhances it.

Moreover, just as every sort of gem, cast in honey, becomes brighter and more sparkling, each according to its colour, so each person becomes more acceptable and fitting in his own vocation when he sets his vocation in the context of devotion. Through devotion your family cares become more peaceful, mutual love between husband and wife becomes more sincere, the service we owe to the prince becomes more faithful, and our work, no matter what it is, becomes more pleasant and agreeable.

It is therefore an error and even a heresy to wish to exclude the exercise of devotion from military divisions, from the artisans' shops, from the courts of princes, from family households. I acknowledge, my dear Philothea, that the type of devotion which is purely contemplative, monastic and religious can certainly not be exercised in these sorts of stations and occupations, but besides this threefold type of devotion, there are many others fit for perfecting those who live in a secular state.

Therefore, in whatever situations we happen to be, we can and we must aspire to the life of perfection.