



## 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/UCBeralaParish)

Holy Mass: Tuesday 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

For Baptisms, Weddings, Bible Study and Catholic Enquiry, please contact Fr Thomas or the parish office on 9644 7787.

### 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A *Catechist Sunday* 5 FEBRUARY 2023

## You are the Salt and the Light



Cashless cards for poker machines is a proposal hotly debated currently in NSW. On one hand, freedom to enjoy gambling as a leisure activity is part of the human right. Clubs availing facilities and making a business out of it is providing job opportunities. The clubs share the proceeds from the pokies with charities in the form of grants. Thus, the gambling industry is not as bad as it sounds. But on the other hand, there are many very sad stories of problem gamblers becoming misfits in the society and ruining their own lives. Addiction to gambling have been causing increased poverty, homelessness, family breakups, violence, and suicides. Anyone who loves his fellow human beings cannot let this problem perpetuate. Hence a number of measures were taken, including confidential counselling facilities for those who are affected by the vice of gambling. Still the darkness and gloom surrounding the poker machines have not disappeared. Therefore, the proposed cashless cards for gaming should be evaluated on its effectiveness to promote greater hope, joy, and fullness of life. If it is helping the problem gamblers not to get out of control, it should be a welcome thing. After all, our Christian faith and charity demands such a positive response.

Jesus said, *"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by people. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden.... your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven."* (Cf Mt 5:13-16). When it comes to the crunch of the matter, being the salt of the earth and the light to the world require proper discernment. Response to the government proposal for cashless cards for pokies is just one such example. In every social issue that affects the dignity of human life, you and I are called to discern God's will for the right response. In the face of such challenges, we cannot be recluse. We need to be actively promoting goodness. Let our lives be witness to God's goodness.

## Sacraments 2023 Registrations Closing 10 February

Please use the link under the respective sacrament for further information and registration.

### Reconciliation



Reconciliation

### First Holy Communion



Holy Communion

### Confirmation



Confirmation

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

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

<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 | [sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au)

**Parish Priest**

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam  
 info@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au (Office)  
 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

**Youth Ministry Co-ordinator**

Annuncia Sinisa  
 0401 291 114  
 youth@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au

**Catechist Co-ordinator**

Josie Pangilinan  
 0406 515 050

**Catholic Inquiry—RCIA**

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

**Parish Pastoral Council**

Karim Kassis (Chair), Robert McGinn (Vice Chair), Renee Salar (Secretary), Julia Babic (Assistant Secretary), Maria Simeone (Co-ordinator, Social Committee, Jenny Michael (Asst Co-ordinator, Social Committee), Amanda Dowdell, Amanda Gahan, Annuncia Sinisa, Dom Pangilinan, Josie Pangilinan, Jennifer Makerry, Michael Kim, Natasha Ellis, Susie Mravunac, Sr Cecilia Joseph, Sophia Brewty

**Finance Committee**

Brendon Nazareth (Chair), Joe Moses, Sylvia Jukic, Nader Badra

**Parish Schools**

St Peter Chanel, Regents Park  
 T. (02) 9644 9083  
 Principal—Sr Cecilia Joseph  
 Family Educator - Jenny Michael

St Joseph the Worker, Auburn South  
 T. (02) 9646 1434  
 Acting Principal - Susie Mravunac

**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.jamberooabbey.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 6/2	<b>No Mass.</b>
Tue 7/2	6.45am Mass
Wed 8/2	6.45am Mass
Thu 9/2	6.45am Mass
Fri 10/2	<b>St Scholastica (Memorial)</b> 6.45am Mass
Sat 11/2	10.00am Mass of Anointing 5.00pm Vigil Mass
Sun 12/2	7.45am Morning Prayer 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass

**12 FEBRUARY 2023****6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Charlie SCULLY	Robert MCGINN	Dom PANGILINAN
MUSIC & SINGING	PARISH CHOIR	Cyril EDWARDS Liva FUNAKI & Lavinia FIFITA	SACRED HEART CHOIR
POWERPOINT	Parish Choir	Liva or Lavinia	Sacred Heart Choir
LECTOR/S	Amanda DOWDELL	Jenny MICHAEL	Ibrahim MATAR
	Noeline DONNELLAN	Maris MARSH	Katrina YIP
CHURCH SHOP	Joseph LAHOUD	Catherine MCGINN	Alan THAM

**Cleaners SPC:** Marian Rosary Group

**Altar & Sacristy:** Group 3 Korina Kinda, Antoinette Boudaher

**Saturday 8AM****11 FEBRUARY**

LECTOR FOR MASS

Joy SKERRITT

*"Family that prays together stays together"*

**PILGRIM STATUE**

*This week the statue will be with the:*

**Kassis Family**

To host the Pilgrim Statue and Rosary prayer please contact Mona Goubran on 9709 8701 or 0417 282 603 or Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.

**MASS INTENTIONS****Sick:**

Doreen Stanmore, Pauline Lian, Gerard Del Rosario, Romaine Cheema, Virginia Naidu, Veronica Jacobs, John Shanley, Nazih Melhem, Danilo Carreon, Fiya Gourani, Zekia Al Asady, Rosario Cruz, Jane Aquino, Graham Turner, Patsy Dutton, Aurora Flores, Olive Torino, Maureen Hynes, Giovanni Simeone, Arthur Doumit, Joey Kiraz

**Recently Deceased:** Orlando Zorilla

**Deceased:** Paul Ghisso, Cynthia de Souza

**Anniversary:** Primo Amores, Jovito Amores, Rodrigo Avila

**Other Intentions:** Holy souls in purgatory. Maria Madalena

## ANTIPHONS & READINGS

### Entrance Antiphon

Ps 94:6-7

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

### First Reading

Is 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:  
Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

#### **A light rises in the darkness for the upright.**

He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just. The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour.

**R**

The just man will never waver: he will be remembered for ever. He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. **R**

With a steadfast heart he will not fear; open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm for ever. His head will be raised in glory. **R**

### Second Reading

1 Cor 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any

show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

Mt 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

### Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 106:8-9

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

### Next week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Sir 15:15-20**

2nd Reading: **1 Cor 2:6-10**

Gospel: **Mt 5:17-37**

## LITURGY ROSTER

**The roster for the next quarter commencing, 4 February 2023 has now been emailed. If you would like a printed copy, contact the Parish Office on 9644 7787. Thank you!**

### Just for Laughs

The young couple invited their elderly vicar for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the vicar asked their young son what they were having.

'Goat,' the little boy replied.

'Goat?' replied the startled priest. 'Are you sure about that?'

'Yep,' said the youngster. 'I heard Dad say to Mum "Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner:.'



## REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 5:13-16

### Scriptural context – Following blessings

Today's gospel passage is one that is quite commonly quoted and relatively well known. When it is taken in isolation, it's very easy to forget that these words immediately follow the Beatitudes that we heard in last week's gospel. The imperative for justice in the images of salt and light of the world becomes even clearer when we remember that these words follow the blessings on those who are poor; who mourn; who are merciful and fight for justice. Jesus has blessed all these who are least in the world and then charges the disciples to be salt and light for them.

### Have you thought? – Affirmation or Challenge

The salt and light of the world passage is often used to affirm and encourage, but when Jesus tells his disciples – and us – to be salt and light of the world it is not so that they can draw attention and glory to themselves. The whole purpose of being salt and light is to lead others into right relationship with one another and with God. Whilst the translation we have clearly states that disciples are to be salt and light of the world, it is just as clear that the intention is that they/we be salt and light for the world.

### Scriptural context – Following blessings

Gandhi, the great leader of the Indian independence movement, is credited with saying, 'You must be the change you want to see in the world.' He sought a life free from tyranny and violence and so led a movement of non-violent resistance. It's tempting to think that he may have been influenced by some of the teachings of Jesus because so much of his approach reflected Jesus' call for justice. The charge to be the light of the world that shines in the sight of all and sets an example for all is echoed succinctly in Gandhi's words.

## FEAST & MEMORIALS OF THE WEEK

### Monday, 6 February - St Paul Miki & Companions & Martyrs (Memorial)



Born in Piedmont (Italy) in 1815. Died at Turin on this day in 1888. Grew up in extreme poverty and, after ordination, devoted his whole life to educating young people, especially the poor. Founded the Society of the Sacred Child. Died on 5 February 1597, a group of twenty-six martyrs crucified at Nagasaki (Japan). Most were Japanese and most were laypeople, some still youths. The first of many martyrs in a young Church. Paul Miki, aged thirty-five years at his death, was a Jesuit scholastic from an aristocratic Japanese family. Remembered as a notable preacher who inspired the local Church in his own time and in

the centuries that followed to be strong in faith during persecution and isolation.

*No mass.*

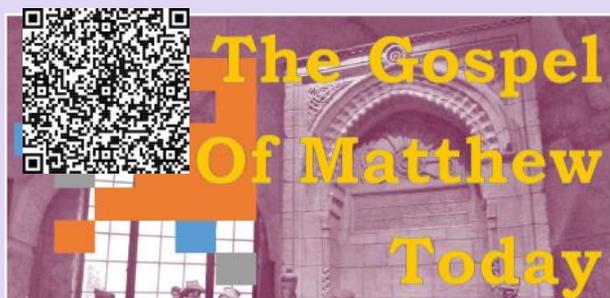
### Friday, 10 February - St Scholastica (Memorial)



Born at Norcia (Italy) about 480. Died near Monte Cassino in the 540s. Like Saint Benedict (11 July), her brother and by tradition her twin, she dedicated herself to God through the monastic life. Remembered for her part in establishing Benedictine monasticism.

*Mass of the Feast at 6.45am*

## NEWS



### Final Chance to Register!

A Course by Fr Thomas on reading the Gospel with Historical and Old Testament Background.

Visit the link below to register your name

<https://forms.gle/wg8pGzm72M2AauQz5>

**7–8 PM on Tuesdays  
From 7 Feb 2023  
At Berala Church & online**

## YOUTH MASS 18/02 - 5pm vigil

Followed by youth group & food  
St. Peter Chanel & St. Joseph Parish Berala

CONTACT 0401291114 OR EMAIL [YOUTH@STPETER-STJOSEPH.ORG.AU](mailto:YOUTH@STPETER-STJOSEPH.ORG.AU) FOR MORE INFO

## Mass of Anointing



**When :**  
Saturday, 11 February at 10 AM

**Where:**  
St Peter Chanel Church

Elderly and Sick are specially invited to the Holy Mass of the Anointing of the Sick.

It will be followed by morning tea.

*“But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord”.*  
~Jeremiah 30:17



### Ageing Well masterclasses

Bringing together a team of clinical experts and professionals in the field of ageing. Commencing from 7 February at our parish:

📍 Jubilee Hall, St Peter Chanel and St Joseph Parish, 60 Kingsland Road, Berala (lunch included)

To register, call Lea on **96447787**

Ageing Well is a collaboration between CatholicCare Sydney, Catholic Healthcare and Grief Care.



#### MASTERCLASS 1: Social Connection and Psychological Wellbeing

Explores the importance of social connections, discusses mental illness in later life and introduces the 5-ways to wellbeing.

#### MASTERCLASS 2: Physical Wellbeing

Discusses the importance of physical exercise, nutrition, falls prevention, health checks, carer fatigue and memory loss in later life.

#### MASTERCLASS 3: Navigating Aged Care

Outlines the aged care options for older adults from Retirement Living, to Home Care, to Residential Care communities.

#### MASTERCLASS 4: Planning for your Future - financial and legal decisions

The NSW Trustee and Guardian discusses the importance of planning for your older age right now and outlines what needs your careful consideration.

#### MASTERCLASS 5: Engaging in a Digital World

Discusses the benefits of embracing the digital world and outlines some of the essentials of internet safety to help avoid common traps and scams.

#### MASTERCLASS 6: Ageing Gracefully, Living Fruitfully

Explores Catholic spirituality and the blessings and challenges of a more faith-filled life.

## Let us understand the workings of God's grace

*An explanation of Paul's letter to the Galatians by Saint Augustine*

Paul writes to the Galatians to make them understand that by God's grace they are no longer under the law. When the Gospel was preached to them, there were some among them of Jewish origin known as circumcisers – though they called themselves Christians – who did not grasp the gift they had received. They still wanted to be under the burden of the law. Now God had imposed that burden on those who were slaves to sin and not on servants of justice. That is to say, God had given a just law to unjust men in order to show them their sin, not to take it away. For sin is taken away only by the gift of faith that works through love. The Galatians had already received this gift, but the circumcisers claimed that the Gospel would not save them unless they underwent circumcision and were willing to observe also the other traditional Jewish rites.

The Galatians, therefore, began to question Paul's preaching of the Gospel because he did not require Gentiles to follow Jewish observances as other apostles had done. Even Peter had yielded to the scandalised protests of the circumcisers. He pretended to believe that the Gospel would not save the Gentiles unless they fulfilled the burden of the law. But Paul recalled him from such dissimulation, as is shown in this very same letter. A similar issue arises in Paul's letter to the Romans, but with an evident difference. Through his letter to them, Paul was able to resolve the strife and controversy that had developed between the Jewish and Gentile converts.

In the present letter Paul is writing to persons who were profoundly influenced and disturbed by the circumcisers. The Galatians had begun to believe them and to think that Paul had not preached rightly, since he had not ordered them to be circumcised. And so the Apostle begins by saying: I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting him who called you to the glory of Christ, and turning to another gospel.

After this there comes a brief introduction to the point at issue. But remember in the very opening of the letter Paul had said that he was an apostle not from men nor by any man, a statement that does not appear in any other letter of his. He is making it quite clear that the circumcisers, for their part, are not from God but from men, and that his authority in preaching the Gospel must be considered equal to that of the other apostles. For he was called to be an apostle not from men nor by any man, but through God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ.

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

The Pastoral Council will have its first meeting for 2023 on Thursday, 16 February. The agenda will include "Parish Day" celebrations and Easter 2023. Should anyone have any suggestions of items to be included in the agenda, please contact one of the Council members or the parish office asap.

## HOMESTAY REQUEST

In May and June, the Dominican Sisters (Parish Convent) will have a young woman from Providence College, a Dominican university in the USA, come to have an experience in the primary school. This international exchange is part of the Smith Fellowship Program and rewarded to a few outstanding students each year. She is seeking a homestay experience with a family.

If your family has an extra room and you would be comfortable having a Catholic university student staying with you for two months, could you contact Sr. Cecilia Joseph at [cecilia.dulik@syd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:cecilia.dulik@syd.catholic.edu.au). Thank you!

## Become a CatholicCare Companion

CatholicCare is searching for volunteers to be with people as they experience times of change, challenge and uncertainty.

If you are a good listener who is caring, non-judgemental and compassionate, we'd love to hear from you.

To find out more, please call Jacqui Willoughby, Volunteer Co-ordinator on 0426 773 630 or 13 18 19.

To find out more call

**13 18 19**

[Catholiccare.org](http://Catholiccare.org)

✉ [connect@catholiccare.org](mailto:connect@catholiccare.org)

 CatholicCare

## CATECHIST NEWS



As we start 2023 school year, I am awed at the massive paperwork that my predecessor has done over the years. Brenda has done a marvellous job inspiring us.

Our catechists **Daniel Boland, Dunia Boustany, Susan Romanos, Mona Goubran** and myself, together with our helpers **Taoto Langi** and **Rosanna Pattinson** will continue to serve in our 3 schools: **Regents Park, Auburn West and Berala Primary Schools.**

On top of his many commitments, Daniel is also Catechist Coordinator for Newington. As such, he led a very well

applauded, colourful Christmas Pageant last December. Mona is coming on board despite long commute and her busy calendar. Susan, in between her Meals on Wheels, is dedicating Wednesdays for our scripture classes in Regents Park. I truly admire Dunia's commitments through the years. Aside from our local classes, she also helped in nearby schools. We cannot go without our faithful helpers: Taoto and Rosanna.



Catechists from all over Sydney gathered at St Joachim's Hall last Friday, January 27. Bishop Danny Meagher gave his blessing and words of encouragement. He emphasised the value of praying with children, sharing our faith in the classroom. For all we know, our presence praying with them maybe the only time these children have done so. We are God's envoy. Not just what our hands can do, but what our hearts can give.

To better equip us, an approach to teaching using the Montessori concept of touch, smell and 3d crafts was presented by the CCD team. This method will allow students to appreciate more the SRE teachings in the classroom.

~Josie Pangilinan, CCD Coordinator