



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)

Holy Mass at Berala: Monday to Friday 6.45am, Wednesday to Friday 9.15am, Saturday 8.00am

Adoration & Novena: Saturday 9.00am

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

Reconciliation at Berala: Saturday 9.00am - 10.00am. 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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD YEAR C

6 JANUARY 2019

First Reading

Is 60:1-6

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples. Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness. Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried. At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Second Reading

Eph 3:2-3. 5-6

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel

Mt 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

ANTIPHONS & READINGS ON LAST PAGE

CHANGE OF MASS SCHEDULE

This week there will be only one MASS on weekdays (Monday to Friday) and it will be at 6.45 AM.

Parish Priest

Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
pp@stpeter-stjoseph.org.au
T. (02) 9644 7787

Priest in Residence

Mgr Michael Berbari, Cor Bishop
T. (02) 8723 9192
M. 0418 459 431

Parish Secretary

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

Catholic Inquiry—RCIA

Andrew Tham 0403 566 001

Pastoral Council

Karim Kassis (Chair)
T. 0408 404 130
Charlie Scully (Vice Chair, Project Manager)
T. 0402 071 849

Maureen Hynes (Secretary, Parish Choir)
Jennifer Rush (Asst Secretary, Safeguarding)
Anthony Kasule, Arthur Doumit (SVDP, Retreats), Brenda Wendt-Hussein (Catechists), Jenny Michael, Joji Salar, Micheline Botham, Rani Sebastian, Renee Salar, Rhia Victorino, Vinita Nazareth (Pilgrimages), and Principals of the Parish Schools.

Finance Committee

John Le Mottee (Chair)
T. (02) 9644 8859
Joe Moses, Brendon Nazareth (Finance Controller)

Plenary 2020

Alicia Moore

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 - Angela Finnane

CatholicCare. CCareline team provides caring advice and advocacy to help families navigate their way through the social service sector.
CCareline 13 18 19 | CatholicCare.org

Alcohol & Drug Information Service:

(Confidential) 02 9361 8000

Spiritual Retreats: Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo - www.jamberoobbbey.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 7/1	6.45am	Mass
Tue 8/1	6.45am	Mass
Wed 9/1	6.45am 10.00am	Mass Legion of Mary
Thu 10/1	6.45am	Mass
Fri 11/1	6.45am	Mass
Sat 12/1	8.00am 8.30pm 9.00am 5.00pm	Mass Rosary Novena, Adoration, Confession Vigil Mass
Sun 13/1	8.00am 10.00am	Mass (SPC) Mass (SPC)



"Family that pray together stay together"
PILGRIM STATUE

FROM ST PETER CHANEL
at Flores Family
23 The Boulevard, Lidcombe
Please join them any evening at 7.30pm for the Rosary.

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

FROM S J W Church
at the Kavanagh Home

To host the Rosary Statue from SJW contact
Phil Lopez on 9646 1756.

13 JANUARY 2019

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Mass	VIGIL	8AM	10AM
ACOLYTE	Bob KENSEY	William ANDREWS	Mario CAPRA
MUSIC & SINGING	Kate PARISH & PARISH CHOIR		ELMER'S GROUP
LECTOR/S	Noelene DONNELLAN	Ken HARTMAN	Margaret NGUYEN
	Flavia NARAYAN	Joe MOSES	Maureen HYNES
COMMENTATOR	Jann ROCKLIFF	Maris MARSH	Rhia VICTORINO
SP. MINISTER	Phirum DUCH		Amanda GAHAN Susie MRVUNAC
CHURCH SHOP	Charlie SCULLY		John SHANLEY
GREETERS	Dante & Lynda AMORES	Joe MOSES	Alan THAM, Suly TAN, Gilbert KIM

Hospital Visitation Sat: John Le Mottee & Mariana Tannous

Altar & Sacristy: Group 2 Bolonia Family

Hospital Communion Sun : Bob Kensey & Christine Kensey

Cleaners SPC: Marian Rosary Group

Children's liturgy: N/A

Saturday 8AM

12 JANUARY

LECTOR FOR MASS

Jann ROCKLIFF

MASS INTENTIONS

Sick: Marie Williams, Fr Graham Kings, Tony Draybi

Recently Deceased: Frank Debrincat, George Guanzon

Anniversary: Bruce Anthony McManus, Aidan Lynch, William Coyne, Siobhan Morris, : Maria Cabotaje - Amores, Edith C Amores I, Herminio Z Florendo

Deceased: Fatima & Astrid Bolonia, Kong Kok Wah, Latife & Moussa El Bahri, Peter & Frances Abraham, Fadile Afleck, Gary Williams, Carmen Portelli, Charlie Portelli, Bert Portelli, Carmen Spiteri, Anthony Spiteri, George Spiteri

Deceased Members and Friends of: Ross & Mitchell Families, O'Dwyer & Erwin Families, Amores & Florendo Families, Eisenhuth Family, Williams Family



This week we welcome into the Catholic faith

Lawson James Russell

May he always know the love of God and feel His guiding hand throughout his life.

New Way of Life for the Wise Men



Savitri tells me that she is Hindu by religion. She prays for an hour each day in our church. I also had noticed a Muslim migrant family coming sometimes to pray in our church. There are other people in our church learning about Catholic Church with the intention of joining the Church. They are people guided by some 'star of hope' travelling to find their saviour, Jesus. All these people point us to the message Matthew has for us in the Epiphany stories of the Gospel.

Jesus of Gospel times attracted not only devout people of Jewish culture but also humanity of culture from outside the boundaries of Israel. That is what the reference to the 'wisemen from the east' is telling us. They were not visiting baby Jesus out of their curiosity; they came to Bethlehem following the star of hope to acknowledge Jesus as the Saviour of the World. The gifts they brought were to signify their faith. Gifts of gold and frankincense are referring to prophet Isaiah's saying "A multitude of camels of Midian and Ephah; all those who from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord" (Is60:6). The good news is that Jesus has come as the expected saviour for all humanity, not just for the 'chosen people of Israel'.

Matthew also wants to tell us what happens to the people who encounter Jesus. According to him the wise men after meeting Jesus went home another way (Mt 2:12). That means these people who had first-hand experience of Jesus went home as changed people with a different way of life. The highly symbolic story Matthew tells to show us who Jesus is, has a lot to meditate on. Should anyone be interested in learning more about this and such stories of the Bible, I am happy to help.

The feast of Epiphany is another Christmas. What we celebrate on 25th December is the coming of God into our humanity. Epiphany stresses the fact that God has come into the world to be the saviour for people of all cultures. Both feasts speak of who Jesus is.

As people who have met Jesus personally we should be taking a 'new way of life' hereafter. Otherwise we will be following the path modern Herods expect us to follow. Herod was the symbol of corruption of power and self-centred life. Early Christians who read the Gospel of Matthew knew of Herod as a cruel and paranoid man who killed his favourite wife and his sons, because he thought they were threat to his power and status. Therefore the early Christians, reading about the Wise Men going home, taking a new way, understood it as a new way of life distancing themselves from the Herodian way of life. Corruption of power and self-centred life takes other forms in modern times. People in the 21st century also, if they have met Jesus Christ, are wise enough to defy modern day Herods and chose a different way of life.

Let us also, like the wise men - people who have met Jesus - adopt a new way of life.

REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 2:1-12

Have you thought? Epiphany.

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewishness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Historical Context. The Magi.

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference "We saw his star as it rose". It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three—based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Gospel Focus. Going home.

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way - indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home in a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus - in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves - then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

The Lord has made his salvation known to the world

A sermon by Pope St Leo the Great (Pope from AD 440-461)

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days he would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ.

A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith. His descendants are therefore compared with the array of the stars. The father of all nations was to hope not in an earthly progeny but in a progeny from above.

Let the full number of the nations now take their place in the family of the patriarchs. Let the children of the promise now receive the blessing in the seed of Abraham, the blessing renounced by the children of his flesh. In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judaea only, but in the whole world, so that his name may be great in all Israel.

Dear friends, now that we have received instruction in this revelation of God's grace, let us celebrate with spiritual joy the day of our first harvesting, of the first calling of the Gentiles. Let us give thanks to the merciful God, who has made us worthy, in the words of the Apostle, to share the position of the saints in light, who has rescued us from the power of darkness, and brought us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you.

This is the day that Abraham saw, and rejoiced to see, when he knew that the sons born of his faith would be blessed in his seed, that is, in Christ. Believing that he would be the father of the nations, he looked into the future, giving glory to God, in full awareness that God is able to do what he has promised. This is the day that David prophesied in the psalms, when he said: All the nations that you have brought into being will come and fall down in adoration in your presence, Lord, and glorify your name. Again, the

Lord has made known his salvation; in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognise and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

VOLUNTEERS GATHERING 2019

Volunteers are the life of the Parish. Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Volunteers 2019 will be on Friday 22 February. All volunteers of the parish will receive a personal invitation in early February. But I want you to claim the date in your diary.

BREAK FROM CHOIR PRACTICE FOR PARISH CHOIR

Practices will resume on Thursday, 23 January 2019 in time to prepare for Australia Day Mass (26th). A sincere thank you for your faithfulness to Music Ministry in 2018. We had many commitments and I thank you all for your efforts in preparing for them. May every blessing and joy be yours. ~Maureen

ANTIPHONS & READINGS

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Mal 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

Responsorial Psalm:

(R) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**
2. In his days justice shall flourish

and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Communion Antiphon Cf Mt 2:2

We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Next Week's Readings

Is 40:1-5. 9-11 | Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 | Lk 3:15-16. 21-22