



St Michael the Archangel,  
A Warrior for Today

# In Honour of the Angels

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The CONGREGATION of SAINT MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL (CSMA)

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## Angels in the Liturgy

### PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael  
the Archangel,  
defend us in battle,  
be our safeguard  
against the  
wickedness and  
snares of the devil;  
may God rebuke  
him, we humbly  
pray and do you,  
O Prince of the  
Heavenly Host,  
by the power of  
God, cast into hell  
Satan and all the evil  
spirits who prowl  
about the world  
seeking the ruin of  
souls.  
Amen

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**D**ear Friends, when preparing for a Spirituality Day for parish ministries, we chose the theme *Angels and their role in the Liturgy*. The Second Vatican Council's Constitution on Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* tells us that:

*In the earthly liturgy, by way of foretaste, we share in that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the only city of Jerusalem toward which we journey as Pilgrims, and in which Christ is sitting at the right hand of God... we sing a hymn to the Lord's glory with all the warriors of the Heavenly army...*

That short reference to the "warriors of Heavenly army" reminds us that in the liturgy we join in the praise and worship which is unceasingly offered to God by the Angels and Saints. So every liturgical action performed by ordained celebrants or lay ministries such as Acolytes, Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist, Musicians, Altar Servers and any other liturgical action, offered by the faithful, is only a small part of that reality in which the spiritual world is honouring and glorifying God, our Creator.

Being conscious that our liturgical worship which we offer at a Eucharistic celebration and other devotions is only a fraction of what the host of angels and saints are constantly offering to God, this should help us to conform to the rhythm of that supernatural reality. In other words, we should try to follow the example of the angels and benefit spiritually rather than insist on implementing our own ideas and performance. If only we realized the magnitude, beauty and sacredness of what is happening in the liturgical action especially in the Holy Eucharist we would do our best to 'tap into' that beautiful harmony of angelic worship and create as little distraction as possible.



The Bible makes us aware that Angels are always in the presence of God, therefore, in our churches wherever Our Lord is present in the Blessed Sacrament, the angels are offering the same praise and adoration as they offer in Heaven.

Angels are there when we are not present and they are there when we gather for our worship. Angels are aiding us in our prayers, they are singing with us when we sing our hymns, helping us to listen and understand the Word of God in the scriptures, they are there when we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus helping us to adore Him. Angels remain in the church, continuing the liturgy while we leave the church to proclaim the Gospel values with our Guardian Angel accompanying and protecting us. When we return to the church to worship, let us be mindful that what Jacob only dreamed about and Jesus prophesized, becomes a reality: *Truly I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.* (John 1:51)

Fr. Janusz Bienick CSMA

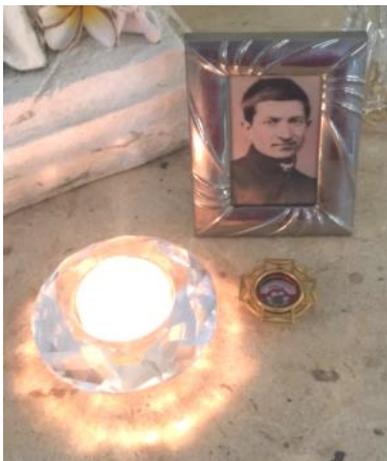
# Chronicles - Feast of Blessed Markiewicz

Every year on 30th January the Church's Liturgy commemorates the life, works and virtues of Blessed Fr Bronislaw Markiewicz.

For the Michaelite communities all over the world, in accordance with the calendarium proprium, it is a Feast Day.

## CSMA Community Gathering at North Ryde.

On 29th January 2018 on the anniversary of the death of Blessed Markiewicz and vigil of his liturgical feast, the Sydney Michaelite Community gathered for a recollection day hosted by Provincial Superior, Fr Stan Kluk CSMA. The liturgical program was lead by Fr Dominik Karnas CSMA. Later a scrumptious luncheon was held in the Monastery that some other priest friends attended and celebrated with the Michaelite Fathers.



Father is perfect" (Matt 5:48). In his document, *Novo Millennio Ineunte* Saint John Paul II reminds us that "Since Baptism is a true entry into the holiness of God through incorporation into Christ and the indwelling of His Spirit, it would be a contradiction to settle for a life of mediocrity, marked by a minimalist ethic and a shallow religiosity....this ideal of perfection must not be misunderstood as if it involved some kind of extraordinary existence, possible only for a few 'uncommon heroes' of holiness. The ways of holiness are many, according to the vocation of each individual."



## Hurstville Parish

In Hurstville, the weekend liturgies following the feast of Blessed Markiewicz were dedicated to the remembrance of the Founder of the Michaelites. It became a bit of a local story when Fr Markiewicz asked his parishioners 'to pray for him so that one day he would become a saint.' He went on to explain to his amused hearers that: *When there are not enough Saints in a nation, night falls in the*

*minds of men, and people do not see the way they must go.* This statement by Blessed Bronislaw Markiewicz was chosen as the theme for the homilies delivered by Fr Janusz Bieniek CSMA.

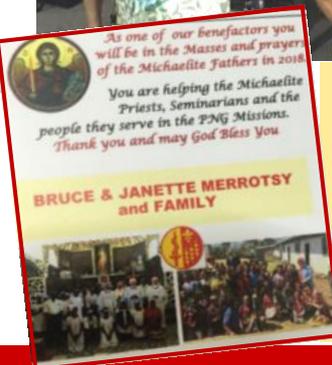
Many of us may think that asking for such a thing is an indication of pride or a desire to reach levels above others, but already the Old Testament states "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them,

*You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.*

(Deut 18:13). Jesus reinforces this message when He tells us, "You therefore must be perfect as your heavenly

## Terrigal Parish

In Terrigal, traditionally, the Feast day of Blessed Markiewicz is also a day for recruitment and renewal of membership of the St Michael Mission Society. This year in addition to Fr George Gorzkowski CSMA (spiritual director) we also had Fr Bogdan Skupien from PNG join us. He reported on his mission work and said some lovely things about Michaelites working in PNG.



Renewed SMMS membership cards have been prepared for new and current members and benefactors supporting the mission work in PNG.

# Pilgrim Statue of St Michael, Home Visitation



Angels are the constant companions in our lives given to us by God. Each one of us has a guardian angel who protects and guides us and who will lead us to Heaven if we but allow it. Most of us though, go through life oblivious to the presence of these spiritual beings. At St Michael's Parish, which is under the care of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel, we would like to promote knowledge of and devotion to the Holy Angels, especially St Michael. One of

our recent initiatives is the "Visitation of St Michael" to the homes of our parishioners. Fr Janusz our parish priest, will lead us in prayer, give a talk and then bless the home and family being visited. Our very first home visit by the pilgrim statue of St Michael from Gargano was on Ash Wednesday, 14 February 2018, to the home of Teresa Liu (pictured above right). Since then we have visited other families (among them the family home of Deena Geol pictured right). Would you like to host St Michael in your home? Please talk to Fr Janusz or email: [saintmichaelknights@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelknights@gmail.com).



## Hurstville Branch of SMMS



On 5th January 2018 some members from the SMMS Hurstville organised a meeting with Nadia Caravello, SMMS Public Relations Officer, to be briefed on topics from the last SMMS AGM meeting held in November 2017. Two major Issues were raised during the meeting. First, strategies to support Michaelite missions in PNG especially education of seminarians, fundraising, shipment of containers etc. Secondly, in what way the SMMS could be involved in promoting and spreading devotions to St Michael in Australia and PNG. Suggestions included: establishing a St Michael Apostolate Centre, a resource

## North Ryde Parish

An angelic touch, with St Michael the Archangel being added to the newly landscaped gardens in front of Holy Spirit Church (pictured right). Many thanks to parishioners who donated towards the cost. At night, the garden is beautifully lit up creating a very calming, serene atmosphere.



## Knights of St Michael the Archangel



*This is a lay Catholic Religious Movement whose members under the banner of St Michael are set on a mission to proclaim the victory of Christ over Satan, to obtain the conversion of sinners and to expiate for the sins of humankind.*

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### In Honour of the Angels Quarterly Newsletter

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### St Michael Mission Society (SMMS)

Supporting the missions in PNG and Michaelite missionaries. If you would like to become a member or make a donation contact:  
Michaelites Sydney:  
PO Box 6094,  
North Ryde 2113

Michaelites Central Coast:  
PO Box 4, Terrigal 2260  
starsea@bigpond.net.au



# PNG Scene

## Formations and Seminarians

After almost one and half years in Sydney (Hurstville and North Ryde parishes) studying English, **Br Thomas Lasen** returned to his native PNG to continue his Theological course in preparation for priesthood at the Seminary in Port Moresby. Br Thomas wishes to thank everyone for the hospitality and kindness that he experienced in our parishes.

We also have seminarians: **John Wai** and **Malaki Maki**, **David Yamane**, **Steven Pup**, who are continuing their Theological studies at the Fatima Seminary, in Mt Hagen. **Simon Yongapen** is doing his second year in the seminary in Madang (Kap). **Samson Ken** after completing 2 years in Madang is now on a pastoral placement in Mt Hagen, he is also doing his postulancy program. There are also 2 candidates who are enrolled in the pre-postulancy program. Please keep them all in your prayers.

## Priests

**Fr Piotr Hadro** has settled in the PNG environment and is stationed in the Monastery in charge of formation of seminarians and candidates. On the weekends he assists in the CSMA parishes.

At the beginning of the year, **Fr Peter Kaupa** was appointed for a six year term as administrator of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in the Diocese of Mt Hagen.

**Fr Bogdan Swierczewski** and **Fr Josef Pekala** remain in their parishes of Kuli and Kindeng busy in their pastoral duties. All Michaelite Fathers are involved in the work at the Divine Mercy Shrine administered by Fr Bogdan.

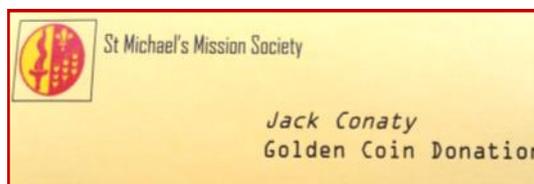


Inside the Divine Mercy Shrine, Rukus PNG for the Feast of Blessed Bronislaw Markiewicz.

# SMMS Works

## Farewell Jack Conaty

Long time parishioner of North Ryde parish Jack Conaty, recently passed away. Jack was for many years a supporter of SMMS and was always very generous with his time and very interested in the SMMS works. He often suggested a 'golden coin' donation as a way to fundraise for the missions. Regrettably, for various reasons this idea was not implemented during his lifetime. Let's consider putting into practice the 'golden coin' collection in our parishes in his honour, to support the PNG Missions. May his soul rest in peace.



**OUR FAMOUS PASCHAL  
CHOCOLATE LAMBS  
ARE NOW ON SALE  
IN YOUR LOCAL  
CSMA PARISH**