



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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Feast of St Michael & the Archangels

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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Dear Friends,

29th September marks the liturgical commemoration of the **Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael** and on 2nd October, our Guardian Angels. For the Congregation of Saint Michael and beneficiaries, it is the annual feast of our Holy Patron. This feast is a reminder of the role of Saint Michael in the Church and the importance of Him and the Holy Angels in our lives.

The term 'Mi-cha-el' is a name given to Him in the Bible. In the antiquity as well as in the Bible a name served to describe the essence, character and duties of the one to whom the name applied. The Holy Scripture helps us to understand the name of St Michael the Archangel, whom it describes as "one of the first princes" (Dn 10:13), "prince" (Dn 10:21), "the great prince who is the protector of the children of the nation of Israel" (Dn 12:1), "the one who battles with Satan" (Jud 9; Ap 12,7). The Fathers of the Church in their efforts to explain the meaning of the name Michael were firmly ingrained in the Bible and Jewish tradition. A good example of that approach is *The Shepherd of Hermas*, a patristic literature work of the late 1st Century a.d. Here, the author for the first time

in the early Christian literature is using the name of Michael drawing on an inspiration from the Jewish literature and at the same time indicating His office.

And the Great and Glorious angel Michael is he who has authority over these people, and governs them; for this is he who gave them the law into the hearts of believers: he accordingly superintends them to whom it gave it, to see if they have kept the same (sim VIII 3,3).

The Archangel Michael is called here "Great and full of glory angel" exercising the authority and care over the people of Israel to whom he gave the Law and he inspects that the Law is observed. It is easy to observe that this content totally agrees with the Bible, according to which the Law of the Covenant originates from God, but it was passed onto Israel by Michael archangel. The Jews looked upon Michael as God's deputy, leader of angels, patron of Israel, the arch-strategist of God's army, the teacher and instructor of the Law. The Christian literature of the patristic era reminds us that Christ as the Son of God is present in all people and angels; and in the archangels Jesus' presence is brighter and more clear. Let us learn from angels to reflect the presence of the Lord in us, our thoughts, actions and good deeds.

Happy feast day to all!

Fr Janusz Bieniek, CSMA



Chronicles

St Michael's Parish, Hurstville

Novena to St Michael & Holy Angels

As St Michael is the Patron of Hurstville parish, traditionally there is a 9 day novena for St Michael and the Holy Angels prior to the Feast. This year the church was decorated with 13 candles representing the 3 Archangels, Guardian Angel and the 9 Choir of Angels. The novena is becoming a well attended devotion that includes, prayers, chaplet, litany, angelic hymns and completed with benediction.

Parish Retreat:

Since the Michaelites arrived in Hurstville, there is an annual retreat conducted, aiming at spiritual renewal of our parish and deepening our commitment to Jesus. We had the team from the Divine Retreat Centre from Broken Bay Diocese. Fathers Joby George and Rony George, members of Vincentian Missionaries with some lay helpers who offered reflections on the theme of "Mercy" to mark the Year of Mercy.



Star of the Sea Parish Terrigal

Fr George Gorzkowski and Terrigal Knights of St Michael Prayer group celebrating the Feast of St Michael and the Archangels with Mass Chaplet and benediction followed by supper. This is our 5th year together praying with St Michael. *Janette Merrosy*

Our Lady of Victories Parish, Horsley Park

On Sunday 18th September 2016, we celebrated our 53rd Parish Feast. We thank God for this very special celebration. For the feast we prepare with a Triduum that includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Benediction and Mass. On the Saturday night Vigil Mass we had a procession with candles, Our Lady of Victories Statue outside where we recited the Rosary. It was beautiful and solemn. On the Feast day it was raining which restricted us with some of the activities that we had planned, however, we still joined together to say the Rosary, accompanied by the Our Lady Queen of Peace Band and the very talented Angela Arduca singing the Ave Maria. Mass was celebrated by Frs. Dominik Karnas CSMA and Marek Okarma CSMA with visiting Fathers: Damian Mosakowski, Dominic Sultana, and Stan Skibicki. The Marion School choir also sang beautifully throughout the mass. Afterwards we celebrated in the Marion Hall with some entertainment, chocolate wheel, food and drink. *Katherina Borg*

Helping the PNG Missions



On one of her visits to PNG, Mrs Margaret Vella visited the Religious Sisters, *Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara* in Vanimo, PNG. Margaret was struck by the severe poverty and living conditions that the Sisters were living in, this included the orphanage

that was under their care. In the orphanage Margaret met a little girl, Maria Joseph, who was in desperate need of an operation to straighten her legs so she would be able to walk. She was unable to stand properly for long periods of time and often dragged herself along the ground. She needed an operation very soon while she was still growing. The Sisters had no means of helping her, so Margaret made it her mission to find assistance somehow.

At the time, there were many discussions to bring little Maria Joseph to Sydney however, this was a costly exercise. On one of his trips, Fr Janusz Bieniek CSMA, went to visit the Sisters and Maria Joseph to see what could be done for her.



In the meantime, Margaret together with some friends, was hot on the trail to raise funds. She was determined to raise awareness and funds for the PNG Missions.

It was agreed that the fundraising would be split, half to assist the Michaelite Missions in Mt Hagen and the other half to assist the Sisters in Vanimo.

Margaret's first event was a Fete at St Michael's Parish Hurstville and later a fashion parade in the same parish. She then coordinated another fashion parade at St Declan's Parish Penshurst.

During 2014 to 2015, for a period of approximately 18 months, Margaret and a small team, coordinated to visit a different parish, every weekend, within the Sydney Archdiocese (you may remember her?), offering a bottle of wine to all who donated to the PNG Missions. Some parishes she returned 2 or 3 times. During this time, over 50 parishes were visited.

In October 2015, on a short trip to PNG, by chance, Margaret met Dr Jan Jaworski whom she had heard so much about, and presented Maria Joseph's case to him. Dr Jan was happy to perform the surgery and advised Margaret what was necessary. On her return to Sydney, Margaret organized a *Missions Awareness Night* at St Michael's Parish Hurstville,

Thankfully, in late 2015, with the assistance of Fr Bogdan Swierczewski CSMA who is stationed in PNG, the sisters were able to transport little Maria Joseph to a local hospital in Kundiawa in Cimbura Province to undergo surgery under Dr Jan and later physiotherapy rehabilitation.

We are now excited to say that little Maria Joseph is one very happy little girl who can run and play like all the other children her age.

We thank Margaret for all her enthusiastic efforts and all parishioners locally and throughout Sydney, and some from the Central Coast, who answered generously to this appeal. Approx. \$100,000 was raised for the PNG missions.

As our only Australian Saint, once said: *"Never see a need without doing something about it."*
St Mary of the Cross (Mackillop)



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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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:
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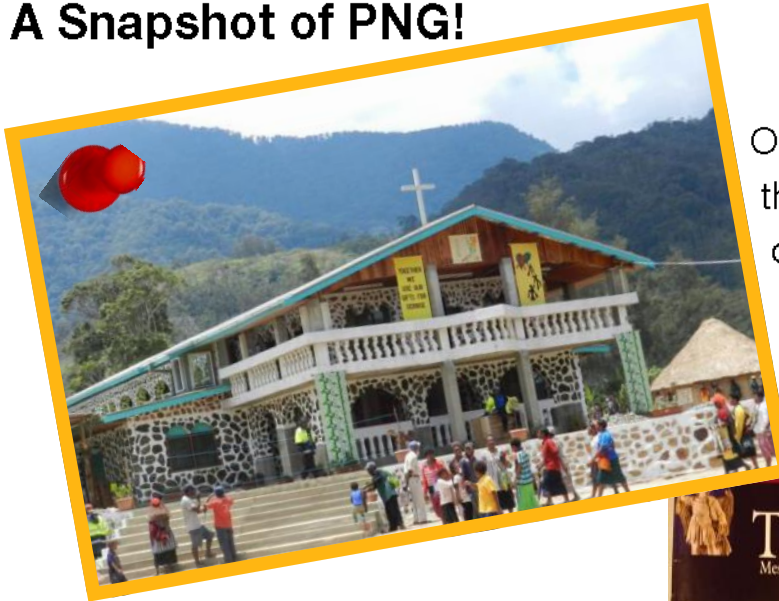


Papua New Guinea

Brother Thomas Lasen CSMA

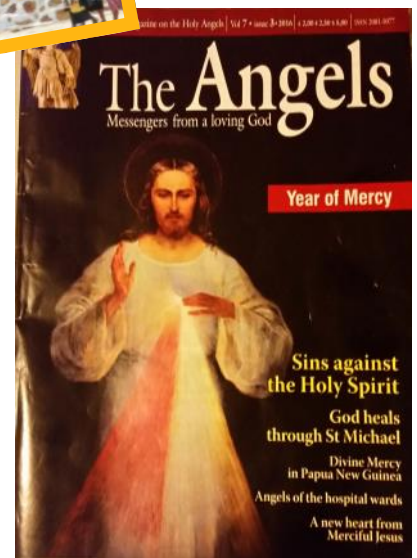
Brother Thomas from PNG is in Sydney at present to further his studies. He is stationed at Hurstville parish. He is currently doing an English course as a preparation for IELTS which will enable him to apply for Theological studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. In PNG he completed 3 years of Theological and Philosophical studies and in the next couple of years he hopes to complete his Bachelor in Theology Degree here in Sydney. We wish him all the best and keep him in our prayers.

A Snapshot of PNG!



The Feast of John Paul II (22nd October) will be the first anniversary of the Blessing and Opening of the Divine Mercy Shrine in Rukus PNG

You can read the story of the event in the latest *The Angels, Messengers from a Loving God* magazine (September Issue) available in your local CSMA parish.



St Michael Mission Society Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 4th October
Holy Spirit Parish
191 Cox's Road, North Ryde
commencing with Mass
at 7pm.
All welcome

Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde

Celebrating

60



Years...

Jubilee Dinner

Saturday 15th October
2016

North Ryde Golf Club
Twin Road, North Ryde

\$70.00 per head includes 3 course meal and entertainment.

Enquiries:

holyspiritjubilee@hotmail.com

All welcome