



# ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Under the Pastoral Care of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel  
10 Croydon Road, Hurstville NSW 2220

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### PARISH CLERGY:

Parish Priest  
Fr Janusz Bieniek CSMA

### PARISH STAFF:

Secretary  
Leena Strickland-Langatuki  
Accounts  
Maria Awad  
Sacramental Co-ordinator  
Valerie Gonzaga

### SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday Vigil Mass 5pm;  
Sunday 8am,  
10am and 6pm

Spanish:  
Saturday 6.30pm

Mandarin:  
1st & 3rd Sundays at 12.15pm

Cantonese:  
Fourth Sunday at 12.00pm

### WEEKDAY MASSES:

Mon, Tues and Wed: 6.45am  
Thurs and Fri: 9.15am  
Saturday: 9.00am

First Friday of the Month  
Mass 6.00pm

### HEALING MASS:

First Friday of:  
March, June, Sept & Dec at 6.00pm

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

Sunday 10.00am Mass  
(except 5th Sunday)

### RECONCILIATION:

Sat: 9.45am-10.15am  
and 4-4.45pm

### BAPTISMS:

Sunday at 11.15am  
Baptism Preparation Course  
completion required.

### MARRIAGES:

Please contact the Priest 6mths  
prior to the wedding.  
Pre-marriage course is required

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

AND DYING:  
Call the Priest any time

### *First Sunday of Advent—2 December 2017*



**Three attitudes help to enter into the spirit of Advent:  
WAITING, WATCHING and WELCOMING.**

*Much of our life is spent in Waiting;* we wait for buses, trains, for examination results or job interviews; for our medical test reports, for our salary packets or pension benefits; for the birth of a child. Waiting is not something passive or mere idleness. Waiting is eager expectation, an inner longing. Like the watchman that waits for the dawn,

we wait for the Lord. He comes to us in so many ways; in word and silence, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and health, in success and failure.

*We need also to Watch.* Watching demands alertness.

In the parable of the ten virgins, the five wise virgins kept watch and trimmed their lamps as they waited for the bridegroom so that when he did come, they went with him into the banquet hall. The five foolish virgins felt drowsy and fell asleep.

The Lord came and they were caught napping.

*Finally, we need to Welcome Jesus.* What better way to welcome Him than to remove the obstacles that prevent Him from entering. Let us welcome Him into our hearts, our homes and our lives. In the measure we welcome Jesus and make room in the inn of our hearts for Him, will our Christmas be happy and meaningful.

**In preparation for Christmas,  
the Rite of Reconciliation  
will be held on  
Saturday 23 December 2017  
from 9.30am—10.30am.**



*In celebration of the  
Feast of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
(A Holy Day of Obligation)*

Mass will be held on Friday 8 December at  
6.45am,  
9.15am with St Mary Star of the Sea students  
followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
and 6.00pm Mass.

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed on December 8, 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, reserved immune from all stain of original sin." - CCC



The Advent Wreath is a widely recognised symbol of Advent. The wreath is made up of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolise the endless nature of God's love for his people. Four candles are in the circle of the wreath. Traditionally, three of the candles are purple and the fourth, the "joy" candle is pink. Purple candles emphasise our Faith, Hope and Love in God's promise fulfilled in the nativity. One candle is lit during the first week of Advent and two in the second week etc. The candles remind us of the light of God coming into the world, and the light from the candles grows brighter as each week comes closer to Christmas.

*Blessing of the Advent Wreath*

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Saviour of the world. We ask you to bless this Advent wreath which we honour as a remembrance of your first coming at Bethlehem and your final coming in glory. Strengthen our hearts with the example of your love that we may receive you with joy and gladness on the day of our redemption when you will come to reign as King forever and ever.

All: Amen (*The candle is now lit*)

Leader: May the lighting of this candle help us to look forward to the fulfilment of the promise.

All: Lord, make us turn to you. Let us see your face.

Leader: May your light strengthen our hearts, increase our love and make our lives more pleasing to you.

All: Purify us, Lord, that we may be prepared for your coming.

Priest: During the Advent season may Almighty God let the light of His Son shine upon us. May He fill our hearts with joy at His coming and lead us to life everlasting.

All: Amen.

Priest: May Almighty God, have mercy on us,  
Forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING: Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

All: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

All: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.  
**And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!**  
The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



*We pray for the sick in our community:*

Nathan Nguyen, Mr Smith, Fr Bill Heng, Jancy Pananganan, Theodora Sakr, Rajeshwar Sharma, Yolande Charleston, Ellie Humphries, Ellen Carlisle, Angela Ablong, Vicente Lopez, Alberto Enriquez, Esther Remolador, Terese Bull, Anne Grout-Smith, Chantelle Coutinho, Antonio Lasman,

Ernesto Madrona, Georgie Craven, Charlotte Massoud, John Kokinovski, Paul Tyler, Atelaite Alamoti and Lourdes Camillon.

*We pray for the repose of the souls of the recently deceased:*

Renato Marson, Lati Toa, John Mayer, John Reitano, Gillian Sofatzis, Estelle Billiang, Lourdes Mendoza and Peter Zhuang.

*We remember those relatives and friends who have departed this life:*

Slavka Kokinovski, Herbert & Dora Christensen, George & Josephine Cowell, Trevor Gaynor, Fr Ron Harden, Florence May Jones, Frank & Lillian Lucas, Ken Lucas, Alan & Kathleen Mercer, Jennifer Meredith, Antonino Picone, Joseph George & Mary Sakr, Vittorio & Angela Scali and the Tracey and Kelly families.

*We pray for:* Augustino Huu Chi Nguyen, Vaine Tuaputa, Tamalii Utatao, Remigio Colussi and Luigi Tedesco whose anniversaries occur about now.

*We also pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and for those who have no one to pray for them.*



All are welcome

YOU ARE INVITED TO **AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST CATHOLIC MASS** SINCE WORLD YOUTH DAY SYDNEY 2008  
The Domain, Sydney  
9 December 2017  
Music from 4.30pm,  
Mass begins at 6.30pm.  
Bring your picnic rug & the whole family.  
Food and drink available for purchase

ATTN: ALL MINISTRIES

*Will you be staying local this Christmas?*

**In preparation for our Christmas and New Years' Masses, please complete the form in the Sacristy if you're able to provide your time and services.**

Once confirmed, roster will be published in the Sacristy and on our Parish website for your reference.

*Thank you in advance.*



**Come Celebrate Australia's largest Mass** since World Youth Day 2008!  
Saturday 9 December

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP invites you to attend Mass in the Domain on Saturday 9 December for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival.

This will be a joyous occasion!

The Mass at 6.30pm will follow an afternoon of concerts and festivities beginning at 4pm and featuring Australian and international musicians and performers, including Matt Maher. The Archbishop also invites the people of Sydney to pray for the success this important event. Prayer cards have been distributed to parishes (see attached).

For more information go to the ACYF website: [www.acyf.org.au](http://www.acyf.org.au). A special App is available with information about the Festival. Free download [www.xt3.com/acyf2017/apps/](http://www.xt3.com/acyf2017/apps/)

A Christmas Celebration 2017  
Friday 15 December 2017

Celebrate the beauty and wonder of Christmas with the St Mary's Cathedral Choir and the Orchestra of the Antipodes. For tickets and more information please visit [www.achristmascelebration.com.au](http://www.achristmascelebration.com.au)



