



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Under the Pastoral Care of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel
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Christmas Day - 25 December 2017 Year B

The Saviour is born—not only in Bethlehem long ago, but now today in our world, in our hearts.

Today is the birthday of Life! The virgin today brings into the world the Eternal and the earth offers a cave to the inaccessible. The angels and shepherds praise him and the magi advance with the star. In the Incarnation, Jesus came to share our human lives that we might share his divine life. The Incarnation is a mystery of God's love. From his fullness, as from a limitless fountain, all of us have received and will continue to receive his love. We should be willing to share with others the love we have received so generously. *Merry Christmas!*



From all of us at St Michael's Presbytery and Parish Office;

Pawel, Alicja, Ella (dog), Valerie, Teodora, Colleen, Teresa, Therese, Maria, Leena, Fr Maciej, Fr Kenneth and myself, we wish you a very happy, holy and blessed Christmas and grace-filled New Year. God bless, Fr Janusz.



St Michael's Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve	Sunday 24 December 6.00pm Children's Mass 8.00pm Christmas Eve Mass 11.30pm Carols & Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	Monday 25 December 8.00am and 10.00am Mass
Boxing Day	Tuesday 26 December 2017 9.00am



2017 LITANY OF THANKS

As we approach the end of another year, it is natural to reflect on the many people and groups that contributed their time and talents to our parish community. It is a time to feel blessed for the past year and give thanks to God for inspiring so many people to do His work in our parish.

I would like to thank the following people and groups who have worked tirelessly (and often completely behind the scenes) to contribute to our vibrant parish community:

Administration & Operations:

Parish Office
Parish Pastoral Council
Parish Finance Committee
Presbytery support team
Money Counters
Chaplains of Ethnic Masses

Liturgy & Spiritual Life:

Acolytes & Altar Servers
Lectors
Eucharistic Ministers
Musicians
MCR/Commentators
Ushers
Collectors
Altar Society and flower arrangements
Piety Stall team

Evangelising & Teaching:

Sacramental team
RCIA teams
Catechists
Children's Liturgy
Teachers and Staff of St Mary's Star of the Sea
Parents of children at St Mary's Star of the Sea

Liturgical Seasons and Celebrations:

Holy Week liturgies
Easter celebration
Feast Days event organisers
Christmas lights and crib
Advent decorations

Mission and Apostolate:

Legion of Mary
St Vincent de Paul
St Michael's Mission Society
Library
Theology Bible Studies

Prayer and devotion groups:

Daily Rosary
St Michael Devotions
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
Marian Cenacle
Confraternity of the Scapular of St Michael
Padre Pio group
Praise and Worship

Social and community-building events:

St Michael's Feast Day
Christmas Party
Sunday morning tea and coffee service

The whole parish is enriched by the service of these people and groups. However, the 200 people on this long and impressive list represent only 20% of the parish population which means there is plenty of potential for these groups to grow and the life of the parish to be enriched even more.

Anyone who would like to be involved in any of these areas of parish life will always find a place for the time and talents they can offer. Over Christmas, take time to consider your place in parish life. Go to the parish website and **read the descriptions of the ministries listed in the 'Be Involved' booklet. Reflect on how God might be calling you to contribute to a ministry. The ministries at St Michael's are rich and varied and yet they have one thing in common: those who are involved in them often get back more than they put in – a sense of place and belonging in the parish community and a role in shaping the direction of the parish's spiritual life.**

Fr Janusz Bieniek csma
Parish Priest



Congratulations to:

Maxim He

We welcome him to our Catholic Community.

*Through his Baptism we pray he will love
and serve the Lord always.*

*We also pray for his family and sponsors and ask God to guide
and strengthen them as teachers of the faith.*



Congratulations to:

Philip and Emilyn Alamoti

*on the reception of
Holy Communion this weekend.*

*May the joy and peace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ
present in the Holy Eucharist
be with you today and always.*

6.00pm, 8.00pm and Midnight

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: Is 9:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase: they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince -of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this. The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

All: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples.
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth.
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

All: Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING: Ti 2:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Lk 2:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled

up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of **David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary,** his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them.

They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

8.00am and 10.00am

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord said to me: You are my Son.
It is I who have begotten you this day.

FIRST READING: Is 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains, are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion, **'Your God is king!'** Listen! **Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together, for they see the Lord face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord is consoling his people, redeeming Jerusalem. The Lord bares his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

All: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.
2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.
3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy.
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp, with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the King, the Lord.

All: All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

SECOND READING: Heb 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He **is the radiant light of God's** glory and the perfect copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his powerful command; and now that he has destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the title which he has

inherited is higher than their own name. God has never said to any angel: You are my Son, today I have become your father, or: I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all the angels of God worship him.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord.
Today a great light has come upon the earth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jn 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a

witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of **grace and truth. John appears as his witness, He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'** Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received – yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No **one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.**
The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.



PARISH PUMP

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MICHAEL'S THIS WEEK?

MON 25 DEC	CHRISTMAS DAY Mass Times: 8.00am and 10.00am
TUE 26 DEC	FEAST OF ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR Boxing Day Weekday Mass 9.00am Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle 6pm Church Devotion to St Michael & the Angels 7pm
WED 27 DEC	FEAST OF ST JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST Weekday Mass 6.45am Legion of Mary 7.30pm Parish Office
THU 28 DEC	FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS Weekday Mass 9.00am Marian Devotion Croatian Prayer Group 11am Church
FRI 29 DEC	Weekday Mass 9.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SAT 30 DEC	Meditation 8am Back Meeting Room Weekday Mass 9.00am followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Reconciliation 9.45am—10.15am & 4pm—4.45pm Mass Times: 5pm Vigil Mass Spanish Mass 6.30pm
SUN 31 DEC	FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY Mass Times: 8.00am, 10.00am and 6.00pm NEW YEARS EVE Midnight Mass 12am
MON 1 JAN	SOLEMNITY OF MARY HOLY MOTHER OF GOD Weekday Mass 9am



Prayer to St 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.*