



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

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

Phone: 9587 2166 Email: office@stmichaelhurst.org.au
Fax: 9588 3591 Website: www.stmichaelhurst.org.au



Fourth Sunday of Advent - 24 December 2017 Year B

As we approach the celebration of the great feast of Christmas, once again the Church is inviting us to think about our heritage. Like the people of the Old Testament, we may often be tempted to imagine that God has abandoned us. But in his letters Paul is constantly reminding us that, while the mystery may have been kept secret for endless ages, now it has been revealed and is accessible for everyone, including the pagans. We are part of the new inheritance, invited to be brothers and sisters of Jesus and therefore heirs to the kingdom of God.
The message announced to Mary is proclaimed again this Christmas and we are to be its heralds.



*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 |



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 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 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



FOURTH WEEK OF
ADVENT

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Priest: Today we commence our final preparations for the coming of our Lord. Jesus shows us **God's perfect gift in human form. The Bible says that "God so loved the world that God's only Son was given, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."**

We pray together.

All: *Send us your love, O God.*

Leader: That we might be saved by the power of your Son.

All: *Send us your love, O God.*

Leader: When we are alone.

All: *Send us your love, O God.*

Leader: When we spend time with family and friends.

All: *Send us your love, O God.*

Leader: When we reach out to those around us.

All: *Send us your love, O God.*

Priest: We thank you for Your gift of love—shown to us in Jesus Christ. Help us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Bless our worship, helping us to hear Your word. We ask this in the name of the One born in Bethlehem.

All: *Send us your love, O God, that we can bring that love to others. Amen*

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: 2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies.'

The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

All: *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

2. **I have made a covenant with my chosen one;**
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.'

3. **He will say to me: 'You are my father,**
my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure.

All: *For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.*

SECOND READING: Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son,

and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.
The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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



We pray for the sick in our community: Nathan Nguyen, Jessy Fernandes, 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: Fay Rawsthorne, Josie Obieta, Florenda Garnica, **Joan McGuckin, Renato Marson, Lati To'a, John Mayer, John Reitano and Gillian Sofatzis.**

We remember those relatives and friends who have departed this life: Ted Norris, Bill Fox, 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: Guang Ming Li, John Yuae Hing Chung, Lai Kwong Lee, Richard Santillan, John Bp Mok, Soni Strickland and Teresa Pang Koo *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.



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 <i>followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
SAT 30 DEC	Meditation 8am Back Meeting Room Weekday Mass 9.00am <i>followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i> 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 12an
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.*