



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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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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Angels in the Liturgy

Dear 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.



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,

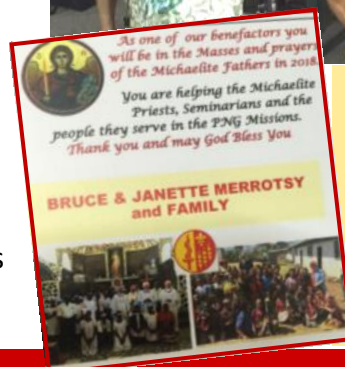
You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. (Deut 18:13). Jesus reinforces this message when He tells us, "You therefore must be perfect as your heavenly

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."



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.



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.



The Challenges of the Times



Monthly Catholic Forum at St Bernadette's Parish Carlton

Archbishop Anthony Fisher kicked off the monthly forum by giving a talk on the "Seven Deadly Sins of the Contemporary World."

It was a talk that inspired and encouraged at the same time and this is what I learnt. It is undisputed that there is a decline in the influence of, and compromise in the values of the religious institutions/the Church (first estate), government (second estate) and the common people (third estate). The scandals within the Catholic Church (in particular) and its inability to attract and engage the young in any sustained and meaningful conversation; the impotence of governments and their leaders to effect any measure of progress in terms of standards of living for the people because of internal squabbling, lack of credibility and breakdown of personal integrity; the sense of helplessness and disconnectedness by the people themselves who have been made to believe that the "elite" knows best and are "too busy" just surviving from day to day in this throwaway culture with its "time-saving devices" (microwaves, washing machines etc) and "time-wasting preoccupation" (PC games, surfing the net) and has thus given up their rightful place to be the prime engine of gradual societal change, have largely contributed to this decline.

On the other hand, the unobtrusive social engineering grossly indulged in by the media (fourth estate) and big corporations (fifth estate) has been breathtaking in its scope and amazing in its rapidity. Who can forget the unapologetic promotion of one side in the "same sex" marriage debate by "big business", using their manpower and money in the campaign. The media was not shy either in proclaiming that they were on the side of "equality and love" in this debate.

There is hostility to established religion which, for the most part, targets Christianity. The practice of our Christian

beliefs are sometimes seen as impinging on the "rights" of others who do not hold to the same beliefs and therefore the practice of our Christian beliefs must be suppressed. Individuals who believe (as taught by their religion) that marriage is only between a man and a woman may find lawsuits knocking on their doors if this translates into refusal in engaging in business as has happened in other countries.

This hostility flows over to rampant secularism with the desire to eradicate signs of our Christian heritage in the public arena as well as the promotion of pragmatic agnosticism (people may identify as believers but act as if there is no God).

The promotion of so-called Australian values (living a good life; having a go; a fair go for everyone, being fair dinkum; she'll be right, mate) detached from the Christian foundation can very quickly degenerate and be found to be hollow. They are not substantial enough to replace the Judeo-Christian values which underpin Australian democracy and indeed all western democracies.

The last point is the resulting values confusion and disorientation. Having no regard for God and his plan for our lives, we have made the "self" as the final arbiter even to the point of deciding on life issues such as abortion and euthanasia.

The solution? We are an Easter people and we live in the hope and the joy of the Risen Lord. But there is work to be done. First, we must nurture the Faith within our souls, feeding it with the Sacraments, the scriptures, prayer, good works and adherence to the teachings of the Church. Second, we must acquire some measure of knowledge and understanding first of God and the Church He established, then of the world. Then, we shall trust in the Lord to furnish us with the grace and courage needed to witness to others in humility, in truth and love.

Valerie Gonzaga

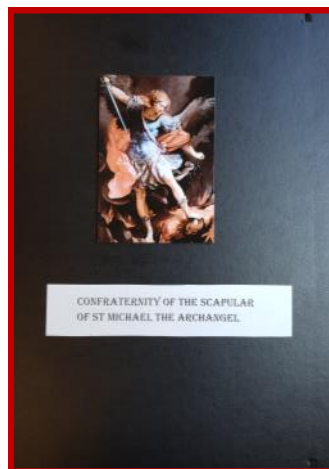


The Confraternity of the Scapular of St Michael the Archangel

In the spirit of our Michaelite charism, we continue to promote the Scapular of St Michael the Archangel. In December 2017 another group of devotees received The Scapular from the hands of Fr Janusz in a ceremony at



St Michael's Church Hurstville. There are presently over 50 people enrolled in *The Book of Confraternity of the Scapular*. However, there is a number of people, especially at Terrigal and North Ryde parishes, who received the Scapular during one of the visitations of the CSMA Superior General about 3 years ago. Please pick up an enrolment form from your



parish office to add your name to the Book of the Scapular.

The Scapular of St Michael the Archangel

is an external sign of entrustment to St Michael and belonging to the Michaelite Family.

The person receiving it is called to a zealous service to Christ and his Church. Every Catholic can receive the Scapular after appropriate preparation. Those receiving the Scapular have their

share in the spiritual goods of the Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel (Michaelites). Persons receiving the Scapular commit themselves to wearing the Scapular (cloth or medal) or placing it in a sacred place in their home as well as daily recitation of the prayer to St Michael the Archangel issued by Pope Leo XII (The minor Exorcism).

What does the Scapular symbolize?

The part of the scapular falling on the back represents the attitude of submission to the will of God in enduring hardships, difficulties and one's cross. The part falling on the chest is a reminder that the human heart should beat with love for God and neighbour, that she has to break away from worldly attachment and, through the intercession of St Michael strive for eternal goods.

If you would like to be invested with the Scapular of St Michael please contact your closest Michaelite parish. Every priest and deacon can conduct the ceremony of blessing and bestowing of the Scapular according to the prescribed *Ritual*.

Pick up your latest copy of
The Angels,
Messengers from a loving God
 magazine in your local Michaelite Parish.

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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Supporting the missions
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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.

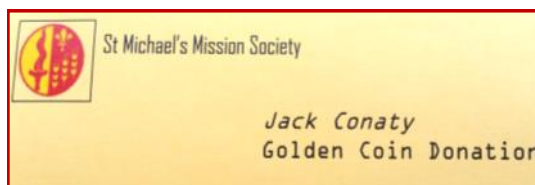


Inside the Divine Mercy Shrine, Rukus PNG for the Feast of Blessed Bronislaw Markiewicz.

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**