



In Honour of the Angels

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The CONGREGATION of SAINT MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL (CSMA)

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St Michael the Archangel,
A Warrior for Today

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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EASTER

As we celebrate the Easter Season we remember the Risen Christ and give praise for His loving mercy and promise of Eternal Life.

Dear Friends,
In this issue we are look back at the season of Lent and our Easter celebrations in the Michaelite parishes. We present stories and pictures to relive the joyous season, which according to the Liturgical calendar the Church celebrates right up to Pentecost Sunday. Hopefully, it will make us appreciate even more the work of our priests and motivate us to further involvement in the liturgical life of our parish. We would like to appeal for any



pictures or stories
you would like to have
published in this
newsletter to share
the joy of our work
with others.

*Praying that the Risen
Jesus will fill your
hearts with the gift
of the Holy Spirit.*

Fr Janusz Bieniek, CSMA



TERRIGAL



WARNERVALE



NORTH RYDE

CELEBRATING LENT, EASTER and

St Michael's Hurstville

During the Lenten season one of the most loved devotions is the **Stations of the Cross**. In all CSMA parishes we celebrated them every Friday during Lent. This devotion has a special meaning on Good Friday when it is celebrated in the morning hours as a preparation for the passion of the cross at 3pm. In Hurstville, traditionally, each station is prepared by a different ethnic group, below is the Tongan group.



Easter Vigil Mass

In Hurstville, the highlight of the Easter ceremonies was the Easter Vigil Mass during which a large number of Catechumens (28), was received into the Catholic Church. Most of them had attended 2 years of the RCIA preparation classes and it was with great excitement when they finally received the Sacraments of Initiation. Congratulations and a warm welcome!



Divine Mercy Feast

Since the introduction of the Feast of Divine Mercy in Hurstville over 4 years ago, it has become one of the most important annual spiritual events of the parish. The Feast is preceded by an evening communal novena with ever growing attendance. It includes reflections, prayers,

sung chaplet and well conducted music. On the Feast Day, at all Masses, the homilies were centred around the message of Divine Mercy revealed to Saint Faustina and in our times so greatly promoted throughout the world by Saint John Paul II. At 3pm, a large congregation gathered to celebrate the mercy hour which ended with the image of Divine Mercy enthroned at the entrance of church.

Fr Janusz Bieniek CSMA



Fr George Gorzkowski in Warnervale Parish

From 1st March this year, Fr George was appointed for 3 months by Bishop Peter Comensoli to administer the parish of Mary Mackillop in Warnervale on the Central Coast. Fr George said that he really enjoyed the Lenten and Easter celebrations and the involvement of the people in the liturgies. He was especially thrilled to have the opportunity to introduce the novena and the celebration of the **Divine Mercy Feast**, even though he had to miss out on celebrations of his mother's 94th birthday in Melbourne.

Caterina Raccosta



DIVINE MERCY in OUR PARISHES

Holy Spirit North Ryde

The **Easter Vigil** began at 7pm. Our Parish Priest, Fr Stan Kluk was the main celebrant with Fr Anthony Casamento concelebrating. This Holy Night is always well attended at North Ryde. In fact, more than 430 people filled the church. The proceedings began in total darkness, with the Easter fire lit near the side exit door in view of everyone. The new Paschal Candle was lit and from it, the candle of every individual person throughout the church was lit – a sight and sound to behold, especially during the chanting of the *Exsultet* in honour of the Paschal Candle! The readers were excellent in proclaiming God's word, the music with the extra instruments and singing was fantastic. Unfortunately, we had no baptisms this year, but we were blessed that one person was confirmed and welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church. *Alleluia!*



Bible Study

Parishioners of North Ryde Parish were blessed to have had the opportunity to embark on a spiritual journey during Lent to strengthen their faith and understanding of the Holy Bible. The Sydney Archdiocese Encounter (the former Evangelisation) office offered us a four week Bible Study with talks, insights and sharing sessions that were held in the parish. Over the four weeks, no less than 65 parishioners participated each week. The first week was led by Dr Paul Morrissey from Notre Dame University, Sydney and the topics were: 'The Scriptures in my Life (Testimony)', 'Rediscovering & reading the Scriptures', 'Revelation', and 'The Word of God'. He was followed by Dr Kevin Wagner who spoke about 'Key Terms of the bible', 'How we understand the texts', Introduction to the 3 senses', and a 'Review of the 3 senses'. Cathy Kennedy from the Archdiocese's Encounter office then facilitated on 'Covenant', 'Broken Covenants', and

'Jesus Christ', and in the last session, Dr Kevin Wagner again took participants through 'Reading & Praying Scriptures', 'Living the Scriptures', and a 'Narrative of our Faith'. Participants responded enthusiastically to sharing their own personal experiences of how the scriptures affected their lives and left each session with a better, deeper and more meaningful understanding of Holy Scripture. Participants were hungry for more and are looking forward to the next follow-up sessions in the coming year.

Nadia Caravello

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Terrigal

Like every year in our Parish of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Terrigal, we renewed our faith during the time of Lent and Easter. For six weeks we contemplated on our lives and our relation to God and neighbours. Lent was for us a time of reflection and change. After confession and prayer we were ready to share the joy of Christ's Resurrection. On Holy Saturday night, through the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation we welcomed three new members to the Catholic Church, which pleased the whole community. Soon after Easter a large group of parishioners departed for a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with their parish priest Fr Jacek Kokosa. Fr Jacek, took this opportunity to visit his family in Poland, so during this time, Fr Bogdan Skupien was took over the care of the parish.



Divine Mercy Feast

This year, the celebration of the Divine Mercy Feast was a big experience for parishioners as many people prayed the novena preceding the feast. The messages shared by Saint Faustina are still very important to us today - Jesus' compassion and goodness is always with us.

Fr Bogdan Skupien



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.

Office of National Animator

10 Croydon Road
Hurstville. 2220

Fr Janusz Bieniek (CSMA)
Nadia Caravello, Jason & Jenny
Hodges, Janette Merrotsy,
Caterina Raccosta, Therese Allan
Irma Escalante, Cecilia Ferrer
Ewa Kluk, Nicole Van de Gard,
Valerie & Carmela Gonzaga

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Editor:
Fr Janusz Bieniek (CSMA)
Graphics/Layout:
Caterina Raccosta

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:

Michaelites Sydney:
PO Box 6094,
North Ryde 2113

Michaelites Central Coast:
PO Box 4, Terrigal 2260
starsea@bigpond.net.au



CSMA Retreat

Traditionally, the week following Divine Mercy Sunday, members of CSMA come together for a spiritual renewal and to strengthen their community ties in a retreat in the Monastery at North Ryde. This year Fr Damien Mosakowski, a Pauline Father and Prior of the Shrine at Penrose Park was the Retreat Master.

Fr Damian introduced us to the beauty of re-discovering our love for the priesthood and Christ. The previous week we had the Easter celebrations that exemplified the love of Jesus to humanity shown through His Passion and Resurrection and in our retreat, we reflected on the depth of Christ's love for His priests. Through the examples of different priests from the Old Testament and the priesthood of Jesus Christ, we could reflect on the essence of our vocation. On the last day of the retreat, in the final Mass, our Superior, Fr Stan Kluk celebrated his 25th Anniversary of his priesthood and we all received a blessing with the relics of our Founder, Blessed Bronislaw Markiewicz.

Many thanks to Fr Damian for his spiritual teachings that really remained in our hearts and to the wonderful ladies for ensuring there was plenty of food on our plates. Thanks be to God for this time, people, and above all for the Word of God to us.

Fr Pawel Kopeczynski CSMA



Our Lady of Victories, Horsley Park

We were very blessed to have Bishop Tony Randazzo celebrate the Easter Triduum with our Parish community. The Triduum celebrations are always special, but the presence of Bishop Tony and his inspiring and poignant homilies added an extra dimension and depth to our celebration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. Our traditional Good Friday procession, with the beautiful life-sized statues depicting the Stations of the Cross, was well attended by thousands of worshippers, with many buses from the Central and South coasts.



Our attention now turns to our special celebration later this year

of the 25th anniversary of the dedication and consecration of our new church. We will begin with the anniversary Mass and

dinner on Saturday 1st September 2018. Bishop Tony will again be our Principal Celebrant for this Mass. Further celebrations will continue on Sunday 16th September 2018 with our annual Parish Festival. A great family day with many activities for young and old, great food and community spirit.

Mary Farrell

Month of May The Church dedicates this month to the honour of Mary, Mother of God who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of Her Son. In her, the Church holds up and admires the most excellent effect of the redemption and joyfully contemplates, as in a flawless image, that which the Church itself desires and hopes wholly to be. (SC 103)

