

Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on 14th February and commonly associated with "courtly love."

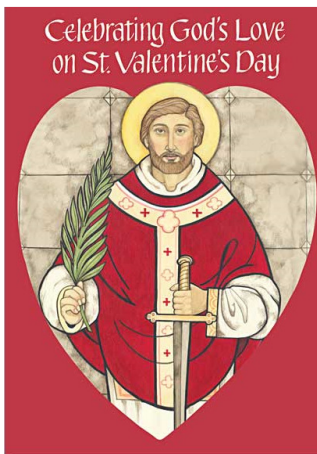
The romantic nature of Valentine's Day may have derived during the Middle Ages, when it was believed that birds paired couples in mid-February. According to English 18th-century antiquarians Alban Butler and Francis Douce, Valentine's Day was most likely created to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia.

Although the exact origin of the holiday is not widely agreed upon, it is widely recognised as a day for love, devotion and romance.

Whoever he was, St. Valentine did really exist, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked 14th February as a celebration in honour of his martyrdom.

Relics of St. Valentine can be found all over the world. A flower-crowned skull of St. Valentine can be found in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. In 1836, other relics were exhumed from the

catacombs of Saint Hippolytus on the Via Tiburtina and were identified as Valentine's. These were transported for a special Mass dedicated to those young and in love.



Marcellin College Randwick Open Day:
Wed 24th Feb from 3 – 6pm. Enquiries:
jane.evans@syd.catholic.edu.au

Casual Position Vacant: Housekeeper/Cook for the Parishes of Balmain & Rozelle. For details ring Parish Support Team on 93905233.

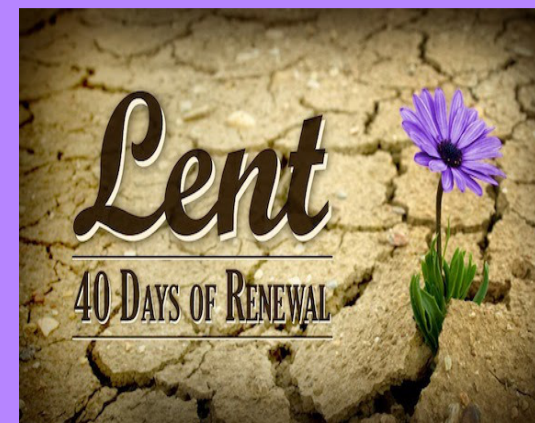
Discernment Retreat for Men: 11th -13th March. A retreat for young men open to explore if God is calling them to the Priesthood. This retreat is designed to help men discern their vocations. **Where:** Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 50-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush. **Cost:** \$100, **registration is essential.** Enquiries/registration: <http://www.vocationcentre.org.au/>.

All couples go through periods where their relationship is strained. Stress, sleep-deprivation, demands from family and work can starve your marriage of the positive energy it needs and deserves. **SmartLovingBreakThrough** is a practical, solution-focused workshop for couples to attend. The workshop for couples will be held on 14th April in Sydney. No couple activities or sharing. Visit: www.smartlovina.org/breakthrough for more information.

St Michael's Catholic Church

29 Banks Ave, Daceyville, NSW 2032
Fr. Kelvin Lovegrove (Administrator)
Parish Secretary: Mrs Patricia Low
Ph. 93491292 Fax: 93140760
Email: angelsville@bigpond.com

Website: www.stmichaeldaceyville.org.au
Foley Gardens Manager: Mr. Joe de Andrade
mob. 0438696396 or 93491292
School principal: Mrs Allana Vedder,
www.stmdaceyville.catholic.edu.au;
Ph. 93448512



WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am
Wed: 6pm
Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15–5:45p: Sat: 4:15–4:45pm;
Sun 4:00–4:30pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS: By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

MARIAN DEVOTIONS:

Saturdays 4pm

CHAPLETS OF DIVINE MERCY/ST

MICHAEL: Sundays 4pm

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

80% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

14th Feb 2016 (C)

1st Sunday of Lent

1ST READING: Deuteronomy 26:4-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

2ND READING: Romans 10:8-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Parise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

To follow on the internet :

"Zenit News"; "Catholic on Line";
"Liturgical Year Calendar", "Spirit Daily",
Children's web: Google, EWTNKIDS. "Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments, videos";
"Catholic Answers", "Catholica"
www.vocationcentre.org.au
Godgossip; American Thinker; tarsus.ie.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun 8am: Special Intention

Sun 9:30am: †Keith Cook

OUR SICK: Archbishop **Anthony Fisher**, **Josephine Helback**, **Alan Sargeant**, **Richard Swords**, and **Southern Cross residents...**

Happy Birthdays to: Barry Dunn (16th)

We welcome back our Principals, Staff, Catechists, children, parents and caregivers of our Parish School and Daceyville Public School after their long break to begin the new school year 2016.

Parish School News: 1) Whole school Family Mass and BBQ: **Sat 27th Feb at 5pm;** 2) Class Mass: Yrs 1 & 2: **Fri 19th Feb;** Yrs 3 & 4: **Fri 26th Feb.** 3) Parent Information Night Presentation: **Wed 17th Feb** from 6pm to 7:30pm.

We welcome **Katrina Picthall**, our new Family Educator in our Parish School, who will be speaking at the Vigil, 8am and 9:30am Masses this weekend.

Project Compassion boxes are now available in the church foyer. Please take home to collect your small change/donation during Lent. Through your generous prayerful and financial support, Caritas Australia has been able to make a real difference in the lives of thousands of people in many different countries. *This year, the theme is "Learning more, creating change".*

Also in the church foyer: Copies of the *Frankly* magazines for you to take home....

The farewell organising committee wishes to thank all parishioners and supporters for your great generosity shown towards our departing Parish Priest, Fr. Jerzy. We raised a total of \$21,686.75 as his farewell gift. A fantastic show of support and love...Ad maiorem Dei gloriam!

PARISH MINISTRY ROSTERS: The new roster is due at the beginning of April. Parishioners wishing to apply for any of the Parish Ministries should contact Patricia (Parish office) by **Friday 4th March**. Anyone wanting to alter or to resign their current ministry should also contact her before that date. A big **Thank You** to all ministers for your continued support and commitment.

The next Anointing Masses will be held on the weekend of 5th / 6th March 2016.

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggard(A) P Low, R Williams (R) S Kim, S Boen (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab, J Hoang (A) G Guerrero, F De Andrade (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: Anu V, Magdi Z(A) K Wong, B Wong (R) M Tjokrowidjaja, I Tjahjadi (C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: Volunteer (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** H Morris

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggard (A) P Tjugito, J Spora (R) M Alimario, P Low (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab, J Hoang (A) A Burke, A Obiano (R) Volunteer, J Yong (C) M Yong (M)
9:30am: Anu V, Magdi Z (A) M Tjokrowidjaja, Delwin T (R) S Pedisich, K Wong (C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: Volunteer (A) J Chandra, D Sarmiento (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** J De Andrade

Dear friends,

Last Wednesday we began the season of Lent with the signing of the cross with ashes on our foreheads. The ashes are a symbol of our mortality, reminding us of the limitations of life here on earth. As we are signed with the ashes we are invited to: "turn away from sin, and be faithful to the gospel."

In the gospel today it is Jesus who is tempted to sin by the devil. Hungry, tired and vulnerable, after having fasted for forty days, the devil tempts Jesus to seek power and possessions to relieve his hunger, thirst and weakness. But, it is precisely in the desert in which Jesus' self-denial and self-sacrifice have in turn given him the strength to withstand these temptations.

We, like Jesus, during these forty days of Lent, are called to strengthen our resolve to deepen our love for God, rather than focus upon possessions and power which are earthly means for self-preservation. We are called to living life more deeply in union with Jesus, and conforming our mind to the will of our Heavenly Father.

The three pillars of the Lenten season are: prayer, fasting and almsgiving (giving to the poor). There are many ways we can put these three pillars into practice, and I am sure you will find your own way to achieve this end.



The desert experience was a trial for Jesus, in that, he was strengthening himself with His Father, through the love of the Holy Spirit, for his demanding mission which lay ahead. For us too, these days are a preparation

for our mission. We are invited to focus on the love God has for us, so that we too can be His disciples in the world and proclaim the Kingdom of God to all people.

I pray this time may be one of steadfast resolve to put aside all temptations and distractions which call us away from Jesus' invitation to copy his example, by attuning our lives daily to the Father's will, so that we too will be his disciples preaching the good news of salvation to the world.

Fr Kelvin