



The Ascension of our Lord took place a long time ago but his parting words are still vibrant to us and must be carried out courageously to be his witnesses in the world of today like the first Apostles. Hence the feast of the Ascension is not to commemorate a departure but the celebration of the living and lasting presence of Jesus in the church. Jesus tells the disciples of the present situation as he gives the command to “make disciples” of people everywhere. He now introduces them to his mission as he passes on his own authority to his disciples.

Pentecost will be the confirmation of this. They are asked to do what he himself did. They now have the power to reconcile the sinful persons with God and with the community and to decide who are not yet ready for reconciliation and full participation in the community’s life. Hence there are four aspects to this mission which Jesus gives in today’s Gospel: to evangelize, that is, to communicate the life and vision of Jesus, to continue the healing mission of Jesus both physical and spiritual, to experience the power of the Holy Spirit and experience the presence of Jesus. He will be with us till the end of times. Then Jesus promises us that like him we all will be raised and ascend to the Father. During the coming week, let us remember that Jesus, who has ascended into Heaven, is here with us, is present in our hearts, in his apostolic Church and in a special way present in the Holy Eucharist. As we live this Ascension of our Lord, let us look forward to experience him in our lives and be his messengers in the world of today.



Pentecost

Next Sunday, Christians across the world will celebrate Pentecost. Is not as well-known or as popular as the Christmas and Easter, though it commemorates a watershed event in Christian history. Pentecost is the birthday of the church. It is a holiday on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus’ death and Resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called “the church.” Thus, from an historical point of view, Pentecost is the day on which the Church was born. This is also true from a spiritual perspective, since the Spirit brings the church into existence and enlivens it. Thus Pentecost is the church’s birthday.

St Michael’s Catholic Church

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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 – 5:45pm
 Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

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.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

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



17th May 2015 (B)

**Ascension of the Lord-
 (Mass during the Day)**

1ST READING: Acts 1:1-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

2ND READING: Ephesians 1:17-23

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always until the end of the world.

GOSPEL: St Mark 16:15-20

Internet resources:

“Zenit News”; “Catholic on Line”;
 “Liturgical Year Calendar”, “Spirit Daily”,
 Children’s web: Google, EWTNKIDS.
 Deepen your faith-find answers on “Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments” videos;
 www.vocationcentre.org.au

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 9:15am: †Elsie Archinal **Mon:** †Josephine McShane & Delia McShane
Sat Vigil: †George Kahwati (1st Anniv) **Tue:** Special Intention
Sun 8am: Fr Emmanuel Green CCS **Wed:** †Thomas John Munro (40days)
Sun 9:30am: †Keith Cook **Thur:** Special Intention
Sun 5pm: Pro Populo **Fri:** †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera

OUR SICK: Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Moira Butler, Alan Sargeant ...

Happy Birthdays to: Patrick Youssef & Ray Liceralde (18th), and Minerva Alimario (26th)

Our deepest condolences and sincere sympathies to **Josanna Busuttill** and her sisters on the passing of their beloved father, Edgar. Funeral service will be held on **Wed 20th May at 10:15am** at the South Chapel at Eastern Suburbs Crematorium.

CARITAS NEPAL EARTHQUAKE APPEAL: Donations may be deposited in the allocated box in church. (Note: No tax receipts will be issued. If you require tax receipts, please visit www.caritas.org.au or ring 1800 024 413).

The next Anointing Masses will be held on the weekend of 6th & 7th June.

Parish School News: 1) **Family Masses:** Sun 16th May: KH class; Sun 24th May: Yr 5; Sun 31st May: Yr 1. Mass time: 9>30am. 2) **Class Masses:** Fri 22nd May: Yr 3. Fri 29th May: Yr 4 3) **School Mass:** Mon 25th May @ 9:15am: Feast of Mary, Help of Christians.

REMINDER: WYD2016 Relaunch: Tues 19th May from 6:30pm at the Cathedral College Hall. For more info. visit www.facebook.com/catholicyouthservices.

Preparing for the Vocation of Marriage? *Of Life and Love* Marriage Preparation Weekend at the Catholic Adult Education Centre, Lidcombe. Places still available for 27th & 28th June. \$230per couple. For more info, ring 9646 9010 or visit www.caec.com.au.

Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – Upstairs 1-bedroom unit may be available soon. For further details please call Joe de Andrade (Manager-Property) on 0438 696 396 or Patricia Low (Manager-Admin) on 9349 1292

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) M Butler, V Hage (R) J Spora, P Tjugito (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) N Jenner, L Jenner (C) T Chin (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A) J Chandra, D Sarmiento (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** J De Andrade

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) L Paquin, J Spora (R) S Kim, S Boen (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) Sr Betty, J Yong (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) J Lie, I Lie (C) T Chin (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** G Hage, V Hage

Is God calling you to become Catholic? It begins with an awareness... or stirring in one's heart for something more. It could be curiosity or a sense of longing for fulfilment. Maybe it's God calling you to explore the life of faith, love and justice within our St. Michael's community of the Catholic Church...



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Are you interested in the catholic Faith? "Come Follow Me" Are you new to the Catholic Faith or are you missing some of your Sacraments? Do you want to explore the calling that has led you here? If you are interested, please contact our Parish Office on 9349 1292 or angelsville@bigpond.com.

Pope Francis has appointed Sydney's Catholic Archbishop, Anthony Fisher, 55, to the Vatican's oldest and most influential Congregation. Archbishop Anthony, 55, will serve on the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).



POPE FRANCIS
 "Mary joins us, she fights at our side. She supports Christians in the fight against the forces of evil. Especially through prayer, through the Rosary.... Do you pray the Rosary each day?"

All popes tend to have a couple of catchphrases they invoke time after time, so after a while they come to sum up a whole chunk of thought. "Be not afraid!" was such a phrase for John Paul II, and "reason and faith" for Benedict XVI. It's becoming steadily clearer that for Francis, his core signature phrase is the "culture of encounter." The phrase "culture of encounter" figured prominently in the pope's rhetoric during his July trip to Brazil, where he often contrasted it with what he called a "throw-away culture," meaning a society in which whole categories of people – the elderly, the ill, the poor, and so on – are regarded as disposable. Cardinal Joseph Zen of China (Hong Kong) recently said that Francis projects the idea of a "culture of encounter" in his own personality, especially his seemingly endless zest for passing time with ordinary people. "He is so true, he's so direct, straightforward, sincere, and he really wants to be in contact with people, to meet people," Zen said. "He calls it 'the culture of encounter'." ("Straggle Street" SBS ?)