

**Today's** Gospel reading combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. In this passage, we learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, the word Theophilus translates as "lover of God." Today's Gospel reading then skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus' baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in his hometown of Nazareth, attending the synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be his custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will continue to read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays. As Jesus stands in the synagogue, he reads from the scroll handed to him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in his ministry, Jesus announces his mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord. Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed. This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's salvation, he brings this salvation about in his person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did—bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed—we serve the Kingdom of God. ( Sunday Connection)

**Happy Birthdays to:**  
**Jackie Yong (25<sup>th</sup>), Ollie Sarmiento & Richard Smolenski (26<sup>th</sup>) and Denny Chandra (30<sup>th</sup>)**



Welcome back all school Staff, Parents/Caregivers and children of our Parish and Public Schools from your long holiday break.



**Let us remember those who build our country and even gave up life that we can be free.**



## 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: 5:15–5:45p: Sat: 4:15–4:45pm;

Sun 4:00–4:30pm

### BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

### BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS: By appointment

### ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

### APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER (SAT. &

SUN): 4:00 to 4:25pm

### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

80% 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

**24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016 (C)**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: St Luke 1;1-4: 4:14-21

### **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](http://www.vocationcentre.org.au)  
 Godgossip; American Thinker; tarsus.ie.



**PRAY FOR OUR SICK:** Archbishop **Anthony** Fisher, **Patricia** Flannery, **Josephine** Helback, **Alan** Sargeant, **Pat** De La Motte, **Guido** Natoli, **Joe** Cavaco, **Bob** Campbell, **Richard** Swords and **Friends** from Southern Cross Hostel ...



**GOD  
BLESS  
OUR  
COUNTRY**



# Australia

**My Dear Friends** May God be praised for granting me the gift of service and ministry to you since March, 1999. I express my gratitude for allowing me to be your companion on your faith journey. I hope, I did my best to be on your doorsteps to share your joys and sorrows, triumphs and hardships. May God bless you all for being, in return my tremendous supporters whenever the above realities became my daily experiences... For standing firm and holding me in your caring hands and loving hearts, so I can continue my priestly call elsewhere, I convey my heartfelt **THANK YOU!**

My final thanksgiving Mass at St. Michael's I will celebrate on Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Jan at 5pm followed by a get-together in the hall. It will be the only farewell.

*Fr Jerzy Chrzęstowski pp*

**MASS INTENTIONS (Sat 23/01/16 to Fri 29/01/16)**

- Sat Vigil:** †Deceased Friends of St. Michael's
- Sun 8am:** Pro Populo
- Sun 9:30am:** †Tomo & Micelina
- Sun 5pm:** Norma's Intentions
- Thurs:** †Fr. Bendich

"Advance Australia Fair" was composed in the late 19th century by Peter Dodds McCormick under the pen-name "Amicus" (which means "friend" in Latin). It was first performed by Andrew Fairfax at a Highland Society function in Sydney on 30 November 1878. The song quickly gained popularity and an amended version was sung by a choir of around 10,000 at the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901. In 1907 the Australian Government awarded McCormick £100 for his composition.

*Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are young and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil,  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in Nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia fair!  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
"Advance Australia fair!"*  
*Beneath our radiant southern Cross,  
We'll toil with hearts and hands;  
To make this Commonwealth of ours  
Renowned of all the lands;  
For those who've come across the seas  
We've boundless plains to share;  
With courage let us all combine  
To advance Australia fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing  
"Advance Australia fair!"*



**HAPPY AUSTRALIA DAY**



<b>This weekend: Vigil:</b> A Varghese(A)	B Purdon, T Bell (R)	G Hage, S Tjen (C)	Thomas W (M)
<b>8:00am:</b> G Diab, J Hoang (A)	A Burke, A Obiano (R)	K Jayasiri, M Wong(C)	P Low (M)
<b>9.30am:</b> Anu V, Magdi Z(A)	K Wong, B Wong (R)	N Jenner, L Jenner(C)	T Chin(M)
<b>5.00pm:</b> Volunteer (A)	Volunteers (R),	Volunteers (C)	<b>Counters:</b> G Hage, V Hage
<b>Next weekend: Vigil:</b> A Varghese (A)	M Butler, V Hage (R)	P Low, L Paquin (C)	Thomas W (M)
<b>8:00am:</b> G Diab, J Hoang (A)	M Marshielle, T Long (R)	P Chen, L Hart (C)	P Low (M)
<b>9.30am:</b> Anu V, Magdi Z (A)	I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R)	J Lie, I Lie(C)	T Chin (M)
<b>5.00pm:</b> Volunteer (A)	J Chandra, D Sarmiento (R),	Volunteers (C)	<b>Counter:</b> G Hogan