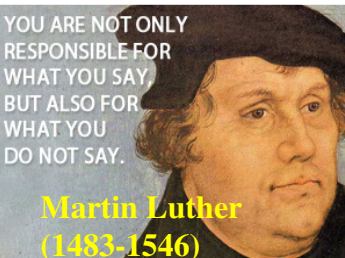
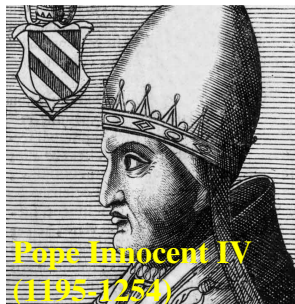


What happens when we die? How are we judged? What's it like in Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory? Revelations, near-death accounts, and a reawakening to what life means! For most of us the first stop is Purgatory. It has been a concept in the Church since the earliest days and has been

formally accepted since the Middle Ages. The official recognition of Purgatory can be found in a letter by Pope Innocent IV in 1254 and at the Second Council of Lyon soon after (then later at the Council of Trent). Although Protestants have erased it, Purgatory was even accepted by their founder, Martin Luther. "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation," says the *Catechism*. "But after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of Heaven." When we



comprehend that only perfect purity leads to God's Presence we realize that the vast majority of people, Christian or non-Christian, need purification—including those who, in their pride, believe they merit Heaven. Unless you're flawless, unless you have purged all your imperfections here on earth (often through suffering) and are in perfect union with God, you are headed for a stint, however brief, in Purgatory. Such notions are not Catholic fantasy. Among other places

you can find allusions to Purgatory in the Bible. In // *Maccabees* 12:42-46 it relates how a man named Judas and his army gathered up the dead, prayed for them, and even provided for sacrifice. Atonement was made "that they might be freed from this sin." Another translation of this text clearly states that "it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead to be loosed from their sins." It says that what these ancients did for the slain was "pray for them in death." If that's not clear enough, there's also 2 Timothy 1:16-18 where where Paul speaks of his departed friend Onesiphorus and says, "When he stands before the Lord on the great Day, may the Lord grant him mercy" (which makes sense only if this deceased man can be helped by prayer), and / *Samuel* 31:13 where it's implied that the residents of Jabesh fasted for Saul and his sons after disposing of their remains—again indicating Purgatory. There is written evidence from as long ago as A.D. 211 that Christians prayed and sacrificed for the deceased (see the writings of Tertullian, who said such sacrifices were made on the birthdays and anniversaries of the dead), and there's no doubt ancient Jews prayed for those in the afterlife. It was an established part of synagogue ritual. Unfortunately some Christians have deleted *Maccabees* from the Bible but that

doesn't change the truth. Purgatory exists and most of us face its purification. When we sin our souls are tainted. There's darkness. There's spiritual grit. That must be removed and the extent and duration of cleansing obviously depends on the depth and breadth of contamination.

Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Church, those in my own home and within my family Amen.

(St. Gertrude the Great 1256 -1302).



St Michael's Catholic Church

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mob. 0438696396 or 93491292
School principal: Mrs Allana Vedder,
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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: 1st weekend

1ST 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



25th Oct 2015 (B)

30th Ordinary Sunday

1ST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

2ND READING: Hebrews 5:1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Our Saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death, and brought us life through his gospel. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: St Mark 10:46-52

Internet resources:

"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

MASS INTENTIONS (Sat 24/10/15 to Fri 30/10/15)

Sat Vigil: Special Intention

Sun 8am: Pro Populo

Sun 9:30am: †Tony Amaro

Please note that from 1st Nov. to around 15th Nov., no individual Mass intentions will be offered. Instead Masses will be offered for the souls of our dearly departed relatives and friends.

OUR SICK: Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Alan Sargeant, Greg Delprado and Southern Cross residents...

Happy Birthday to Angela Ong (31st)

November Memorial Masses: Envelopes are now available in the pews for your Mass intentions. Please place these envelopes in the special box near the altar.

ALL SAINTS DAY: Sun 1st Nov. – Mass times: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sun 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

ALL SOULS' DAY: Mon 2nd Nov – Mass times: 7:30am, 11am and 7pm

Parish School News: 1) Class Mass: **Fri 30th Oct: Yr 2. Fri 6th Nov: Yr 3**

Congratulations to 2 more of our WYD pilgrims who will be joining the 6 whose names were announced last week: **Darlene Tjahjadi and Christian Goncalves.**

The next CWF Appeal will be held on the weekend of 7th / 8th November. Specially printed envelopes will be available then for your kind donations.



WYD BINGO: SAT 28TH NOV from 1pm to 3pm in Parish Hall. All are welcome! Win prizes for Christmas! Each winning game guaranteed at least 2 prizes.

The next Quarterly Mass in those interred in Botany Cemetery will be held on Sat 14th Nov at 11am at the South Chapel.

Thinking of Becoming A Cathedral Tour Guide at St Mary's Cathedral? Previous experience is not essential. All Guides are required to commit to a regular schedule of attendance as agreed with the Tour Coordinator. Volunteers can also commit to one Sunday "shift" per mth. For further info., please ring Kevin Gothard on 9544 3948 or email kevingothard@optunet.com.au

Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – Upstairs one-bedroom unit is now open for inspection. Please call Joe de Andrade (Manager-Property) on 0438 696 396 or Patricia Low (Manager-Admin) on 9349 1292 for an appointment or for further details.

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) F & G Hogan (R) M Butler, L Paquin (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) G Guerrero, F De Andrade (R) A Burke, G Pulella (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) M Tjokrowidjaja, Delwin (R) C Findlay, C Goncalves (C) T Chin (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteer (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** J Haggar, M Wells

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) J Spora, P Tjugito (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) A Burke, A Obiano (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) Volunteer, K Wong (R) N Jenner, L Jenner (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

(Synod) The prelates were asked how they are dealing with three vexed questions which seem to be central to the narrative around the Synod: the admission of the divorce and civilly remarried to communion, homosexuality and cohabitation. Archbishop Twal said that he did not believe these were central.

He said that these were not the items of the Synod but amongst items being discussed at the Synod. He listed other issues like war and poverty. He said that even with much on, the part of the Synod delegates are aware of their limits and that they cannot solve all the issues before them. He said that in his part of the world he does not have the same problems as the West.



St Therese of Lisieux She loved flowers and saw herself as the "little flower of Jesus," who gave glory to God by just being her beautiful little self among all the other flowers in God's garden. Because of this beautiful analogy, the title "little flower" remained with St. Therese.



"My mission - to make God loved - will begin after my death," she said. "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth. I will let fall a shower of roses." Roses have been described and experienced as Saint Therese's signature. Countless millions have been touched by her intercession and imitate her "little way." She has been acclaimed "the greatest saint of modern times." In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared St. Therese a Doctor of the Church - the only Doctor of his pontificate - in tribute to the powerful way her spirituality has influenced people all over the world. She was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 17, 1925.

The parents of French saint Theresia of Lisieux, dubbed the Little Flower, have been canonised — the first time a married couple have shared the honour. Louis and Zelie Martin, who died in 1894 and 1887 respectively, had nine children, four of whom died at a young age, while the other five all became nuns. The youngest, who became known as Theresia of Lisieux, was reportedly described by Pope Pius X as "the greatest saint of modern times". Last Sunday's ceremony to canonise the couple came two-thirds of the way through a global church council on the family, which Pope Francis is keen to hold up as the key social unit for nurturing faith and setting good examples.