

The Church, responding to Christ's command to "go and make disciples of all nations", is called to be the People of God which embraces all peoples and brings to them the proclamation of the Gospel, for the face of each person bears the mark of the face of Christ! Here we find the deepest foundation of the dignity of the human person, which must always be respected and safeguarded. It is less the criteria of efficiency, productivity, social class, or ethnic or religious belonging which ground that personal dignity, so much as the fact of being created in God's own image and likeness (cf. *Gen 1:26-27*) and, even more so, being children of God. Every human being is a child of God! He or she bears the image of Christ! We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community. Migration can offer possibilities for a new evangelization, open vistas for the growth of a new humanity foreshadowed in the paschal mystery: a humanity for which every foreign country is a homeland and every homeland is a foreign country.

It was just last week that we heard how Peter recognized Jesus for who He is: the Christ, the Son of the Living God. But in the Gospel reading today, Matthew describes how Peter becomes a stumbling block for Jesus. Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for his coming arrest; and the suffering and death he will have to endure at the hands of the chief priests who are plotting against him. Peter, who had just confessed his belief in Jesus as the Son of God, cannot believe what he is hearing. No, it can't be true! This cannot happen to God's Son! But Jesus admonishes Peter: *"Get behind me, Satan... You are an obstacle to me!"* You can imagine how Peter felt. Perhaps he still believed that Jesus would reign over an earthly kingdom. How could Jesus be subjected to suffering and death and still be the Son of God? Jesus then explained to his disciples and to us today what it means to be his follower, to be a Christian. We must deny ourselves and take up our own cross for his sake. To live according to his Word. We must expect to be persecuted and to suffer and perhaps, even to die for our faith. Are we even willing to make such a sacrifice? Jeremiah faced a similar crisis of faith long ago when he decided he could no longer speak the Lord's Word to the people: *"I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart... I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it."* (Jer 20:9) Even though he was being mocked by the people, Jeremiah realizes that God's Word cannot be restrained and thus he must speak. Paul also recognized what needed to be done as he taught the Christians of Rome, *"... offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God..."* (Rom 12:1) We are not to conform ourselves to the world but to renew ourselves so that we can desire only to do God's Will. Doing the Will of God is how we become holy and pleasing to Him. The psalmist understood our yearning for the presence of God in our lives as he prayed: *"...you are my God whom I seek; For you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts....your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you."* (Ps 63:2, 4)

St Michael's Catholic Church

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 Deepen your faith-find answers on
 Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments.
www.vocationcentre.org.au

31st August 2014 (A)

22nd Ordinary Sunday

1ST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

2ND READING: Romans 12:1-2

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: St Matthew 16:21-27

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

O Lord, how great is the depth of the kindness which you have shown to those who love you.

There
are
many
rooms
in
the
house...



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)

OFFICE HOURS:

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

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat Vigil: †George & Alice Haggar

Sun 8am: Ong Che Yong (blessing for new venture)

Sun 9:30am: †George Benjamin Eisa (40days)

Sun 5pm: Sr Miriam

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

Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – waiting list available. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 for further details.

Happy Birthdays to: Fay Hogan (26th), Tony Youssef (31st), Stella Kim (3rd Sept) and Kylie Findlay (5th).

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION APPEAL and ANOINTING MASSES: NEXT WEEKEND (6TH / 7TH SEPT).

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS: 1) **Class Mass:** Yr 6 & Kindy: Fri 12th Sept. (change of date from 5th Sept). 2) **Centenary Performance: The Power of the Dream:** Wed 10th Sept @ 7pm at 'The Juniors'. All tickets (\$15pp-no concession) now available from the Parish School.

ANNUAL CATECHIST MASS: Sun 21st Sept at St Mary's Cathedral. **Congratulations to Joseph Haggar who will be receiving his Certificate of Accreditation at the Mass.**

☛ **MEMORIAL MASS FOR THE UNBORN** on Fir 12th Sept at 7pm at St Mary's Cathedral. All are invited to commemorate the lives lost to abortion and in solidarity with the women and men who grieve this loss.

☛ **SCHOENSTATT JUBILEE:** Sun 19th Oct from 10am at Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. For more info. please ring 4773 8338.

☛ **Youth Leaders' Formation Course:** 24th Nov – 20th Dec. For more info. email ylfc@catholicyouthservices.org.

☛ **Discernment Retreat for Men exploring the Priesthood: 13th-14th Sept** at Seminary of the Good Shepherd, 50-58 Abbotsford Rd, Homebush. Speakers include: Bishop Peter Comensoli, Fr Matthew Solomon, Fr Michael de Stoop and Sr Anthony Mary, RSM. For more details ring Sr Anthony Mary on 9390 5970.

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) F Doherty, G Hage (C) Thomas W (M)

8:00am: G Diab (A) P Tjugito, A Burke (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)

9:30am: A Varghese (A) M Tjokrowidjaja, Delwin T (R) C Findlay, K Wong (C) A Burton (M)

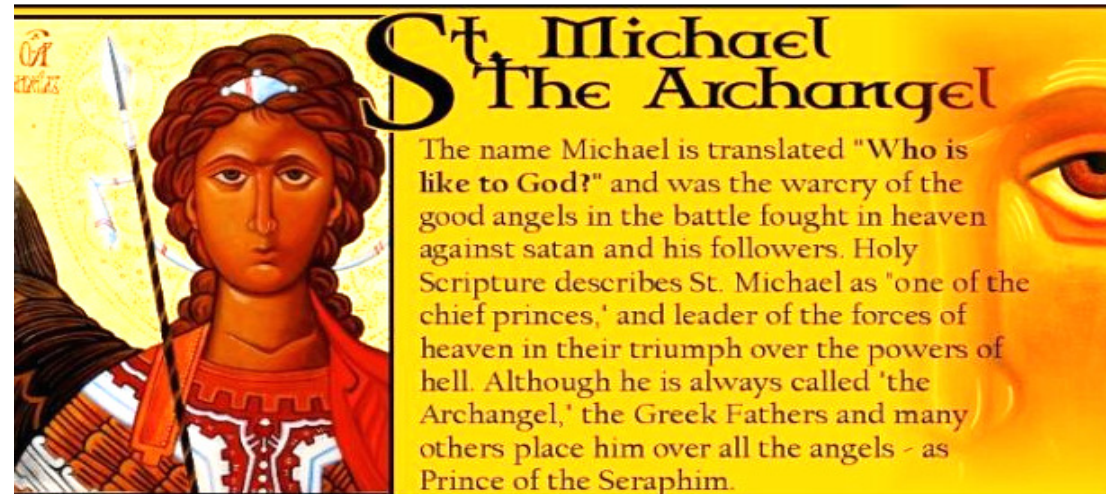
5:00pm: R Yang (A), (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** G Hogan

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) M Butler, V Hage (R) S Kim, S Boen (C) Thomas W (M)

8:00am: G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) A Burke, Sr Betty (C) P Low (M)

9:30am: A Varghese (A) H Evening, Volunteer (R) M Tjokrowidjaja (C) A Burton (M)

5:00pm: R Yang (A), A Carino, J Chandra (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris



ST MICHAEL'S INTERNATIONAL FEAST DAY COMBINED CELEBRATIONS TOGETHER WITH: FR JERZY'S 60TH BIRTHDAY AND FR ANTHONY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER

PROGRAMME: ☛ 9AM: PROCESSION

☛ 9:30AM: THANKSGIVING MASS

☛ **LUNCH CELEBRATIONS IN HALL – Please bring an international dish to share.**

☛ **LOTS OF GAMES AND PRIZES TO BE WON!**

☛ **HOMEMADE TIRAMISU CAKE COMPETITION (Contact Parish Office for entry forms. Registration required)**

☛ **MAGICIAN/CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

Please come in costumes from your countries of origin.

Prizes will be awarded for best dressed!!

Prayer to Saint Michael

Blessed Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God restrain him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host by the Power of God, thrust Satan down to hell, and all the spirits who wonder through the World for the ruin of souls. Amen

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. (3x)