

Francis's interview with fellow Jesuit Fr. Antonio Spadaro, S.J., gives us a unique insight into his personal experience of faith. Faith is a journey; it is a history. God did not reveal himself by dictating abstract truths but by acting in human history. The response of faith, in turn, is historical, meaning that it must be renewed and refreshed again and again. Francis even suggests that faith is not genuine unless it is tinged with a trace of doubt. "The great leaders of God's people, like Moses, always left room for doubt. We must always leave room for the Lord and not for our own certainties.



Papa Francisco is full of surprises. You never know what's going to come out of his mouth, but it often has something to do with what goes in. "Buon pranzo" (have a good lunch) has become his signature sign off. This summer, he shook things up in Rio by insisting that faith is not a banana smoothie. "Please, do not put your faith in Jesus Christ in a blender. You can have orange smoothies, apple smoothies, banana smoothies, but please, do not gulp down a 'faith-shake.' Faith is a whole; you can't mix it up in a blender."

We may forget him, but we are absolutely certain he can never forget us. In short, "the memory of God's works is the basis of the covenant between God and his people." This kind of faith alone prepares us to proclaim the Good News courageously. "The most important thing is the initial proclamation," says Francis. "Jesus Christ has saved you!"

Written by four hands (Benedict and Francis) Encyclical "Lumen Fidei" echoes the themes and buzzwords of Benedict's pontificate, emphasizing the importance of reasserting the truth of Christian faith against a modern culture marked by "relativism." Yet it also reflects Francis' subtle outreach to nonbelievers, saying they can find God in the search for and experience of love. "To the seeker Francis says: don't be afraid of using your intellect, see what love might teach you about faith, and stay on the path. ... Then one day, you may be surprised to discover that you are in a relationship with God and, more important, that God is in a relationship with you." In the encyclical, the two popes say that in the modern world, faith – which had always been associated with the "light" illuminating man's journey on earth – "came to be associated with darkness," while reason became the main avenue for men to reach enlightenment.

Every true discernment includes an element of uncertainty open to receiving spiritual consolation." Discernment is not a life-phase we pass through once but a daily discipline. He remembers what the Lord has done for him, for the Church, and for others. Memory allows each of us to draw from the fount of God's mercy again and again by placing ourselves in the presence of the Cross. The Pope explains that his approach to prayer gives rise to direct questions: "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What must I do for Christ?" *In uttering these words, he and we are ever mindful that the Lord "remembers us".*

St Michael's Catholic Church

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

6th Oct 2013 (C)

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1ST READING: Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

2ND READING: Paul 1:6-8. 13-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! The word of the Lord stands for ever; it is the word given to you, the Good News.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-19

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to those who are searching for his love.

Great is Thy Faithfulness



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 Apts)

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: †Nitsa Farid Hallak

Sun 8am: †Luke Boekelman

Sun 9:30am: John Eves (sick)

Sun 5pm: Pro Populo

Mon 7:30am: †Florence Butler

Tue 7:30am: John Eves (sick)

Wed 6pm: †Diane Veitch

OUR SICK: Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Alan Sargeant. Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciani, Norma Cook, and Joy Williams, Mercia McGregor, Moira Butler and Domenico Cirillo...

Accommodation still available in Foley Gardens. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 and you will be referred for further details to Mr. Robert O'Shea, the manager.

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS TO: Sarah Ghazal (1st) and Frances De Andrade (10th)

We welcome **Levi Beltowski** and his family to his Baptism this Sunday at the 9:30am Mass.

Congratulations to Anne Slattery (as she adds another feather to her cap) on her appointment as **President of the South East Sydney Regional Council** of the St. Vincent de Paul society.

This weekend in the Archdiocese we are celebrating **Respect Life Sunday**. This year we are focusing upon the dignity and vocation of women as the bearers of life. We honour and celebrate women in their vocation of bearing life, both physically and spiritually, and pray for a deeper respect for every woman. A brochure on this theme, *Respecting the Life-Bearer*, is now available in the church foyer. Please take one home to read and to pass on to others.

***Rosters for the period Oct-March** are now available for collection in the Church foyer. Would those involved in rostered ministries please collect ASAP.

* **Feast of Our Lady of Fatima** will be celebrated by the Filipino community in our Parish on **Sat 12 Oct**. Mass will be at 11am followed by lunch and festivities in the Parish hall. All are welcome.

Catholic Mission Appeal will be held on the weekend of **19 / 20 Oct**. Please use the specially printed envelopes which will be available in the pews on that weekend. Thank you.

This weekend: Vigil: Volunteer (A) A Wojciechowski, T Haglund (R) S Kim, Volunteer (C)
8:00am: J Heaney (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) R Houghton, Volunteer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) E Widjaja, H Widjaja (R) M Tjokrowidjaja (C) A Burton (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris (Wed 9/10)

Next weekend: Vigil: Volunteer (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) M Wong, Volunteer (C) G Guerrero (M)
8:00am: J Heaney (A) T Trujillo, F De Andrade (R) V Meyer, Volunteer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: Volunteer I Lie, J Lie (R) G Pullela (C) A Burton (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counter:** J De Andrade



First appearance of Fr. Paul O'Donoghue, Senior Police Chaplain for the Remembrance Mass last Saturday.

October – month of the Holy Rosary. In 1571, Pope Pius V instituted "Our Lady of Victory" as an annual feast to commemorate the victory in the Battle of Lepanto. The victory was attributed to the Blessed Virgin Mary, as a rosary procession had been offered on that day in St. Peter's Square in Rome for the success of the mission of the Holy League to hold back Muslim forces from overrunning Western Europe. In October, this year the statue of Our Lady of Fatima will travel from Portugal to Rome, where the Pope will entrust the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. www.therosary3.com



Prayer for Australia: Lord, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary, Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Other Notices: * **40 hours for Vocations (11 – 13 Oct)** at the Chapel, Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush. See programme at www.vocationcentre.org.au/importantdates. Sign up for an hour with Sr. Elizabeth on 9390 5937. * **Guild of St Stephen National Conference for Altar Servers (12 – 19 Jan 2014)** will be held in Brisbane, with transport by bus available from Sydney. Register/enquire with Miss Karen Man on 0433 765 400. Further details on www.guildofststephen.org.au. **CATECHISTS' NEWS:** 1) **SMART Board Courses:** a) **Beginner Classes:** 14 Oct (Mon), 30 Oct (Wed), 13 Nov (Wed), 22 Nov (Fri), 6 Dec (Fri or 11 Dec (wed) from 10am to 3pm; b) **Master Class:** 13 Dec (Fri). 2) **Basic One Accreditation Course:** 18 & 25 Oct from 10am to 2pm. All courses held at Polding Centre. If you wish to attend, please contact Gennie Hage.