

**Cyrus II of Persia** c. 600 BC or 576 BC–530 BC commonly known as Cyrus the Great was the founder of the Achaemenid Empire. Under his rule, the empire embraced all the previous civilized states of the ancient Near East expanded vastly and eventually conquered most of Southwest Asia and much of Central Asia and the Caucasus. From the Mediterranean sea and Hellespont in the west to the Indus River in the east, Cyrus the Great created the largest empire the world had yet seen. He also pronounced what some consider to be one of the first historically important declarations of human rights via the Cyrus Cylinder sometime between 539 and 530 BC. The reign of Cyrus the Great lasted between 29 and 31 years. Cyrus the Great respected the customs and religions of the lands he conquered. It is said that in universal history, the role of the Achaemenid empire founded by Cyrus lies in its very successful model for centralized administration and establishing a government working to the advantage and profit of its subjects. In fact, the administration of the empire through satraps and the vital principle of forming a government at Pasargadae were the works of Cyrus. What is sometimes referred to as the Edict of Restoration described in the Bible as being made by Cyrus the Great left a lasting legacy on the Jewish religion where because of his policies in Babylonia, he is referred to by the people of the Jewish faith, as “the anointed of the Lord”.

**Cyrus Cylinder**; is regarded by many as the world’s first documented charter of human rights. Cyrus the Great is also well recognized for his achievements in human rights, politics, and military strategy, as well as his influence on both Eastern and Western civilizations. Having originated from Persis, roughly corresponding to the modern Iranian province of Fars, Cyrus has played a crucial role in defining the national identity of modern Iran. There are several inscriptions of Cyrus the Great and later kings that refer to Cambyses I as the “great king” and “king of Anshan”. Among these are some passages in the Cyrus cylinder where Cyrus calls himself “son of Cambyses, great king, king of Anshan”. Another inscription mentions Cambyses I as “mighty king” and “an Achaemenian”, which according to bulk of scholarly opinion was engraved under Darius and considered as a later forgery by Darius. However Cambyses II’s maternal grandfather Pharnaspes is named by Herodotus as “an Achaemenian” too. Cyrus and, indeed, the Achaemenid influence in the ancient world also extended as far as Athens, where many Athenians adopted aspects of the Achaemenid Persian culture as their own, in a reciprocal cultural exchange.



### Lenten Groups:

1. In the Presbytery every Sunday at 3.30pm
2. Young Adults Lenten Group in the church after evening Sunday Mass 6.00pm

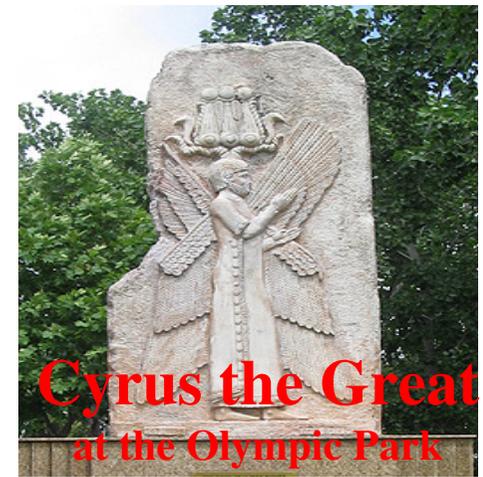
**Stations of the Cross Friday at 7pm in Church.**

NSW State Election will be held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March. This is an important opportunity for us all to cast our vote in accordance with our conscience and with the profound truths of the dignity of the human person, their right to religious freedom, the preciousness of life, marriage and family, and the right of parents to educate their children in a way which respects their religious and moral beliefs...(Anthony Fisher OP Arch. Of Sydney).(See Catholic Weekly for this weekend pp.15-17).



### St Michael’s Catholic Church

29 Banks Ave, Daceyville, NSW 2032  
 Fr. Jerzy Chrzczonowicz PP mob: 0411 125 357  
 jerzy1junior@hotmail.com  
 Parish Office: Secretary, Mrs Patricia Low  
 Ph. 93491292 Fax: 93140760  
 Email: angelsville@bigpond.com  
 Website: www.stmichaeldaceyville.org.au  
 Foley Gardens Manager, Mr. Joe de Andrade  
 mob. 0438696396 or 93491292  
 School Principal, Mrs Allana Vedder,  
 www.stmdaceyville.catholic.edu.au; Ph. 93448512  
 Assisting Retired Priests:  
 Fr. Anthony Simari & Fr. Peter Lynch



**15<sup>th</sup> March 2015 (B)**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Let my tongue be silenced, if I every forget you!

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** Ephesians 2:4-10

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory & praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory & praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL:** St John 3:14-21

#### **Internet resources:**

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

#### **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: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

#### **1<sup>ST</sup> 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:** †Cathy Norris

**Sun 8am:** †Yvonne Lindsay

**Sun 9:30am:** †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera

**Sun 5pm:** Darlene Tjahjadi (birthday)

**Mon:** Richard Heffernan (sick)

**Tue:** †Patrick Ellsmore

**Wed:** Special Intention

**Thu:** †Virginia Fajardo Bolival

**Fri:** †Fernalyn Galeon Tacbas

**OUR SICK:** Marie and Edgar Busuttill, Pat Raby, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Moira Butler, Alan Sargeant, Henry Morris and Minerva Alimario...

**Happy Birthdays to: Pat Raby & Pat Flannery (17<sup>th</sup>), George Hogan (20<sup>th</sup>) & Alan Sargeant (22<sup>nd</sup>).**

We welcome **Emma Rose Chiang and her family** to her Baptism this Sunday at the 9:30am Mass.

**PARISH SCHOOL NEWS:** 1) Family Mass: Sat 14<sup>th</sup> March: Yr 2; Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March: Yr 3; 2) Class Mass: Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March: Kinder & Stage 3; Fri 27<sup>th</sup> March: Yr 1.

**Catholicism,** The Journey with Fr. Robert E. Barron. 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. at 3:30 pm presbytery. Second session: Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**The Great Adventure:** Bible Study, 3rd Sundays of the month, 3:30pm presbytery. Third session: Sun 19<sup>th</sup> April.

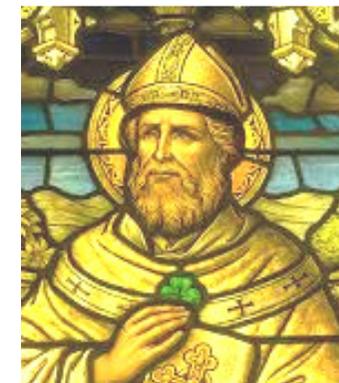
☛ **Seniors' Mass on Thur 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am at St Mary's Cathedral.** For more info, please ring Roy Cooke on 9771 3609. ☛ **Part Time Cleaner** for The Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush- Mondays & Tuesdays from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Ring Anthony Spata on 0402210055 for more details. ☛ **"World Down Syndrome Day"** presentation and testimonies: **Fri 20<sup>th</sup> March from 10am to 11am** at Level 5, Polding Centre, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney. For more info, ring 9390 8405. ☛ **Day of the Unborn Child - Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> March at St Mary's Cathedral.** Mass at 10:30am with a further programme. Visit [www.fli.org.au](http://www.fli.org.au) or ring 9519 9111 for more details. ☛ **Afternoon for Married Couples hoping to conceive: Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March from 1:30pm to 4:30pm** at CAEC, Lidcombe. Ring 9307 8403 for more details.

**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) F & G Hogan (R) M Butler, L Paquin(C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) G Gates, Volunteer (C) P Low (M)  
**9.30am:** A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) C Goncalves, L Tjoe (C) T Chin (M)  
**5.00pm:** R Yang (A) Volunteers (R) Volunteers (C) **Counter:** J De Andrade

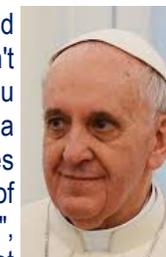
**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) F Doherty, C Lan Kam (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) P Chen, Volunteer (C) P Low (M)  
**9.30am:** A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) S Pedisich, K Wong (C) T Chin (M)  
**5.00pm:** R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** J Haggar, M Wells

**St Patrick** is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. Most of what is known about him comes from his two works; the Confessio, a spiritual autobiography, and his Epistola, a denunciation of British mistreatment of Irish Christians. He was born in Britain, around 385AD. His parents Calpurnius and Conchessa were Roman citizens living in either Scotland or Wales. As a boy of 14 he was captured and taken to Ireland where he spent six years in slavery herding sheep. He returned to Ireland in his 30s as a missionary among the Celtic pagans. Saint Patrick described himself as a "most humble-minded man, pouring forth a continuous paean of thanks to his Maker for having chosen him as the instrument whereby multitudes who had worshipped idols and unclean things had become the people of God." Saint Patrick is most known for driving the snakes from Ireland. It is true there are no snakes in Ireland, but there probably never have been – the island was separated from the rest of the continent at the end of the Ice Age. As in many old pagan religions, serpent symbols were common and often worshipped. Driving the snakes from Ireland was probably symbolic of putting an end to that pagan practice. While not the first to bring Christianity to Ireland, it is Patrick who is said to have encountered the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites. The story holds that he converted the warrior chiefs and princes, baptizing them and thousands of their subjects in the "Holy Wells" that still bear this name. There are several accounts of Saint Patrick's death. One says that Patrick died at Saul, Downpatrick, Ireland, on March 17, 460 A.D.



**Silence** is often referred to in terms of space: the immensity inside, the cave of the heart, the oasis of quiet, the inner sanctuary, the interior castle, the sacred centre where God dwells. For centuries, people have used this practice as a resting and renewal stop on the spiritual journey. It provides a way to periodically withdraw from the world. You may go into silence as a prelude to prayer, or you may seek it as the place where through meditation you can contact your deeper self and Spirit. How can you find this inner quietude, tranquillity, and calm? You must make room for it — literally. Find a space of physical silence where you can sit quietly, away from distracting demands, voices, and sounds. Go there every day. It is the gateway to your interior silence.

In a recent homily, Pope Francis reminded listeners that practices like yoga aren't capable of opening our hearts up to God. "You can take a million catechetical courses, a million courses in spirituality, a million courses in yoga, Zen and all these things. But all of this will never be able to give you freedom", he explained... Catholics should not participate in any of the "spiritual" aspects associated with yoga, but technically can do the actual physical exercises. However, many people who practice yoga caution that it is often difficult, if not impossible, to separate the exercises from the meditations.



**"I am the universal self"**

**"So'ham"**