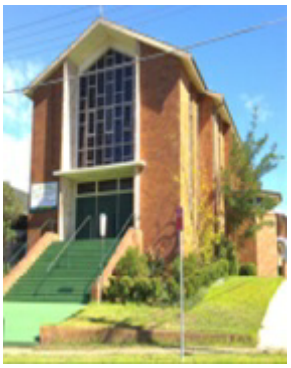
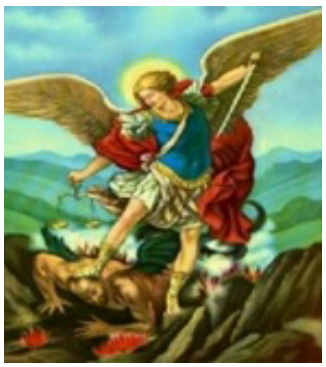


27 / 28 January 2018 Vol. 8 Issue 4

St Michael's Church - Meadowbank

"It is Ours"

The Parish Bulletin



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr B/2

Entrance Antiphon:
Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

1st Reading:
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Responsorial Psalm:
Ps 94:1-2. 6-9
R. If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

2nd Reading:
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

Gospel Acclamation:
Matthew 4:16
Alleluia, alleluia!
A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

Gospel: *Mark 1:21-28*
This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Communion Antiphon:
Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you

Gospel

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Reflection by Father James McCarthy

At the time of Jesus, there was a local synagogue in every Jewish settlement of more than ten families. The synagogue was a place of instruction and Sabbath prayers, similar to what we would call a parish, a community or a house church today. The synagogue service consisted of three parts: prayer, the reading of God's word, and the explanation or commentary on the Word of God by anyone who wished to do so within the gathered community. Unlike our churches today where we have trained professional preachers, Jewish synagogues were the place of lay and family leaders to share their simple understandings about the word of God. At many synagogues, the focus was more on the sharing and less on clear authoritative teaching. The Jewish priests and Levites were considered to be both the authoritative teachers of the Jewish faith and the leaders of worship at the Temple in Jerusalem and at other significant shrines, however generally the priests and the Levites would not control the activities at the synagogues.

In today's Gospel, Mark tells us that in the local synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus taught with authority, even though Jesus was not a Jewish priest nor was he viewed as a Levite. Jesus explained the Scriptures with complete confidence, and when questioned by people he answered them with authority, authenticity and clarity. He spoke as if he relied on no one beyond himself and he cited no authorities or experts for his interpretation and commentary of the Word of God.

St Mark records the impact Jesus had on those who heard him. We are told how amazed people were at the authority with which Jesus preached. He showed his power and authority, not just through his learnings, but by curing the sick and granting forgiveness to people.

The common theme of all of today's readings is divine authority reflected by the prophets of the Old Testament in their messages, by the apostles including

Acknowledgement of the land

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Wallumattagal clan, part of the Dharug people of the Eoira nation. We walk gently on the land, sharing it with them as we now work and live on it.

Parish Directory

Parish Administrator: *Fr James McCarthy*
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Marilyn Vallejo (Thu-Fri)
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Parish Bulletin email address:
meynardo@laposte.net
Please submit requests for publication by 12 noon Wednesday.
Acolytes: *Arthur Lee*
Readers & Special Ministers of Communion: *Sue Metzmacher (Weekdays & Special Roster)*
Felicity Donnelly (Vigils & Sundays)

Music Ministry - Coordinators *for 6 pm Saturday Vigil Masses:*
1st Saturday - Richard Borges (Family Mass)
2nd Saturday - David Foong
3rd Saturday - Prescilla Luzon
4th Saturday - Aneela Pereira
Music Ministry - Sunday Masses:
1st & 3rd SUN 8am - Maree Twomey
1st SUN 10am – Mary Towers
2nd SUN 8am – Muntia Gouw
2nd SUN 10am – David Foong
3rd, 4th & 5th SUN 10am – Mary Towers

Youth Co-ordinator *– TBA*
Children Liturgy *- Elsa Manu*
Ushers/Collectors *- Michael Wixted*
Altar Society *- Marie Bennett*
Liturgy Committee *- Sue Metzmacher*
Finance Committee *- Stephen Topple*
St Vincent de Paul Society *- Jim Lemcke*
Catechists *- Stephen Topple*
Divine Mercy Devotion *- Gloria Divine*
Driver Roster *– Felicity Donnelly*

St Michael's Primary School

School Principal *- Brian Story*
53 Maxim St, Meadowbank, NSW 2114
Phone: *9808 2658 Fax: 9807 2330*
Email:info@smpsmeadowbank.catholic.edu.au

Welcome to St Michael's Church - Meadowbank!

A warm welcome to all attendees and visitors to our church! May you find our parish community a place where your faith life will be nourished and you will take up the invitation to share your special gifts and talents. Your prayers, presence, talents and skills are most welcome.

Reflection (continued) by Father James McCarthy

St. Paul in the New Testament in their writings and teaching, and by Jesus in his teaching and his healing ministry.

Today's Gospel passage begins and ends with comments about Jesus' authority as a teacher (1:21-22 and 1:27-28). In between is an exorcism (1:23-26) which points to the connection between Jesus' teachings and his supernatural authority.

This is the first episode in Jesus' ministry which St Mark recounts after the call of the disciples. It follows on from last week's Gospel of the calling of the fishermen. Jesus' authority is also the main theme in the collection of stories throughout Chapters 2 and 3 in Mark's Gospel.

In the first reading today, Moses established a theocratic society (a society focused on God) for the Israelites as he was instructed to do by God. This society had various officers to regulate the civil and religious life of the people, e.g., judges, kings, priests and prophets. Today's reading tells us that a true prophet speaks with authority because it is God who speaks through him. There should be a line of prophets to interpret previous revelation by God and to add some new ones for each generation. After the return from the Babylonian exile (c. 538 B.C.), the Jewish priests began to interpret this text of Deuteronomy as referring to one individual, namely the Messiah who was to come. The New Testament followed this interpretation and saw these words of Moses "a prophet like me" verified in Christ (Acts 3: 22; 7: 37). These verses therefore, have been chosen for today's first reading because they refer to Jesus, the "preacher with authority," mentioned in today's gospel.

'Looking after your lawn and nurturing children'

There are two ways to go about growing a lawn. One method is called "benign neglect," not bothering to water the lawn, fertilize it, or spread weed killer? Why go to all that work mowing, and edging, and spreading mulch? After all, grass grows naturally in paddocks and fields all over the world. The rain waters it, and the sun warms it, and it thrives without any human help. So just let nature take its course.

And what would be the result if we just let nature take its course? Well, there might be some grass in your front yard but there would also be a lot of weeds as well as dead patches.

To have thick, green, soft lawn takes a lot of hard work – cultivation, maintenance, fertilizing, weeding, watering, and mowing. You must do all these things over and over again, year after year. It's a never-ending cycle. When you decide to have a nice lawn, you're committing yourself to a lifetime of lawn care.

Although it may not be too accurate to compare children with lawns, it illustrates the job that God has given to everyone when it comes to raising children. We can't treat them with an attitude of "benign neglect" and expect them to flourish. What if we say, "Well, after all, it's a natural thing for children to grow up! As long as we provide food and clothing, and love, we can just let nature take its course, they will learn from their mistakes. They'll pick up what they need to know and we can just let them decide whether God and faith will be a part of their experience and approach to the world. They'll learn how to get along in society by themselves. They'll turn out OK!"

Unfortunately too many parents, educators and even politicians and priests in our society today have this attitude. They simply allow children's moral and spiritual life to be molded by popular culture and by the world we live in. We seem to have given up on forming a person's heart to the heart of Jesus Christ. Distressed mothers and fathers often approach priests and school principals unable to understand why their child has "run off the rails". In most cases it is clear that from the child's early age they have been encouraged (often from many directions and the environment we live in) to be molded not by the way of Jesus Christ but to be formed by the confusion, distress and individualism that is society today.

World Meeting of Families quote:

To form a family is to be a part of God's dream, to join him in building a world where no one will feel alone.
(Pope Francis)

Feast Day of St Bakhita

Sydney Catholics are warmly invited to join the Archbishop of Sydney, Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, at St Mary's Cathedral at 5.30pm on 8 February to celebrate the Feast Day of St Bakhita. St Bakhita is the patron saint of South Sudan and Human Trafficking. The Archbishop will also launch the Archdiocese's Anti-Slavery Taskforce, its strategy and initiatives in respect to supply chains, education and wider community engagement, all directed toward the eradication of modern-slavery and human trafficking. The announcement of the taskforce and its initiatives follows the Archbishop's evidence before the NSW Legislative Council inquiry into human trafficking last year and calls from Pope Francis for increased efforts to end human trafficking and slavery-proof supply chains. The Archbishop is encouraging every parish to mark the feast day of St Bakhita with a Mass on the day for those who cannot attend the cathedral.

Fr Pedro Walpole SJ, Coordinator of Ecojesuit

and an international expert on environmental issues, will be visiting Sydney and celebrating Mass following by a talk on **Friday February 2.**
Laudato si' Mass (5.30 to 6.15pm) at St Mary's Church 42 Ridge Street, North Sydney
6.30-7.30pm An Australia – Philippines Conversion about Laudato si' at Nth Sydney Parish Centre, 42 Ridge Street, North Sydney

Devotions to Honour Our Lady of Lourdes.

Mass and Blessing of the Sick will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto, Earlwood, on Sunday the 11 February 2018 (behind Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Earlwood), entrance via St. James Avenue, Earlwood, commencing with recitation of the Rosary at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass and the Blessing of the Sick at 3:00 p.m. The Principal celebrant will be Bishop Anthony Randazzo. Some parking for disabled people is available in the school grounds and general parking in the nearby council car park.

"Walk with me"

, this Lent, through a guided silent retreat given by the Verbum Dei Missionaries: **Sunday 11th February** 9.30am - 3pm. It will be held at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville and cost $30. Please BYO lunch as no food will be provided. For more information contact Kylie 0403453620 or verbumdeisdyney@gmail.com

PULPIT POINTS 28-January

- A night of song: The legendary King's Singers
- Saint Bakhita: Archdiocese to unveil anti-slavery programme
- Francis apologises to victims
- Monica Doumit: Canada makes Christians illegal
- Movie Review: The Commuter
- Help those where it's deadly to be Christian

Catholic Mindfulness Workshop

THIS ASH WEDNESDAY: Join Catholic USA psychologist, Dr Gregory Bottaro at his workshop where he will teach you new skills to help support the people in your communities. Gain more peace in your life by trusting God, letting go and becoming more present with his Mindfulness strategy. When: **Wednesday, February 14** Where: **Notre Dame University, Broadway Campus** Cost: $100
Register: www.rom.org.au

Shalom House of Prayer

Spend a great weekend at Shalom, Carcoar and explore how making sourdough bread can be a very spiritual exercise. It's going to be a reflective time, but also a relaxing and fun time as you learn how to bake the best sourdough, learn some new Ignatian meditation and prayer techniques, go on some lovely walks and enjoy some scrumptious food. This retreat is for everyone to enjoy and the best part is there is no need to have any technical baking skills or advanced training, or holiness, or to be churched to attend. You can just come as you are and do as much or as little as you want. When: **Friday 16th Feb** 6pm to **Sunday 18th Feb** at 3pm
Venue: Shalom House of Prayer, 7 Collins Street, Carcoar
Cost: Suggested Donation of $190 (includes all meals and accommodation)
To Register: Phone: (02) 63673058
email: shalomcarcoar@gmail.com OR Online at: www.shalomcarcoar.com

"Women in Leadership" Weekend

Sister Hilda Scott OSB, Prioress and Vocations Director for the Benedictine Abbey, will be contributing to this weekend by giving talks on St Hildegard of Bingen, one of the great monastic leaders of her time whose influence continues to this day.
DATE: April 13-15, 2018 VENUE: Benedictine Abbey, 695 Mountain Road, Jamberoo
TIME: Arrive afternoon of Thursday 12 April, leaving after lunch on the Sunday
COST: Cost of program is $200. Accommodation fees depend upon type of room selected. Bookings: 0242360533 or cottageretreats@jamberooabbey.org.au
It is not far from the shores of silence to the boundaries of speech. The path is not long, but the way is deep. You must not only walk there, you must be prepared to leap!
-Hildegard of Bingen

NEXT WEEKEND Roster:3 / 4 February 2018

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Faby Lobo Colleen Maguire	1 David Doring 2 Joseph J K 3 Rita D'Mello 4 Liz Paricka 5 Mark Pereira 6 Pam Keenan
8:00AM	Stephen Topple	Agnes Aldana Declan Thomas	Judith Orrock Joseph D'Mello
10:00AM	John Fillion	Sean V Wyk Michelle Stait	1 Darryle Fernandes 2 Felicity Donnelly 3 Felisa Tan 4 Gloria Divine 5 Joan D'souza 6 Maureen Richardson

Liturgy for this week (29 Jan - 4 Feb 2018)

Weekday Masses:
9.:15am - Communion Service
9:15am - Tuesday to Saturday
Weekend Masses:
6:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass
8:00am & 10:00am - Sunday (*Children's Liturgy at 10am Mass)*

Sacraments:

Reconciliation: Saturdays 5:30pm-5:50pm

Devotions: Prayer for Priests: 8:45am every 1st Saturday
Morning Prayer (Lauds) 7:40AM every Sunday
Rosary: 8:50am on weekdays before the Mass (except Friday)
Friday before Mass : **Silent Prayer**
Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
8:15am-9:15am every Friday
8:15am-9:15am every Saturday
Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet - Wednesdays after AM Mass

2 Masses on 2 February 2018 –

Feast of Presentation of the Lord

9:15am and 7:00pm – First Friday Mass and after the 7pm Mass there will be a Pizza meal at the Hall for all to share.

Altar Society.

CHURCH CLEANING, LAUNDRY OF THE ALTAR LINEN, FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR. Join the Altar Society and help keep our church fit for God. A gold coin or coins donation is greatly appreciated for the on going cleaning and flowers for the church. There is a box at the back and side doors of the church for those gold coins.

HELP WITH THE CHURCH LAWN MOWING.

We have one more lawn mower, which will make mowing much easier. Come and test it out by joining the team. Contact Don Smith 0414 748 302

Find us on Facebook **St Michael's Church, Meadowbank**
A copy of this bulletin is also available from the FB Page.

Prayer to St Michael the Archangel.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Request for Mass and Prayers

MASS OFFERINGS:
1. Raymond & Roza Sassine, Nigie Eid, Ugena Khatter, Shemounie Shehady, Suraya Sahady – pray for their souls
2. Uy Teng Hong – Death anniversary
3. Patricia Ong – Recovery from illness
4. Garry Pili – Thanksgiving

SICK: 1. Lorenza Talisayon (in hospital)
2. Liam Heath – pray for a successful surgery

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE WEEK.

WED 31 JAN St John Bosco, priest
FRI 2 FEB The Presentation of the Lord

Become a Catechist Now.

All Christians are called through our baptism to teach others and help to bring others to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. A rewarding and outreach activity is to become a Catechist by sharing your faith with some bright young children in our local public schools. You may say, "How do I become a Catechist?" Easily! Ring **Judith Orrock on 98742825** and you are nearly there. You will be trained in conducting a class, what to teach and provided with all teaching materials to make you a successful catechist. Make that phone call now!

Attention Catechists and helpers.

You are invited to attend the 9:15AM Mass on Thursday 1st February followed by a meeting, morning tea, and collection of book, forms, etc. Thank you.
Contact: **Judith Orrock on 98742825**

The Piety Stall

will re-open on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th February.

Roster – Church Cleaners

for the month of February, June and October
Marie Bennett Fadia Tohme
Amala Ambrose Grace Wei
Christine Henderson
LINEN – Vi Moussa
VACUUM ROSTER – Richard Borges