



The Parish Bulletin

4th Sunday in Lent, Yr B/2



Entrance Antiphon:

Cf. Is 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

1st Reading:

2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

Responsorial Psalm:

PS 136

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

2nd Reading:

Ephesians 2:4-10

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

Gospel Acclamation:

John 3:16

**Glory and 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 and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Gospel: *John 3:14-21*

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Communion Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 122:3-4

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Gospel

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For



God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Reflection by Father James McCarthy

Today is the Sunday of Rejoicing, where we celebrate that there is joy in the midst of the sufferings of Lent. Today we are called to be joyful and to remember that in the midst of the challenges of the world, we are invited to reveal the truth, joyfully come into the light and be "God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life of God." (from the second reading – Eph 2:10)



But how do we read the signs of the times, how do we know what is true and how are we God's work of art?

Some people understand our world through the actions of politicians, government and the media. Others understand the world through trends – discovering what is most popular in society, while others still look at what is happening economically with the movement of the stock market, the price of the dollar and the underemployment rate. And then there are others still who read the signs of the times by looking at the culture – what is happening in the movies, music, art, literature or sport.

Whenever we read, hear or see something, we are making some sort of analysis of the times we live in and we are deciding what 'truth' of facts we will believe.

Ancient Israel read the world through the lenses of theology – through seeking to understand the word and action of God. They wondered what God was doing and why God was doing it. While ancient Jews were very political and socio-logical, they actually lived and conversed primarily in a God-centred way. For the Jews, God wasn't understood to be working simply alongside all the other elements of life, but for the people of the Old Testament they understood that God worked in and through every element of life – God worked through politics, sociology, economics and culture. For the Jewish People, God was very much alive and a part of every aspect of human existence.

Acknowledgement of the land

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

Parish Directory

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Communion:

Sue Metzmacher

(Weekdays & Special Roster)

Felicity Donnelly (Vigils & Sundays)

Music Ministry

Coordinators for 6pm Saturday 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

2nd SUN 8am - Muntia Gouw

4th SUN 10 am - Muntia Gouw

1st, 3rd, 5th SUN 10am - Mary Towers

2nd SUN 10am - David Foong

Children Liturgy - Elsa Manu

Sacramental Coordinators: Marisa

Squadrito & Liz Mulcare

Ushers/Collectors - Michael Wixted

Altar Society - Marie Bennett

Liturgy Committee - Sue Metzmacher

Finance Committee - Stephen Topple

St Vincent de Paul Society - Jim Lemcke

Catechists - Judith Orrock

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

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.



Many Christians today unfortunately understand the world through the lense of a deist. Deists believe that God is distant and disconnected from our daily existence. But that is not the Judeo-Christian sense. The true Jewish and Christian sense of life is that God is close to us and that God sometimes works in mysterious ways.

In today's 1st reading from the book of Chronicles, it displays the patterns that show the works of God's love. We ask ourselves "what are the signs of the times" morally and spiritually? For the Jews, they would ask "How is Israel being faithful to the signs of God?"

St Augustine taught that the Old Testament was not only recorded for the sake of the Jewish people, but was recorded for the sake of Christians. St Augustine further taught that the Old Testament prefigured and foreshadowed Christ and the Church. As Christians we should read and pray the passages of the Old Testament with a God-centred and Church-centred understanding.

In the first reading, God sends messengers to call the Jewish community back to a right relationship with God. Unfortunately the ancient Jewish communities ridiculed, despised and laughed at God's messengers.

The first reading discusses the reign of King Cyrus of Persia - who according to our reading "was the king of all the kingdoms of the earth." He controlled the Jewish people while they were in captivity in Babylon. King Cyrus, although being a pagan king, was used by God as his servant and messenger.

Cyrus recognized the value of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and the worship and ritual that were associated with that Temple. Cyrus ordered the Jewish people to build the Second Temple in Jerusalem, the same Temple that Jesus was presented in, the same Temple that Jesus drove out the merchants and money changers, which we heard about last week. Cyrus, a pagan, was used by God to become a servant to the liturgical ritual of the Jewish people.

It is easy to spend time worrying about has been said or done by actors, musicians, sport stars, company executives and politicians, but fail to ever see or hear the voice of God's messengers in others. We should ask ourselves: 'Who is the new Israel, the new Church?' and 'Who are the messengers and prophets of God in our families, community and world today?'

In our Psalm 136, it was Cyrus, who asked the Jewish people for songs in the midst of their captivity, for an experience of the Joy of the Jewish people in the midst of their suffering: "For it was at the Rivers of Babylon that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy 'Sing to us' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.'"

Who are the messengers of God today? Maybe one or two of people in our parish are being called to be prophets in our world today, to call us back to a right relationship with God and with all of God's creation, to call us to find joy in the midst of the darkness that we experience everyday.

Download & Sync Parish Calendar. The parish calendar of events and activities is available for download from the Parish Website. It is updated on a daily basis with new events, Mass intentions and activities. If you use a digital calendar on your mobile or Ipad, it is very easy to include the calendar in your own calendar by simply hitting the + button located on the parish homepage: www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au

St Michael's Playgroup

Every Thursday 9-11am in the Parish Hall
Children ages 0-5 welcome. Enter via the school gate on Hughes St. Cost \$2 and a piece of fruit to share
Free play, sing song, story-time, art/craft and lots more!

Year 5 & 6 Youth Group

Our next Youth Group is on Friday 23rd February. Parishioners with children in Years 5 & 6 are invited to come along for lots of fun games, pizza and wonderful discussions on our faith.

For more information on either of the above, please contact Elsa Manu elsa.manu@syd.catholic.edu.au

Singing practice for Friday night at St Michael's after Stations of the cross on 16th and 23rd March.

First Holy Communion program. If your child is in year 3 or above and has received the sacrament of Reconciliation, you are invited to attend a **Parent Formation Meeting on Tuesday 20 March at 7.00pm** in the parish hall. This meeting is for parents only and is compulsory for at least one parent of all who wish to enrol in the First Holy Communion program.

The sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated this year at the following Masses:

- Saturday 16 June at 6.00pm Mass
- Sunday 17 June at 10.00am Mass
- Saturday 23 June at 6.00pm Mass
- Sunday 24 June at 10.00am Mass

For more information please contact Marisa on 0402 902 871, Liz on 0412 802 025 or lizandmarisa@gmail.com

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION 2018.

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land takes place on Good Friday after the Stations of the Cross and during the Service of the Lord's Passion.

This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land rely on assistance from the Good Friday collection. The collection is also used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.35 million to this cause, despite tough economic times, rural droughts and increasing cost of living which put a strain on family budgets and financial resources. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land again this Good Friday. Please also pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace'.

Solemnity of St Joseph at Meadowbank **Monday 19 March - Mass at 7.30pm All Welcome.**

There will be a special blessing of Fathers and Children during the Mass.

PULPIT POINTS 11-March

- Dublin bound! - Family to represent Sydney in August
- Catholics by the numbers. Where the Catholics are in Sydney
- Join me! Archbishop calls Catholics to prayer & fasting for abuse
- Surge in Seminary interest
- Movie Review: The 15:17 to Paris
- Barnaby & Christians - The link

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

ALL WELCOME

WEDNESDAY 7:30pm - 84 Bennett St West Ryde.

Hosted by Carol Maher. Enquiries: 9874 1566

THURSDAY 11am 18 Huxley St, West Ryde.

ENQUIRIES: Connie Buttigige. 0424 417 950.

THURSDAY 7pm ENQUIRIES: Joan Mobile:

0425 361 233

St Patrick's Day Mass (17 March)

All are welcome to join with Bishop Terry Brady to celebrate the Annual Feast Day Mass for St Patrick.

Time: 10am - 17 March, St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

Collections Update

Weekly Break-even Target for 1st Collection: \$1,300.

Last week (4 Mar) was **\$20 over target**

Weekly Target for 2nd Collection/Envelopes: \$1,900.

Last week (4 Mar) was **\$140 under target.**

Many thanks for sharing your blessings. Thanks especially for the School Family Mass!

New Votive Candle Stand - Trial & Feedback Needed

Earlier this week a new votive candle stand was installed in the rear shrine chapel. The Parish has been asked to trial a new votive candle stand for the next month. Unlike previous generations of votive candles, this votive candle stand is the cleanest, safest and smokeless real votive candle burning system in the world. The Saint Killian Candle Company has installed similar votive candle stands in some of the biggest shrines in the world, including Notre Dame in Paris and St Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Please try out the new candles. Fr James is looking for feedback on whether it should stay at Meadowbank.

Afternoon for Couples Hoping to Conceive

Married couples (Catholic or otherwise) who are hoping for children, are struggling to conceive, or who wish to better understand what the Church offers and promotes in regard to fertility awareness and assistance are invited to an afternoon of information and discussion. It is also an important opportunity for fellowship with other couples facing similar difficulties.

WHERE: Dooleys Waterview Club, Silverwater Rd, Silverwater.

WHEN: Saturday 17 March 2018, 2:00pm-4:30pm. Please direct RSVPs and inquiries to

LMFEvents@sydneycatholic.org or phone (02) 9307 8404.



Roster: 17 / 18 March 2018

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Aneela Pereira Glen Pereira	Joseph J K Rita D'Mello
8:00AM	Stevanus Prasetyono	Aneela Pereira Glen Pereira	Mel Talisayon Nora Gardner
10:00AM	John Fillion	Sean V Wyk Michelle Stait	Michael Dunkin Maureen Richardson



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.

Liturgy for this week (12 - 18 March 2018)

<p>Weekday Masses: 9.:15am - Communion Service 9:15am - Tuesday to Saturday</p> <p>Weekend Masses: 6:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass 8:00am & 10:00am - Sunday (<i>Children's Liturgy at 10am Mass</i>)</p>	<p><i>During Lent, there will be distribution of HOST ONLY at weekend Masses.</i></p>
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Sacraments:

- Reconciliation:** Saturdays 5:15pm-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 (with Benediction at 9.05am)
- Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet** - Wednesdays after AM Mass

Piety Stall is open on the 1st & 3rd weekends of the month. Our next opening will be on Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th

Liturgy Meeting on 13th March, Tuesday at 7:30pm.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday in Lent at 11.50am & 7pm in the Church.

ROSTER – CHURCH CLEANERS

- For the month of March, July and November
- Felisa Tan
 - Gemma Martin
 - Maria & Robert Leasa
 - Teresita
- LINEN** - Prescilla Luzon **VACUUM ROSTER** - John Abood

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.

Vacancies. Two of the mowing team are leaving at the end of this mowing season and replacement team members are needed. If you can spare a few hours one weekend a month contact Don Smith 0414 748 302

Request for Prayers

SICK: Ross Goss, Patricia Ong, Felix Dizon
RECENTLY DECEASED: Jimmy Tan, Tony Abraham, George Peres Da Costa, Hilda Dunne.

Parish Weekly Mass Offerings

- Saturday 10th March 2018 9:15am**
Thanksgiving Mass for Alfredo, Lourdes & Bienvenido Temprosa
- Tuesday 13th March 2018 9:15am**
Mass for the ill health of Rose Goss
- Wednesday 14th March 2018 9:15am**
Mass of Remembrance for Atanacio Tumbali
- Thursday 15th March 2018 9:15am**
Mass of Remembrance for Fr Chong OP & Joseph Dang
- Friday 16th March 2018 9:15am**
Mass of Remembrance for Kathleen & Frederick Angel
- Saturday 17th March, 2018 9:15am**
Mass for the First Anniversary of Constantino Tan
NOTE: ONLY ONE MASS OFFERING IS PERMITTED PER DAY
If you desire a Mass offered, please contact the Office to request a specific day well in advance. If a day is already booked taken, it is possible for several names to be mentioned on significant anniversaries and the Mass offered at the next available day.

Become a Catechist Now.

All Christians are called through our baptism to teach and help 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. 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.



Parish Morning Tea

transferred for this month only on 11th March after the 10am Mass. The Morning Tea will be organized by the Filipino Parishioners of St Michael's Parish Meadowbank. All welcome.



Sacramental Programs 2018

All important sacramental program dates are available for download from the Parish Website. Dates are also included in the downloadable parish calendar. Page 4