

**The Parish Bulletin**

5th Sunday in Lent, Yr B/2

**Entrance Antiphon:***Cf. Ps 42: 1-2*

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a
nation that is faithless. From
the deceitful and cunning rescue
me, for you, O God, are my
strength.

1st Reading:*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

I will write my Law in their hearts

Responsorial Psalm:*Psalm 50(51):3-4,12-15*

Create a clean heart in me, O
God.

2nd Reading: *Hebrews 5:7-9*

He learned to obey and he became
the source of eternal salvation

Gospel Acclamation:*Jn 12:26*

Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!
Whoever serves me must follow
me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will
my servant be.
Glory to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: *John 12:20-33*

If a grain of wheat falls on the
ground and dies, it yields a rich
harvest

Communion Antiphon:

Amen, Amen I say to you:
Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies, it
remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much
fruit.

Gospel*John 12:20-33*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a

man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Reflection by Father James McCarthy**"Sir, we should like to see Jesus!"**

Today's liturgy invites us to prepare more intimately for Holy Week, which begins next week with Palm Sunday. The event described in today's Gospel occurred just before the Jewish Passover, which was to be the Passover of Jesus's death and Resurrection. So chronologically, today's event occurred most likely about a week before Palm Sunday.

While Jesus was in Jerusalem, some Greeks – who were not Jewish, were curious and attracted by what Jesus was doing. They approached Philip, one of the Twelve who had a Greek name. "Sir, we should like to see Jesus" they said. Philip went to Andrew, who was one of the first Apostles and was very close to the Lord and who also had a Greek name, and they both went and "told Jesus" (cf. Jn 12: 20-21).

Countless men and women down the centuries have desired to know and see the Lord. They have seen Him with the eyes of faith. They have recognized Him as the crucified and risen Messiah. They have let themselves be won over by Him and have become His faithful disciples. They have seen Him in the Eucharist and have found Him in the poor and those in need. These people who have found Jesus are the saints and blessed whom the Church holds up to us as models to imitate and examples to follow. During these days of Lent, our lasting desire should be to see Jesus. Every person can experience Jesus through the eyes of faith, can recognize Jesus as crucified



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

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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...**

and risen and every person is invited to let Jesus become the focus and centre of one's life. Through fasting and abstinence, we put aside competing and contradicting images so that we have space to see Jesus in our prayer, and then see Jesus in those we serve.

The speech of Jesus in today's Gospel at first glance seems difficult and obscure: "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified... He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (Jn 12:23, 25).

Actually these words contain a summary of the essential meaning of the events of Holy Week. That "hour" in which the Son of man is to be glorified is the "hour" of His passion and death on the cross. Precisely in that "hour" at 3pm on Good Friday, the grain of wheat that has fallen to the earth will die. That grain of wheat, the bread of life, is the Son of God made man. His death does not lead to destruction but to the triumph of life.

It is very appropriate that we are drawn to the hour of the glorification of Christ on the 5th Sunday of Lent. As Holy Week draws near, we are invited to immerse ourselves spiritually in the Lord's Hour and in the Lord's Passion. It is as if the Church is encouraging us today to share Jesus' state of mind and prepares us to relive the mystery of the Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection.

Use your imagination to be with Jesus over the next two weeks. Imagine what Jesus was going through. He knew He would suffer and die, but He willingly went to the cross for us.

The Lenten Journey is not a time of preparation to attend a big concert at Easter. Rather we prepare, not as spectators but as active participants with Jesus in the mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection. We walk with Christ into Jerusalem carrying branches, we dine with Jesus at the Last Supper, and we help carry the cross to Calvary. Christ calls his disciples to follow Him and to be in solidarity with Him at the hour of death, the same hour which is the hour of victory over death.

In the coming days, let us keep our hearts and minds fixed on the Face of Christ. The Holy Face of Jesus is the Face that some Greeks in our Gospel wished to see. It is the Face which in the coming days of the Passion we shall contemplate disfigured by human sins, indifference and ingratitude. It is the same Face that will be radiant with light and dazzling with glory when it shines out as the sun rises on Easter Day.

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.

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

Veiling Crosses and Statues

It has been the custom of the Catholic Church to veil the crosses and images of the saints from the 5th Sunday of Lent until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil. This is one of the defining characteristics of the final two weeks of Lent.

The Catholic Encyclopedia describes this custom as follows: "Before Vespers of Saturday preceding Passion Sunday [i.e. the 5th Sunday of Lent] the crosses, statues, and pictures of our Lord and of the saints on the altar and throughout the church, with the sole exception of the crosses and pictures of the Way of the Cross, are to be covered with a violet veil, not translucent, nor in any way ornamented. The crosses remain covered until after the solemn revealing of the principal crucifix on Good Friday. The statues and pictures retain their covering, no matter what feast may occur, until the Gloria in Excelsis of Holy Saturday." However, it is noted that the statue of St. Joseph may remain uncovered, if outside the sanctuary, on his Feast Day on March 19, which is dedicated to his honour.

Why does the Church veil the cross during a time when we are meditating upon the Lord's passion?

The Mystical Interpretation: As Christ hid himself from the rage of the Jewish authorities (John 8:59), so now he is hidden from the world in preparation for the mysteries of his passion. The interpreters of the liturgy tell us that this custom of veiling the crucifix and statues expresses the humiliation to which our Saviour subjected Himself, of hiding Himself when the Jews threatened to stone Him [Cf. John 8:46-59, *They took up stones therefore to cast at him. But Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple*].

The Spiritual Interpretation: In his passion, the divinity of Jesus was almost totally eclipsed, so great was his suffering. Likewise, even his humanity was obscured – so much so that he could say through his prophet: *I am a worm and no man* (Psalm 21:7). His face and whole body were so disfigured by the blows and scourges that Jesus was scarcely recognizable! Thus, the wounds he endured hid both his divinity and his humanity. For this reason we veil the crosses in these final days of Lent – hiding our Saviour under the sad purple cloth.

The Historical Interpretation: The veiling of the cross and statues derives from a ninth century Germany custom of extending a large purple cloth over the sanctuary from the beginning of Lent. This cloth, called the '*Hungertuch*' (hunger cloth), hid the altar entirely from the faithful during Lent and was not removed until during the reading of the Passion on Holy Wednesday at the words 'the veil of the temple was torn in two.'

Many authors maintain that covering the altar was an example of the ancient practice of public penance in which the penitents were ritually expelled from the church at the beginning of Lent. After the ritual of public penance fell into disuse — but the entire congregation symbolically entered the order of penitents by receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday — it was no longer possible to expel or suspend them from the church. Rather, the altar or 'Holy of Holies' was shielded from view until they were reconciled to God at the celebration of Easter.

For similar motives, later in the Middle Ages, the images of crosses and saints were also covered from the start of Lent. The rule of limiting this veiling to Passiontide came later and does not appear until the publication of the Bishops' Ceremonial of the 17th century.

PULPIT POINTS 18-March

- Papal Awards for 7
- Little school with a big agenda
- Downton Abbey actor plays Paul
- Francis at five - Pope hits 5th anniversary
- Movie review - Red Sparrow
- Interview with the exorcist

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 Enquires: Joan Mobile: 0425 361 233

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 7pm** 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.

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

New Votive Candle Stand - Trial & Feedback Needed

The Parish is trialling a new votive candle stand. This votive candle stand is the world's cleanest, safest and smokeless votive candle burning system. The Saint Killian Candle Company has installed similar stands in the biggest shrines in the world, including Notre Dame in Paris and St Patrick's Cathedral in New York. Fr James is looking for feedback on whether it should stay at Meadowbank.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION 2018.

The annual collection for the Holy Land takes place on Good Friday at 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 also helps to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Australian Catholics donated \$1.35 million to this cause in 2017. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday and pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace'.

St Michael's Playgroup: Every Thursday 9-11am in the 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: Gathering is next week

Friday 23 March from 6-8pm: Students from St Michael's and any other local schools are invited to come along to our Parish Youth Group. It occurs twice a term in the Bush Parish Hall. Cost is \$5 which includes pizza. Contact Elsa (Family Educator) elsa.manu@syd.catholic.edu.au for more info. We'd love to see you there.

Singing practice for Friday night at St Michael's after Stations of the cross on 16th and 23rd March. Page 3



Roster: 24 / 25 March 2018

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Sue Metzmacher Sr Margaret Barry	Carol & Brian Maher
8:00AM	Stephen Topple	Gemma Evesson Nick Radice	Vi Moussa Marie Bennett
10:00AM	John Fillion	Maureen Richardson Charlene Harrison	Connie Buttigieg Darryl Fernandes

Liturgy for this week (19 - 25 March 2018)

<p>Weekday Masses: 7:30pm - Monday (St Joseph Day) 9:15am - Tuesday to Saturday 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 will be open after all masses this weekend. **EASTER CARDS WILL BE ON SALE THIS WEEK.**

Stations of the Cross

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

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday (Please bring Palms)

If you have any palms, please drop them outside the Parish House anytime this week. All Masses next Sunday will begin in School Playground with the Blessing and Procession of Palms.

PARISH EVENING SUPPER on Saturday 31st March,

after the Easter Vigil Mass. This will be organized by the Parish Altar Servers. All Parishioners are welcome to join and celebrate Easter. If anyone who would like to bring a plate to share, please bring biscuits, cakes, nibbles or other supper food. No hot foods.

Altar Society: Church cleaning, laundry of altar linen and flowers for the altar. Join the Altar Society and help keep our church fit for God. A gold coin donation is greatly appreciated for the ongoing beautification of the church.

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



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.

Parish Weekly Mass Offerings

Saturday 17th March 2018 9:15am

Mass for the First Anniversary of Constantino Tan

Tuesday 20th March 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Mary Magdalen Joseph, Manuelpillai Joseph & Manuelpillai Antonipillai

Wednesday 21st March 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Angelito Yu

Thursday 22nd March 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Robert Corraya

Friday 23rd March 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Paul Pereira

Saturday 24th March 2018 9:15am

Blessings for the 7th Birthday of Hazel Maria

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.

Easter Triduum Liturgy Times

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7.30pm

Good Friday - Stations of the Cross: 10am

- Service of the Lord's Passion: 3pm

Easter Vigil: 7.30pm

Easter Sunday: 8am and 10am.

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.

Saint of the Week

MON 19 MAR St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Find us on Facebook St Michael's Church, Meadowbank

A copy of this bulletin is also available from the FB Page.