

St Michael's Church - Meadowbank
The Parish Bulletin
 The Baptism of the Lord Year C/1



Entrance Antiphon:

Cf. Mt 3: 16-17

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: **This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**

1st Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it.

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 103(104):1-4,24-25,27-30

O, bless the Lord, my soul.

2nd Reading:

Titus 2:11-14,3:4-7

He saved us by means of the cleansing water of rebirth.

Gospel Acclamation:

cf. Luke 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16,21-22

'Someone is coming who will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Communion Antiphon:

Jn 1: 32, 34

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Parish Directory

Parish Administrator:

Fr James McCarthy

Parish address & contact number:

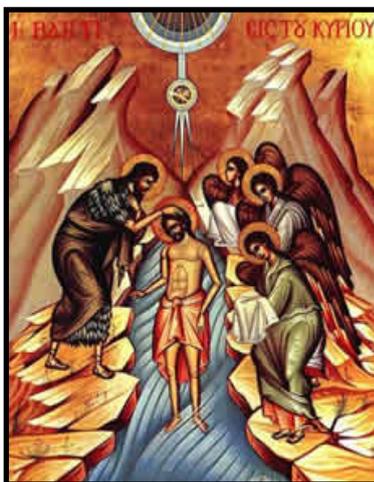
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Office: Tues - Fri 9am-4:30pm

Gospel



Luke 3:15-16,21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

Reflection from Fr James McCarthy

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Neither John the Baptist nor Jesus invented baptism. Baptism has been practiced for 1000s of years amongst the Jewish people and takes on several meanings. As Catholics, we are only baptized once, but for the Jewish people, even today, they can be baptized many times.

In the Jewish faith, the faith which Jesus was baptized into, there are two main types of baptism. The first baptism is a baptism of initiation. For the Jewish people, baptism made them Jewish and part of God's holy and chosen people. For men, circumcision was always required, after which a baptism would occur. For women, only baptism was required for initiation into both the Jewish family and God's family.

All Christians are baptized, but we are baptized only once. This baptism makes us part of God's family. We follow the same ritual and practice as the Jewish people and we are initiated into God's holy people through baptism – the washing of water. We also understand that through our baptism of initiation, all sin is washed from the baptized which links with the second type of Jewish baptism. The second and repeated Jewish baptism is similar in meaning to the sacrament of reconciliation. Prior to the Jewish baptism of repentance, a person would confess their sins, and it was believed that the baptism ritual removed spiritual impurity and sin. Men, according to Jewish law, were required to be baptized on a weekly basis, while women were required to be baptized monthly. Orthodox and observant Jews still retain these weekly and monthly repentance and ritual washings today.

John the Baptist preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and not a baptism of initiation. It is good to ask the question: 'Why did Jesus, the sinless Son of God, receive the baptism of repentance meant for sinners? In Jesus' humble act of receiving the baptism for sinners, he foreshadowed and prepared his crucifixion, his act of humbly taking on the sins of the world and bringing cleansing to humanity.

As Christians, our baptism of repentance is the sacrament of reconciliation. Regular sacramental confession is an essential and a necessary part of our commitment as Christians. Like the Orthodox Jews who repent on a weekly and monthly basis, Catholics are also encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation on a regular basis.

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord should not only remind us of our own baptism but it should remind us that Jesus came, that he embraced our sins, and made the most fitting offering to save us from our sins, the offering of his life. The least we can do is to follow the tradition of Christ, to come, to humbly repent of our sins, to take up our cross daily and to walk as children of God and heirs of the Heavenly Kingdom.

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.



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.

NEXT WEEKEND

Roster: 19 / 20 January 2019

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Arlene Burton Faby Lobo	1 Liz Paricka 2 Mark Pereira 3 Pam Keenan 4 Paul Thambyah 5 Joseph J K 6 Rita D'Mello
8:00AM	Vinodh Stanley	Gregory Cheng Jo-anne Peters	Agnes Aldana Nora Gardner
10:00AM	Moussa El Bayeh	Leony Hamor Jonathan Ling	1 Connie Buttigieg 2 Danima Grace 3 Darryle Fernandes 4 Devonna Gonsalves 5 Felicity Donnelly 6 Felissa Tan

BAPTISM: Welcome to our newest Christian Lachlan Benjamin Wong, who will be baptised this Sunday 13 January at 10am Mass.

Parish Weekly Mass Offerings

Tuesday 15th January 2019 9:15am

Mass for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday 16th January 2019 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Atanacio Tumbali & Manuel R. Burgos, Jr.

Thursday 17th January 2019 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Hamama Younis, Raymond & Roza Sassine, Nigie eid, Ugenia Khatter, Shemounie Shehady & Soraya Sahady

Friday 18th January 2019 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Fr Jim Maloney & Margaret Hallam

Saturday 19th January 2019 9:15am

Recently deceased – Mercy Rebello

NOTE: Only one Mass offering is permitted per day.

Liturgy for this week (14 - 20 January 2019)

Sacraments:

Reconciliation: Saturdays 5:15pm-5.45pm

Devotions: Prayer for Priests: 8:45am every 1st Saturday

Morning Prayer: 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:

8:30am-9:15am every Friday

8:15am-9:15am every Saturday (with Benediction at 9.05am)

Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet - Wednesdays after AM Mass

Weekday Services this week:

9:15am - **Communion Service:** Monday

9:15am - **Weekday Mass:** Tuesday to Saturday

Weekend Masses:

6:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass

8:00am & 10:00am - Sunday Masses

January Church Cleaner Roster

Sarah Magsakay, Henna, Colleen MaGuire & Sue Lobo.

Linen: Ancy Joy (Weekly) Carolyn Thomas (End of month)

Vacuum: Justin Isaac

Church Cleaning, Altar Linen & Flowers

We always need more help. Contact Marie Bennett on 0447 830 551 to volunteer. Flowers cost about \$100 per week. Please consider donating to the Altar Society. Donation boxes are at the church doors.

Saint of the Week: Thu 17 St Antony, Abbot

St Bakhita's Day – Ethical Sourcing

Expo: 8 February St Mary's Cathedral

Ensure your business is prepared, informed and ready to take action to address forced labour, slavery and exploitation in supply chains. Executives from across the corporate/public sector are invited to attend. This Expo will bring together international best practice, modern slavery survivor testimony, local case studies and practical step-by-step guidance to support ethical sourcing practices as part of a robust procurement framework.

Event contact/RSVP: Alison Rahill, Anti-Slavery Taskforce, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney

E: alison.rahill@sydneycatholic.org M: 0439 482 290

Pro-Life Training: 16 February 2019

International speaker Brendan Malone will run a workshop on spreading the pro-life message with clarity and compassion during times of political upheaval. New abortion laws are expected in NSW parliament in 2019 which may look to grant abortion up to birth. Come and prepare to defend life. \$30 per head includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Saturday February 16, 9am to 5pm at St Paul of the Cross Parish, 532 New Canterbury Rd. Dulwich Hill. RSVP essential: www.trybooking.com/ZZAZ