



St Michael's Church - Meadowbank

The Parish Bulletin

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time C/1



Entrance Antiphon:

Ps 105: 47

**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:

Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19

'I have appointed you prophet to the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 70(71):1-6,15,17

**I will sing of your
salvation.**

2nd Reading:

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

The supremacy of charity.

Gospel Acclamation:

Luke 4:18

**Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring
Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!**

Gospel: *Luke 4:21-30*

No prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

Communion Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 30: 17-18

**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

Luke 4:21-30



Jesus began to speak in the synagogue: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'

But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."'

And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.'

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

Reflection from Fr James McCarthy

Being a Prophet is dangerous business

The central theme of today's readings is that we should have and show the courage of our Christian convictions in our day-to-day lives, especially when we face hatred, bullying and even rejection because of our Christian faith.

In both the first reading and the Gospel, Jeremiah and Jesus are presented as prophets who are chosen, consecrated and sent to their brothers and sisters as emissaries of the Word of God.

As Christians, we all share in the mission of Christ as a prophet and we are called to listen to the Word of God, to discern the will of God and to speak it courageously in our world.

The first reading tells us how God called Jeremiah to be His prophet and equipped him to face opposition and rejection. In his prophetic vocation, which he lived out while encountering rejection and persecution, Jeremiah was a prefigurement of Jesus, the greatest of all the prophets.

Today's Gospel is a continuation of last Sunday's gospel presenting the reaction of the people of Nazareth to the Inaugural homily of Jesus in the Synagogue in Nazareth. The Gospel shows us how quick the crowd were willing to change from astonishment at the gracious words of Jesus to becoming an enraged and



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

Parish Administrator: Fr James McCarthy
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Marilyn Vallejo (Thu-Fri)

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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 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 SUN 10am - Peter & Jenchris

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

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer -

Lou Temprosa

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.

**REFLECTIONCONTINUED**

murderous mob. Jesus spoke the truth boldly and faced criticism and rejection with prophetic courage, even to the point that the crowd were about to kill him.

Jeremiah, Jesus and St Paul (in the 2nd reading) all believed that they were commissioned and sent by God to proclaim a disturbing prophetic message to the world (Jer 1: 4-5, 17-19). No matter how strong the opposition was, all three had the conviction that God was with them, that God was guiding them and that God was their protector.

The story of Jesus' rejection in His own hometown is a story that almost anyone can identify with, because it is a story that has happened to almost every person at some stage in their lives. Perhaps we have experienced the pain of rejection, betrayal, abandonment, violated trust, neglect or abuse. What about rejection by those closest to us? Often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail to listen to us, refuse our advice, and reject the words of grace, love and correction that we offer to them because they are unable to see us as God's appointed instruments, the agents of God's healing and saving grace.

For many people, it can be very difficult to accept challenging, correcting or prophetic words, especially if the words come from someone who is not perfect and the other person knows the faults of the other. Humans prefer being told that we are right, but when someone suggests that we might be going in the wrong direction, it is often the case that we can become defensive or even totally reject the validity of the prophetic person.

Perhaps we ourselves are guilty of such rejection or guilty of not being open to accepting correction in a spirit of charity. God's power is always available to transform and to use even the most unlikely people, and that His power may come to us through the most unlikely of instruments.

Who are the prophetic messengers of God today, and how do we respond to prophetic voices in our community?

Plenary 2020 - Consultation in the Parish

What do you think God is asking of us as a Church in Meadowbank and the Catholic Church in Australia at this moment in history?

What questions do you have about the future of the Church in Australia to be considered by Church leaders in 2020?

Do you have a story of your experience of faith or an experience of the Church you would like to share?

There will be **parish listening sessions on Friday 22 February (10am to 11.30am in Multi-Purpose Room) and another session on Saturday 23 February (10am to 11.30am - in the Fr Bush Memorial Hall)**. All parishioners of every age are asked to pray about these questions and to attend one of these sessions if possible.

Pro-Life Training Day - 16 February - 9am to 5pm

International speaker Brendan Malone will run workshops 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. Come and prepare to defend life. \$30 per head includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Where: St Paul of the Cross Parish, 532 New Canterbury Rd. Dulwich Hill. RSVP essential: www.trybooking.com/ZZAZ

Download & Sync Parish Calendar - view and download from the Parish Website. It is updated on a daily basis. If you use a google calendar, it is easy to include the calendar in your own calendar by simply hitting the + button on the homepage: www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au

Collections Update from 27 January

Thank you for the generosity of all parishioners. Please note the new adjusted weekly targets in order to reach our budget.

1st Collection (assists clergy): \$1040

New 1st Collection weekly target to cover costs: \$1250

2nd Collection (parish costs): \$1602

New 2nd Collection weekly target to cover costs: \$2065

DIRECT TRANSFER GIVING

Please consider using a direct recurring automatic transfer for Sunday offerings. It is a safe, secure process that each person can easily setup via their own online banking to give to the parish on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis.

Parish First Collection Details: BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04292002; Account Name: St Michael's Pastoral Revenue

Parish Second Collection Details: BSB: 062 784; Account Number: 04295003; Account Name: St Michael's Church
Please use your envelope number (if you have one) as a reference for the transaction.

2019 Sacrament Dates

20 March - Parent Meeting for First Holy Communion (Parents of students in Year 3)

(Parents of students in Year 4 to Year 6)

22/23/29/30 June - First Holy Communion

25 August - Combined Confirmation for Northern Deanery at St Mary's Cathedral

3 September - Parent Meeting for Reconciliation Program (Parents of students in Year 2)

27-28 November - First Reconciliation.

Sacraments: Baptisms are scheduled throughout the year and arranged on various Sundays/Saturday evenings.

Weddings are by arrangement.

Please contact the office for more information or consult the parish website calendar.

St Bakhita's Day – Ethical Sourcing Seminar & Expo **9am to 1pm on 8 February at St Mary's Cathedral Hall,** **concluded with Mass with Archbishop Fisher at 1.10pm.**

New modern slavery legislation came into effect in NSW on 1 January 2019 and across Australia from 1 July 2019. The Modern Slavery Act requires businesses including faith-based organisations to report on efforts to address modern slavery in supply chains. This is a great opportunity to learn how to help your organisation comply with the reporting requirements of these new laws. Suppliers to the Catholic Church are encouraged to attend.

The Catholic Church has pledged to take action to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking from our world.

At the Ethical Sourcing Seminar and Expo on 8 February 2019 you will hear from Church, business and government about what can be done to combat slavery in our homes, workplaces and communities.

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

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

PULPIT POINTS 3-February

- Panama unites the world at WYD
- Framing the Covington kids
- SRE - Why we need to keep it
- Is this the real face of Jesus?
- Movie review: Mary Queen of Scots
- How you can live your Lent

MODERN SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Latest figures reveal more than 40 million people are living in modern slavery.
 - At least 15,000 people are living in modern slavery in Australia today
 - We should all be aware of the hidden crimes of modern slavery
 - Pope Francis describes modern slavery as 'an open wound on the body of Christ'
 - The Catholic Church is committed to fighting modern slavery on a global level, learn more here www.sydneycatholicantislavery.org
 - On Bakhita Day (8 February) we pray for survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery
 - February 8 is the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, a 20th century survivor of kidnapping and slavery
- To learn more, go to www.sydneycatholicantislavery.org



ABOUT SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

St Josephine Bakhita, also known as 'Mother Moretta' (our Black Mother) bore 144 physical scars throughout her life which were received after she was kidnapped in the African country of Sudan at the age of nine and sold into slavery. Such was the trauma experienced that she forgot her birth name and her kidnappers gave her the name Bakhita meaning 'fortunate'. She experienced many moral and physical

humiliations associated with slavery.

In 1882 her suffering was alleviated after she was purchased as a gift for the Italian Consul. With Italian families, she received kindness, respect, peace, joy, and eventually freedom.

A change in the family's circumstances meant that Josephine Bakhita was entrusted to the care of the Canossian Sisters of the Institute of the Catechumens in Venice. It was there that Bakhita came to know about God whom, 'she had experienced in her heart without knowing who He was' since she was a child. She was received into the Catholic Church in 1890, joining the sisters and making final profession in 1896.

The next fifty years of her life were spent witnessing to God's love through cooking, sewing, embroidery and attending to the door. When she was on door duty, she would gently lay her hands on the heads of the children who attended the nearby school and caress them. Her voice was pleasing to the little ones, comforting to the poor and suffering. Bakhita was a source of encouragement to many and her constant smile won people's hearts.

Surrounded by the sisters, she died on 8 February 1947 and was canonized a saint on 1 October 2000.

St Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of victims of modern day slavery and human trafficking.

NEXT WEEKEND

Roster: 9 / 10 February 2019

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Sue Metzmacher Sr M Barry	1 Paul Thambyah 2 Prescilla Luzon 3 Rita D'Mello 4 Robyn Meehan 5 Mark Pereira 6 Sunitha Victor
8:00AM	Vinodh Stanley	Agnes Aldana Chris Twomey	Mel Talisayon Marie Bennett
10:00AM	Joel Tabuso	Nelyn Gasataya Sean V Wyk	1 Gloria Divine 2 Joel Tabuso 3 Maureen Richardson 4 Celeste Villarente 5 Joan D'souza 6 Lala Tabuso



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 2nd February 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Maria Carmen Pili & Ildefonsa Ponce

Tuesday 5th February 8:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Constantino Tan

Wednesday 6th February 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Neville Gittany

Thursday 7th February 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Denis Joyce

Friday 8th February 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Antonio Tan

Saturday 9th February 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Kathleen Mary Hagley

NOTE: Only one Mass offering is permitted per day.

Liturgy for this week (4 - 10 February 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

8.15am: Tuesday Morning Mass

Note New Time on Tuesday for February

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

Weekend Masses:

6:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass

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

The Piety Stall will be open after all Masses this weekend. Happy New Year to you all.

CHURCH CLEANERS February 2019

Marie Bennett, Fadia Tohme, Amala Ambrose, Grace Wei, Christine Henderson

Linen: Vi Moussa **Vacuuming:** Richard Borges

Church Cleaning, Altar Linen & Flowers

Have you ever noticed how beautiful our sanctuary and church is arranged? We have a great team of helpers who arrange flowers, clean and vacuum the church on a weekly basis. 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.

Mowing Help Needed: The mowing team is in need of assistance. Two members have recently moved and we are short-handed. Mowing maintenance takes about 2-3 hours one day a month. If you can help contact Don Smith 0414 748 302

Request for prayers.

Robert Curness (Sue Metzmacher's brother in law) died in London on 29 January 2019 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. May he rest in peace.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Tue 5 Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

Wed 6 Saints Paul Miki and his Companions,

Fri 8 Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

Thank You to our Catechists.

As we celebrate Catechist Sunday this week, our congratulations and appreciation go to all our Catechists for volunteering their time and teaching students scripture in our state schools within our Parish area.

Thank you especially for:

5 years of service: Anto Selvi Ambrose, Sunitha Victor and Gemma Martin

10 years of service: Agnes Aldana and Rita Tohme

Consider becoming a Catechist

Ring Judith Orrock on 98742825 if you are interested. You will be trained in conducting a class, what to teach and provided all teaching materials to make you a successful catechist.

Are you new to the Parish?

Welcome. It is great to have you here. Please make our parish your home. Feel welcome to share experiences and ministries from your previous parish with our community. Please complete a parish registration & census form at the office. Consider volunteering and joining the parish planned giving.