



In Honour of the Angels

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The CONGREGATION of SAINT MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL (CSMA)

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St Michael the Archangel,
A Warrior for Today

Corpus Christi

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael
the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our safeguard
against the
wickedness and
snares of the devil;
may God rebuke
him, we humbly
pray and do you,
O Prince of the
Heavenly Host,
by the power of
God, cast into hell
Satan and all the evil
spirits who prowl
about the world
seeking the ruin of
souls.
Amen

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Dear Friends,
On the Feast Day of the Body and Blood of Christ, we commemorate the fact that redemption had its price, namely that Jesus Christ had to offer himself as a sacrifice for our sins. We all know how much pain is caused when we have a bodily injury or when we shed some of our blood. None of us would like to lose even a finger if we could help it. Yet Christ gave Himself totally to the Father for the sake of the human race and His total self-offering is what we celebrate. The Feast of Corpus Christi must therefore inspire and challenge us to ask ourselves to what extent we are generous in giving ourselves to others? When Christ said, *Do this in memory of me*, He was not only talking about the Eucharist but was also



saying, *As I have given myself to you, so you should give yourselves for each other.*

It is a well established tradition that parishes all over the world hold a public Eucharistic procession. Pope Benedict encouraged us to keep this tradition alive, explaining that: *We bring Christ, present under the sign of bread, onto the streets of our city. We entrust these streets, these homes, our daily life, to his goodness. May our streets be streets of Jesus! May our houses be homes for him and with him! May our life of every day be penetrated by his presence.* And then he urges us to: *Let us pray to our Holy Mother called by the dear Pope John Paul II, "Woman of the Eucharist" so that she may help us to open our entire being, always more, to Christ's presence; so that she may help us to follow him faithfully, day after day, on the streets of our life.* *Fr Janusz Bieniek CSMA*



Happy Birthday Fathers!

Both Fr Janusz and Fr Stan celebrated their birthdays during the month of May. They share their birthday month with some other very famous Fathers,
St John Paul II - 18th May
St Padre Pio - 25th May.
We wish both Frs Janusz and Stan many blessings and thank them for their holy ministry to us.



May, the Month of Mary



Mary, Mother of the Church
Memorial - Monday After Pentecost

Feast of Mary, Mother of the Church

In his letter to all parishes of the Sydney Archdioceses, Fr Don Richardson, the Director of the Liturgy Office advised that Pope Francis has introduced a new liturgical celebration of "The Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of the Church" to be celebrated through the Church annually on the Monday after Pentecost with the rank of an obligatory Memorial. This celebration has already

been in the particular calendar of some countries for some time, and there is a Votive Mass of Mary, Mother of the Church in the Roman Missal. This year we celebrated it on Monday 21st May.

Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians

In the introduction to the feast we read: *The Virgin Mary has often been involved in times of religious strife under the title of Help of Christians. In thanksgiving for the release of Pope Pius VII from captivity in 1814, the feast was established the following year on the anniversary of his restoration. The first Australian provincial synod held in Sydney in 1844 placed the Church in Australia under Mary's patronage invoked by the title Help of Christians.*

The solemn feast is an occasion to seek Mary's help and protection for our Church and nation. (Daily Mass book, 2018).

In 2013, the newly established, Michaelite Australian/PNG Pacific Vice Province chose Our Lady Help of Christians as our Patroness and we celebrate this feast annually. This year, Fr Anthony Casamento, the local Superior of CSMA Community in Australia sent the following note to all the confreres:

We celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia and Patroness of our Vice Province in the Congregation. As we celebrate this feast, let us entrust our ministry to the care of Our Blessed Mother so that we may continue to make Jesus Christ known and loved in our communities and our world.

Prayer to Mary, Help of Christians by St. John Bosco

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christians, how sweet it is to come to your feet imploring your perpetual help. If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children, how can you, the most loving of all mothers forget me? Grant then to me, I implore you, your perpetual help in all my necessities, in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations. I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering. Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners. Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life. Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians, that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven. Amen.

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

The Blessed Virgin Mary is venerated under this title following apparitions to three shepherd children: Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco in Portugal in 1917. The message of Fatima includes the call to conversion, repentance from sin and a dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary especially through praying the Rosary, and works of penance. On October 13: "I have come to exult the faithful to change their lives, to avoid grieving our Lord by sin, to pray the Rosary." In our Michaelite parishes we recite the Rosary everyday after week day Mass. We invite everyone to join in.



Hurstville Parish thanks Sisters of Charity

The Sisters of Charity have been present in the parish since 1885. Their long history spans over many decades of involvement in parish life pastoral care, liturgies and especially education, teaching in the primary schools and Bethany College. So it was with great sadness that we bid farewell to the last two remaining Srs Ellen and Edith who moved to their retirement place in Auburn. A Mass followed by rosary and supper was held on Saturday 5th May. Thank you Sisters and God bless.



Chronicles

ALPHA at Holy Spirit North Ryde

Driving in the cold, pre-dawn darkness from Sydney to Gosford, I wondered what I was getting myself into having said that I would attend a training session on Alpha before running the program at Holy Spirit

parish. I knew of its proven success and its transformative powers. BUT, will it work at Holy Spirit North Ryde Catholic Church? And how can a solo parishioner engage a whole parish? I need not have worried because after the training session I was so moved by the Holy Spirit and potential transformation for everyone that I texted our parish priest and told him 'WE HAVE TO DO THIS!'. Fast-track 12 months on, and Holy Spirit North Ryde parish has run 2 Alpha programs almost back to back with weekly attendance of about 35- 45 guests over an 11-week program, asking the basic questions about life and faith. The sessions were not bible classes. They were conversations where there was no question too simple or too hostile – an exploration by those who were not Christians wishing to check things out about Christianity but without being bombarded by the Bible, and those who are Christians who just wish to seek further clarity about their faith. The feedback from guests was that they were richer in faith after Alpha and have more courage to be witnesses and disciples of Christ. There was the added bonus of making new friends and putting a name to a face. There was a feeling of a closer relationship between parishioners who were able to have a meal together and enjoy each other's company. The aim for the parish is to extend the invitation to guests who are not from the parish and spread the Good News further afield. The program would not have been successful had it not been for all the volunteers – 'Intentional Disciples', who committed to the 11-weeks to help with administration, catering, logistics, group discussion leaders, being a welcoming presence and the support of our parish priest, Fr Stan Kluk. Alpha certainly answered the question – Is there more to life than this? - for our many guests. Will it for you? Come & see! We would love to see you at our next Alpha!

Pearl Forrester

Alpha Retreat at Grose Vale

Participants in the Alpha program enjoyed a 2 day Retreat at Benedict XVI Retreat Centre in Grose Vale on the weekend of March 17/18 2018. The weekend was spent exploring the gifts of the Holy Spirit, having many conversations over meals, a fun trivia and movie night, bush walks and some quiet, reflective time. We were joined by our Parish Priest, Fr Stan Kluk who said Mass for us and provided some insightful spiritual



North Ryde Alpha group on retreat

teachings on being a witness to our faith. The Retreat Centre is quietly secluded and set in a tranquil setting near Richmond with comfortable accommodation and hearty meals. Plus the beautiful chapel is the perfect place to reflect and spend time with God. Many thanks to Pearl Forrester our host and her team who organised the event, and the Managers of the centre who ensured all was well with our stay.

Caterina Raccosta

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

In April this year 30 pilgrims from Terrigal travelled with their parish priest, Fr Jacek Kokosa to the Holy Land. This was a wonderful experience – one that I know will never leave us. Among our highlights was standing at the place where the Holy Family lived in Nazareth, having an opportunity to hear Mass along the shores of the Sea of Galilee and at the site of our Lord's Baptism on the bank of the River Jordan. To see where our Saviour was born, lived, preached, died and then ascended into heaven was a privilege and at times overwhelming for us. Now in every scripture reading, where the places we visited are mentioned, the readings come alive in a whole new way. We also had fun floating in the dead sea, swimming in the sea of Galilee and dancing on a boat on the Galilee. The Galilee area had a charm and a peace where the spirit of Jesus was felt. Personally, I felt a sadness when we left there. Fr Jacek is leading another pilgrimage in May 2019 where we will spend more time in Israel to enjoy the Holy Places. If interested please contact Fr Jacek 0402763101 or Terrigal Parish 02 43674610

Janette Merritt



Terrigal pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Knights of St Michael the Archangel



This is a lay Catholic Religious Movement whose members under the banner of St Michael are set on a mission to proclaim the victory of Christ over Satan, to obtain the conversion of sinners and to expiate for the sins of humankind.

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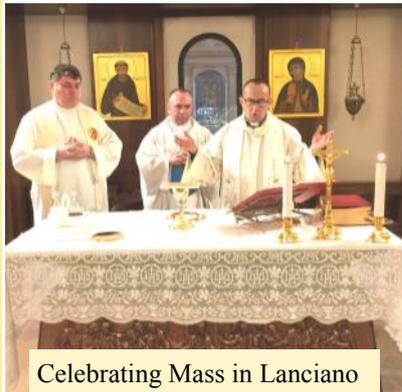


Council of Michaelite Major Superiors

On Sunday 15th April 2018 Frs Stan Kluk and Dominik Karnas travelled to Rome to attend the CSMA Conference for Provincials, Vice Provinces and delegatures that occurs every 2 years. This year the Conference was held in the town of Monte'Sant Angelo, in the region of Gargano Italy, where the Michaelites are the pastoral custodians of the ancient shrine of St Michael the Archangel. All Provincials from every CSMA Province were present at the conference, coming from: Canada, Paraguay, Australia, Germany/Austria, Switzerland, including the CSMA Superior General from Poland, his Vice and Treasurer. All presented a report on the works in their Provinces and shared experiences. There were discussions about the charism of the CSMA, their role in the Church today, how to improve on their ministries, new ways to evangelise and



CSMA Provincials in Monte'Sant Angelo



Celebrating Mass in Lanciano



Congratulations Fr. Stan
25 years

spread devotion to St Michael. There were also discussions on how to celebrate the 100 years Anniversary of CSMA that is coming up in 2020. A program was presented of events that would take place in Poland for the Anniversary, with the hope that a representation of people from all the different CSMA provinces would attend and celebrate the Jubilee year. The Conference continued for the week and on Friday 20th April, after morning prayers, the group left Monte Sant'Angelo and travelled to Rome, on the way stopping in Lanciano. This town is famous for a Eucharistic miracle, where the Body of Christ bled in the hands of a priest as he said Mass. Here, in this shrine, Fr Stan together with Fr Waclaw Chudy from Canada celebrated their 25th Anniversary of Ordination with the Superior General, Fr Dariusz Wilk as the main celebrant. Later that evening the group arrived in Castel Sant'Elia, near Rome, another ancient shrine



Frs Dominik and Stan meet up with Fr Anthony in Rome.

under the pastoral care of the CSMA Fathers. The following evening, Saturday 21st April, they attended the ordination of a local deacon and later celebrations were held in the beautiful gardens of the Monastery, a fitting way to end the CSMA Conference. Frs Stan and Dominik spent the last few days visiting some of the sites in Rome, visiting the CSMA parish in Octavia and even catching up with Fr Anthony Casamento.

Caterina Raccosta

Divine Mercy Devotions

Some parishioners from Hurstville made a promise on the feast of Divine Mercy to have regular monthly devotions (4th Saturday) and this was held for the first time on 26th May. Fr Janusz presided and Fr Bogdan Skupien shared his reflections. Music was provided by Gonzaga Family Band with a group of parishioners attending.

