

The fourth Sunday of Lent is rather unique; like the third Sunday of Advent ("Gaudete Sunday"), the fourth Sunday of Lent is a break in an otherwise penitential season. The vestments for this day will be rose, as they are on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, and flowers may adorn the Altar. This day is called "Laetare Sunday" (also "Rose Sunday" ), and takes its name from the opening words of the Mass, the Introit's "Laetare, Jerusalem":

In the 4thC. John Chrysostom(golden mouth) denounced fasting without charity. " I speak not of such a fast as most persons keep, but of real fasting; not merely abstinence from meats, but from sins as well. for the honour of fasting consists not in abstinence from food, but in withdrawing from sinful practices, since he who limits his fasting only to abstinence from meats is one who especially disparages fasting. Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works? By what kinds of works? If you see a poor man, take pity on him. if you see an enemy, be reconciled with him. If you see a friend gaining honour, do not be jealous of him. if you see a beautiful woman pass her by, and let not only the mouth fast, but also the eye and the ear and the feet and the hands and all members of your bodies. The fasting of the ear consists in refusing to receive evil speakings and calumnies. Let the mouth also fast from disgraceful speeches and railings. For what does it profit if we abstain from fish and poultry and yet bite and devour the brothers and sisters. The evil speaker eats the flesh of his brother and bites the body of his neighbour. And so I desire to fix three precepts in your mind so that you may accomplish them during the fast: to speak ill of no one for an enemy, and to expel from your mouth altogether the evil habit of swearing. So did St. Peter Chrysologus,(golden worded) bishop of Ravenna in the 5thC. He preached: "The fasting man should realise what fasting is. If anyone wants God to perceive that he is hungry, he should himself take notice of the hungry. If he desires fatherly kindness, he should display it first. Closely associated with fasting has always been almsgiving.



The author of the letter according to James reminds us: What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? Whilst the Johannes tradition reminds us we cannot love God if we do not love our brethren: But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? And St. John Chrysostom expressed it: For almsgiving is **the mother of love**, of that love which is characteristic of Christianity, which is greater than all miracles. For what is required is that we give, not much or little, but not less than is in our power. Think about the widow who gave her whole living. But you in the midst of your plenty are more stingy than she. Let us not be careless for our own salvation, but apply ourselves to almsgiving." ( Excerpts from John Chrysostom and Peter Chrysologus 'writinas).

## St Michael's Catholic Church

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# 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013 (C)

## 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Joshua 5:9-12

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** Corinthians 5:17-21

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL:** St. Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

My son, you should rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES:**

Sat. Vigil: 5pm  
Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am  
Wed: 6pm  
Fri: 9:15am  
Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Apts)

**HOLY HOUR:** Wed: 5pm

**RECONCILIATION:**

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm  
Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

**BAPTISMS:**

Sundays 9:30am Mass

**BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &**

**WEDDINGS:**

By appointment

**ANOINTING MASS:**

Quarterly: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAT OF EACH MONTH :** 11am Mass  
in honour of Our Lady.

**PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:**

**70%** tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:**

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

Vigil 5:00 pm +Carolyn Johnson	
Sun 8:00 am Jenny & Peter Yong	Mon 7:30 am Despina (Debby)Hattis
9:30 am + Augustinus	Wed 6:00pm + May Ellsmore
5:00 pm for the Parishioners	Fri 9:15 am Darline (Birthday)

**OUR SICK:** Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Jenny & Peter Yong, Mollie Burgess, Alan Sargeant. and Josephine Helback ...

Still there is accommodation available in Foley Gardens. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 and you will be referred for further details to Mr Robert O'Shea, the manager.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to John Heaney (12<sup>th</sup>) and Darlene Tjahjadi (15<sup>th</sup>)

**Parish School News:** \*Family Mass: Sat 9<sup>th</sup>: Yr 1&2; Sat 16<sup>th</sup>: Kindy. \*Class Mass: Fri 15<sup>th</sup>: Yr 3; Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>: Yrs 1 & 2.



**IT'S OUR DAY!** Today (10<sup>th</sup> March), we celebrate **International Women's Day**. "The Australian theme for International Women's Day in 2013 is 'The Gender Agenda: Gaining Momentum'. It is a theme anchored in hope, both realised and for the future, for the wellbeing of the human family. While it's true that women and girls continue to encounter startling levels of injustice and violence on the basis of their gender, individuals, communities and nations are working together for change and we are succeeding!...(Chair of Council for Australian Catholic Women).

**An Afternoon for Couples Hoping to Conceive: Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> March** at CAEC (3<sup>rd</sup> Keating St, Lidcombe), from 2 to 5pm. For more info, please ring 9390 5283 or visit [www.lifemarriagefamily.org.au](http://www.lifemarriagefamily.org.au).

**The World Congress of Families 2013: 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May** at the Australian Technology Park Conference Centre, Sydney. For further info. please visit [wcf Sydney 2013.org.au](http://wcf Sydney 2013.org.au) or ring 8251 0045.

<b>This weekend: Vigil:</b> Volunteer (A)	F & G Hogan (R)	G Chin, M Wong (C)	G Guerrero (M)
<b>8:00am:</b> J Heaney (A)	V Meyer, R Wijaya (R)	M Alimario, G Gates(C)	P Low (M)
<b>9.30am:</b> Volunteer (A)	F Altarejos, C Altarejos (R)	M Tjokrowidjaja (C)	A Burton (M)
<b>5.00pm:</b> R Yang (A), Volunteers please		<b>Counters:</b> G Hage, V Hage	

<b>Next weekend: Vigil:</b> Volunteer (A)	B Purdon, T Bell (R)	F Doherty, G Hage (C)	G Guerrero (M)
<b>8:00am:</b> J Heaney (A)	S Budavari, F De Andrade (R)	P Chen, R Houghton (C)	P Low (M)
<b>9.30am:</b> Volunteer	I Lie, J Lie (R)	G Pulella (C)	A Burton (M)
<b>5.00pm:</b> R Yang (A), Volunteers please		<b>Counter:</b> G Hogan	

**Palm Sunday is on Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> March.** Please bring your own palms to be blessed and take home. If you have any palms for church, please bring them on Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> March to the presbytery. Thank you.



**HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME:**

**PENITENTIAL DAY (Sacrament of Reconciliation): Wed 27<sup>th</sup> March**

1pm to 6pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	5:15pm to 5:45pm: Individual Confessions
1:30pm to 3:30pm: Individual Confessions	6:00pm to 6:30pm: Mass
3:00pm to 6:00pm: Devotions to the Sacred Heart, Adoration & Benediction.	6:30pm to 8:30pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6:30pm to 8:30pm: Individual Confessions

**HOLY THURSDAY (28<sup>th</sup> March): Individual Confessions: 6:15-6:45pm &**

**7:45-8:15pm; Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7pm;**

**Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist until 9pm.**

*Please note: On this day, there will be no Morning Mass. Chrism Mass will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral at 10:30am. Holy oils will be blessed and distributed to all Parishes in the Archdiocese.*

**GOOD FRIDAY (29<sup>th</sup> March): Morning Prayers: 9:30am;**

**Stations of the Cross – 10am\*or 7pm\* Individual Confessions: 10:45am-11:45am & 4-5pm;**

**Good Friday Ceremonies: 3pm\***

\*Holy Land Appeal

**EASTER SATURDAY (30<sup>th</sup> March): Morning Prayers: 9:30am;**

**Blessing of Easter Meal: 10:30am; Individual Confessions: 5:45pm-6:45pm; Easter**

**Vigil Mass: 7pm.** (Liturgies: Fire, Wood and Eucharist). (Newly blessed Holy water will be available for parishioners to take home.

**EASTER SUNDAY (31<sup>st</sup> March): Mass times: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm.**

**EASTER MONDAY (1st April): Mass @ 7:30am.**

**The Great Adventure:** Bible Study, 3rd Sundays of the month, 3:30pm presbytery. Next session: Sun 17<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

**Catholicism, The Journey with Fr. Robert E. Barron.** 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. at 3:30 pm presbytery. Next session: Sun 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

\*Temporary Positions vacant: **Family Educator:** Based in Parish School at Caringbah and Rockdale. For more details, visit [www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au](http://www.ceosyd.catholic.edu.au) and click on "employment".