

Jesus came to take on evil, in all its forms. He came to make things right. Now, he sends his disciples to be part of this same task. Scripture shows the dim beginnings of the Church – disciples working with Christ in the great enterprise of overcoming evil and transforming all creation into a new world. Their mission is clear. They know *what* they're sent to do. Now, *how* do they do it? If they're sent to overcome unclean spirits – evil – what's their battle plan . . . modus operandi ... strategy? That's what the rest of this Gospel passage is about, and it's a remarkable passage: "Take nothing for the journey but a walking stick. Take no food, no money." Where are the weapons? Where are the funds? Where is the power? That's not how the crusaders went out. They had helmets and swords and the power of kings behind them. That's not how the Emperor Constantine or the Emperor Charlemagne did it. They exercised their civil powers and used the might of law. But that's how Jesus did it. He took on evil by surrounding it with goodness, absorbing it, and dissolving it.



Instead of weapons he used words. Instead of fighting he forgave. Instead of killing he raised people to life. Instead of a military banner he used his own life as a sign. Instead of a battle cry, he cried his own tears. Instead of working crowds into a frenzy of hatred for the enemy, he fed them loaves and fishes. Instead of cutting off heads he washed feet. Instead of crossing swords he carried the cross. Jesus didn't beat up on evil. Jesus absorbed evil and dissolved it. And that's how his disciples were to do it. And that's how his disciples did it. We have the "battle report" in this Gospel passage: "So they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them." Oil! What kind of a weapon is oil? I'll tell you what kind. It's the oil of kindness. It's a sign and instrument of the tenderness of God. It's a symbol of Jesus' battle plan, modus operandi, strategy ... a symbol of the way of life he sent his disciples to live. Before Christianity was ever called Christianity it was called "the way." It's a different way of living. We need to keep that in mind. And we need to keep in mind that in just the same way Jesus sent his disciples, he sends us too. I'm not sure we think much about that. Imagine. Each of us as individuals, all of us as a Church are sent into the day in day out circumstances of our own lives to take on evil – to preach (mostly by example), heal, cure the sickness of sin, to absorb evil and dissolve it. By doing this, we participate in the work of the Lord in bringing about the reign of God ... when all evil will be overcome ... when all creation will reach its destiny. We're not spectators. We're disciples, participating in the Lord's own work. We commit ourselves to this every time we pray the Our Father: "Thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

St Michael's Catholic Church

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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 Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15–5:45p: Sat: 4:15–4:45pm;
 Sun 4:00–4:30pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS: By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

SUNDAY DEVOTIONS:

4:00 to 4:30pm

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

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



12th July 2015 (B)
15th Ordinary Sunday

1ST READING: Amos 7:12-15

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
 and grant us your salvation.

2ND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: St Mark 6:7-13

Internet resources:

"Zenit News"; "Catholic on Line";
 "Liturgical Year Calendar", "Spirit Daily",
 Children's web: Google, EWTNKIDS. "Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments, videos";
 "Catholic Answers", "Catholica"
www.vocationcentre.org.au

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 9:15am: Special Intention

Sat Vigil: †Bede Walsh

Sun 8am: †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera

Sun 9:30am: †Kath Osboldstone

Sun 5pm: Pro Populo

Tues: Special Intention

Fri: †Tomo & Mećelina Pedisic

OUR SICK: *Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Alan Sargeant, Southern Cross residents...*

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ALL PLANNED GIVING CONTRIBUTORS:

With effect from this new financial year 2015/2016, tax deductibility for Planned Giving will now be **80%**. Tax receipts for the last financial year and new Planned Giving boxes are now available for collection from Patricia in the church foyer. (Will Mr. Allan Tan please see Patricia re: your tax receipt).

Happy Birthdays to: Dorothy Giuliano (13th), Grace Guerrera (14th) and Enid Webster (15th)



Congratulations and God's blessings to Sister Betty Seeto on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee of her Religious Profession with The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart



Parish School News: 1) Welcome back to all our children, staff, catechists, parents and caregivers from their school holidays. Term 3 begins on Monday 13th July. 2) **Class Mass: Fri 17th July: Yr 1.** 3) **Grandparents' Mass: Fri 24th July;** 4) **Family Mass: Sat 18th July: Yr 6;** Sat 25th July: Yr 5. 5) **Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Sun 14th Sept.** For parish school children, please see your class teacher; for Daceyville Public School children, please see your Scripture teacher.

WYD2016 GRACEFEST will be held on **Fri 31st July from 7pm at St Joachim's Parish, Lidcombe.** Archbishop Anthony Fisher will give the catechesis on the WYD theme "Mercy". Stephen Kirk and the Graceband will lead the adoration and worship; testimonies and reconciliation throughout the evening. **ALL YOUNG ADULTS ARE WELCOME.**

Holy Cross Parish, Bondi Jct. requires a permanent part-time Housekeeper approx. 12hrs/wk. Please contact Fr. Don Richardson on 9389 3156 or please leave a message.

Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – Upstairs 1-bedroom unit is now open for inspection. Please call Joe de Andrade (Manager-Property) on 0438 696 396 or Patricia Low (Manager-Admin) on 9349 1292 for an appointment or for further details.

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) P Low, R Williams (R) F & G Hogan(C) Thomas W. (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) M Alimario, K Jayasiri (C) P Low (M)
9.30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) M Tjokrowidjaja, I Tjahjadi (C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** M Wells

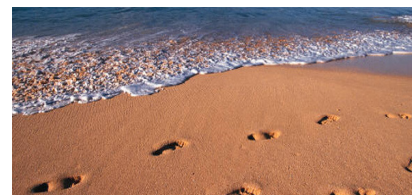
Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) J Spora, P Tjugito (R) F Doherty, C Lan Kam (C) Thomas W. (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) G Gates, M Wong (C) P Low (M)
9.30am: A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) C Goncalves, Volunteer (C) T Chin (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A) J Chandra, D Sarmiento (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris



What is the RCIA – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults?

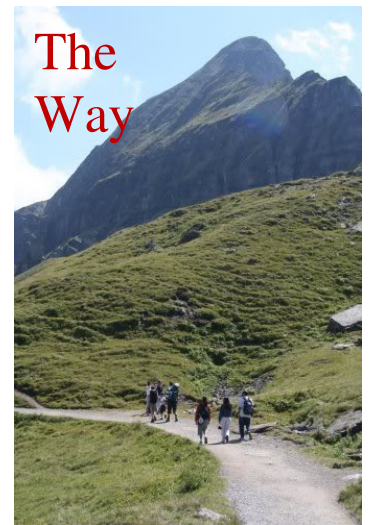
The RCIA is primarily intended for those who are unbaptised and preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. It is the inspiration and the structure of how a community ministers to someone who sets out on the path to adult initiation (and children of catechetical age) in the Catholic Church. There are four major periods in the initiation process, separated by various liturgical rituals, which express and celebrate what is occurring at each stage in the process. The four major periods in the initiation process

- ☒ Period of Evangelisation and Pre-Catechumenate - Rite of Acceptance Into The Order of Catechumens
- ☒ Period of Catechumenate - Rite of Election
- ☒ Period of Purification and Enlightenment - Celebration of The Sacraments at The Easter Vigil
- ☒ Period Of Mystagogy - Celebration with the Bishop at St Mary's Cathedral.



Five essential elements of an RCIA SPONSOR's role: Prayer, Witness, Hope, Believe in miracles, Practice love of neighbour.

RCIA Sponsors' meeting Wed 15th July at 6:30pm in the presbytery. Parishioners are invited to come to this meeting to be sponsors of catechumens and candidates to the Catholic faith and sacraments.



"Jesus Christ, with great love, taught unambiguously that from the beginning marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman. As Catholics, we follow our Lord and will continue to teach and to act according to this truth."

Saint of this week. Saint Bonaventure (good fortune), O.F.M. (1221 – 15 July 1274), was an Italian medieval scholastic theologian and philosopher. The seventh Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, he was also a Bishop of Albano. He was canonised on 14 April 1482 by Pope Sixtus IV and declared a Doctor of the Church in the year 1588 by Pope Sixtus V. He is known as the "Seraphic Doctor"(angelic). Many writings believed in the Middle Ages to be his are now collected under the name Pseudo-Bonaventura. Memorial on 15th July.

Sunday Marian devotions and confessions from 4pm – 4:30pm