



VATICAN CITY (CNS) Mohamad Bashar Arafat, a Syrian who has lived in the United States for more than 20 years, was visiting the Vatican and speaking to groups in Rome in early October, a guest of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, as part of the U.S. State Department's international speakers program. In an interview with Catholic News Service, Arafat



said he sees Pope Francis acting as all truly religious leaders should: reaching out with respect for the human person and open to dialogue. "From my perspective, Pope Francis is really doing a wonderful job in terms of outreach, in terms of contributing to world peace, in terms of contributing to stopping wars and conflicts, praying for better understanding," Arafat said. "This was the message of St. Francis (of) Assisi and this is the message of Ibn Arabi, the great Muslim scholar and theologian and poet, and this is the spirit of all the Muslim saints and Sufis around the world." "St. Francis resonates with the Muslim world," he said, particularly because he is credited as the first Catholic leader to dialogue with a Muslim leader; in the midst of the Crusades, St. Francis met with Egyptian Sultan Malik al-Kamil in 1219, hoping to bring peace. Just as in medieval times, Arafat said, the world today needs dialogue and an encounter between peoples, which Pope Francis is doing. Arafat, who runs religious and cultural training programs for foreign students visiting the United States as part of the State Department's Youth Exchange Study Program, said seminaries and programs that train priests and Muslim clerics need to be more serious and more systematic about preparing future religious leaders for dialogue and promoting respect. He said such education is particularly lacking on the Muslim side.



Year of Faith: As we conclude this Year of Faith that began on 11 Oct 2012, on the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Second Vatican Council, let us continue to pray for God's abundant blessing on us. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in their letter dated 16 Dec 2011 reminds us..."that we are a Church in need of healing. There are many wounds – most especially the wounds of abuse which have left not only those abused but the whole Church in need of healing. There is also the struggle to defend the dignity of the first Australians and those who come as migrants and refugees to our shores. We need to extend the hand of friendship to those of other nations and faiths and to be good stewards of the created world. Most deeply, we desire for the light of Christ to burn more brightly in the heart of each Australian...As we address this challenge to ourselves, we invite you to (continue) to walk this journey with us in hope. We commit ourselves to pray daily, seeking the mind and heart of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to repent for the areas in which we have failed, individually and together, seeking healing and renewal through the grace of Christ's forgiveness..."

St Michael's Catholic Church

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13th Oct 2013 (C)

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1ST READING: Kings 5:14-17

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

2ND READING: Paul 2:8-13

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! For all things give thanks to God, because this is what he expects of you in Christ Jesus. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but nothing shall be lacking to those who fear the Lord.

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: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% 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:

Sat Vigil: †John Eves

Sun 8am: Pro Populo

Sun 9:30am: †Mary, Margaret & Daphne Jones

Sun 5pm: †Pauline Broomhall

Mon 7:30am: †John Eves

MASS INTENTIONS – ALL SOULS (NOVEMBER)

Please note that from 1 Nov to 15 Nov, no individual Mass intentions will be offered. Instead Masses will be offered for the souls of all our dearly departed relatives and friends.

OUR SICK: Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Alan Sargeant. Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari, Norma Cook, and Jov Williams. Mercia McGreor. Moira Butler and Domenico Cirillo...

Accommodation still 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 Belated Birthday to Simon Pedisich (6th)

We welcome Niara and Nathan Bird and their family to his Baptism this Sunday at the 9:30am Mass.

Congratulations to Llewellyn David Mead and Elva Carmen Munzfeld who will be celebrating their Sacrament of Matrimony on Sat. 19 Oct. in our Parish.

The family of our late Victor Kozanecki wishes to thank all parishioners and friends who attended their father's Requiem Mass recently, for their kind thoughts and prayers.

★ **Parish School News:** 1) **Class Mass: Fri 18 Oct: Yr 3;** Fri 25 Oct: Yr; 5. 2) **Sacrament of Reconciliation: Parents Info. Evening: Thur 31 Oct at 6:30pm** in the school library. For children in our Parish School, please see your Class teacher. For children in Daceyville Public School, please see your Scripture teacher.

★ **Catholic Mission Appeal will be held next weekend of 19 / 20 Oct.** Please use the specially printed envelopes now available in the pews for your donations. Thank you.

★ **Catechists' News: Courses:** 1) "Catholics in History" conducted by Sarah Christie: Wed 16 & 23 Oct from 10am to 3pm; 2) **Accreditation Course (Basic Two):** 1, 8 & 15 Nov from 10am to 2pm. . 3) "Fathers of the Church" conducted by Sarah Christie: Thur 5 & 12 Dec from 10am to 2pm. All courses held at Polding Centre, Sydney. If you are interested in attending, please contact our Catechist Coordinator, Gennie Hage

★ **Parish Mission Board meeting** will be held next Wed. 16 Oct at 7pm in the presbytery.

This weekend: Vigil: Volunteer (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) M Wong, Volunteer (C) G Guerrero (M)
8:00am: J Heaney (A) T Trujillo, F De Andrade (R) V Meyer, Volunteer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) G Pullela (C) A Burton (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counter:** J De Andrade

Next weekend: Vigil: Volunteer (A) M Butler, V Hage (R) F & G Hogan (C) G Guerrero (M)
8:00am: J Heaney (A) A Brinck, J Rapusas (R) M Alimario, G Gates (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: Volunteer I Tjahjadi, D Tjahjadi (R) S Pedisich (C) A Burton (M)
5.00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counters:** G Hage, V Hage

On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis said that Christians should follow the example of the great saint by stripping themselves of a spirit of worldliness. "All of us must undress ourselves from this worldliness: the spirit contrary to the spirit of the beatitudes, the spirit contrary to the spirit of Jesus," he said Oct. 4 to a group of bishops and poor individuals gathered in Assisi. "When Francis, here, made this gesture of undressing, he was a young man: he didn't have strength. It was the power of God that drove him to do this," said the Pope, who spoke from the place where St. Francis is said to have disrobed in an act of solidarity with the poor and total reliance on God.

St. Francis' gesture was a visible reminder of Jesus own willingness to "undress" himself: "he became a servant, he wanted to be humbled." "And if we want to be Christians there is no other way," the Pope stated. "We must undress ourselves today from a very serious danger that threatens each person in the Church: the danger of worldliness." There are some who want to "make Christianity 'a little more human,' without the Cross," he noted. But that is a kind of "bakery Christianity" in which everything is beautiful and sweet like a cake. "That is not real Christianity," he underscored. True Christianity embraces the cross because it is the way of Christ. "Jesus himself said one can't serve two masters. Either serve God or serve money." "Money," the Pope said, indicates "the whole spirit of worldliness: money, vanity, pride, that path." Worldliness "leads us to vanity, arrogance, pride," he continued. "And that is an idol, it's not God." "It is truly ridiculous that a Christian, a true Christian...wants to go along the path of worldliness," the pontiff insisted. "It is a homicidal attitude. Spiritual worldliness kills. It kills the soul, it kills the person. It kills the Church." Christians cannot be unconcerned about those in the world who suffer in situations of poverty or other difficulties, the Pope emphasized. "The Christian adores Jesus, the Christian seeks Jesus, the Christian knows to recognize the wounds of Jesus" that are visible in those who suffer with illness and disabilities, Pope Francis went on.



Other Notices: ★ **Memorial Mass for Deceased Priests** will be held on **Tue 5 Nov at 12 noon** at the St Michael the Archangel Chapel, Rookwood Cemetery. Bishop Terence Brady will be the main celebrant. ★ **Quarterly Mass for the Deceased interred in Botany:** Next Mass will be on **Sat 9 Nov** in the Crematorium South Chapel at **11am**. ★ **A Concert of Classical Sacred Choral Music** (to be given by the consort Schola Nova) will be held on **Fri 15 Nov at 7:30pm** in 'The Cottage' of The Coast Centre, Pine Ave, Little Bay. For more details please see poster on noticeboard. (The Schola Nova is a recently formed choral group under the direction of Dr (Fr.) John de Luca). ★ **Oasis Day at Mary MacKillop Place** will be held on **Wed 16 Oct from 10:30am to 2:30pm**. For cost and details, phone 89124818. ★ **St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta Open Day on Sun 3 Nov.** For further details please see poster on noticeboard or visit www.stpatscathedral.com.au. ★ **NSW Right to Life Annual Conference AGM and Dinner** will be held on **Sat 19 Oct from 2pm** at North Ryde RSL Club. For costs and details, please ring 9299 8350. ★ **Catholic Faith Teaching in the Suburb:** You can learn more about your Catholic Faith in a suburb near you. **Tuesday nights from 15 Oct to 19 Nov**, Peter El Khouri will be presenting "Maronite History" at St Joseph's Maronite Catholic Church, Croydon. For more info and to enrol, visit www.caec.com.au or ring 9646 9010.