



**John the Baptist** was in prison because he preached the word of God, the truth about marriage and life-long fidelity to one's spouse. We can easily understand his question, "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?" Like John we too sometimes feel stuck between a rock and a hard place. Through no fault of our own we find ourselves in some difficulty or fix. And we wonder where is Jesus. And we too feel like sending messengers to him saying, "Are you the Messiah? Are you going to help me or will you leave me helpless?"

**Happy the man or woman** in prison who does not lose faith in Jesus. Happy the man or woman stuck between a rock and a hard place who does not lose faith in Jesus. Happy the one who does not lose faith in Jesus.

The following was found written on a cellar wall in Cologne after World War II, "I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I feel it not. I believe in God even when he is silent."

## **Evangelii Gaudium Francis the Pope The Joy of the Gospel** *Itinerary of the New Evangelisation*

**Inspiration for E.G.** comes from the joy and hope prevalent at the close of the Second Vatican Council in 1965 and its final document *Gaudium et Spes*. The document urges renewal of the Church's mission for social justice for the poor, the oppressed and all in need. Pope Francis challenges world of economics, globalisation and a missionary character of the People of God. Mission is twofold: that Gospel joy is a missionary joy and that people of God going forth on pilgrimage are evangelising community sharing joy, hopes, grief and anxiety of all.



**"Constantly born anew" with Jesus Christ.**



**Chemin Neuf** originated as a Roman Catholic community with a strong ecumenical vocation, including members of Anglican, Lutheran, Reformed, Evangelical, Baptist, Mennonite and Orthodox churches. It works for the renewal of the Church, for reconciliation and for the unity of Christians. (In France since 1973, in England 1993) Couples, families and celibates, men and women, have chosen the adventure of community life to follow Christ, poor and humble, in order to serve the Church and the world. There are over 1500 serving Community members in many churches in over 20 countries throughout the world.

## **St Michael's Catholic Church**

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# 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013 (A)

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY of ADVENT

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lord, come and save us.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** St James 5:7-10

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 11:2-11

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Say to the anxious: be strong and fear not, our God will come to save us.

### **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:**

**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 Ferguson

**Sun 5pm:** †Audrey Dannaher

**Sun 8am:** Pro Populo

**Sun 9:30am:** †Deceased members of the Campbell family.

**OUR SICK:** Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Alan Sargeant. Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari Joy Williams, Moira Butler, Domenico Cirillo and John Heaney...

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 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to: Moira Butler (15<sup>th</sup>)  
Happy Birthday to: Helen De La Motte (16<sup>th</sup>)

We welcome Salina Cam Van Truong and her family to her Baptism this Sunday at the 9:30am Mass.

As the school year ends next week, we wish all Staff, Catechists, children and their families a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Blessed New Year. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday and see you all back in the new school year.

\*St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal last weekend. Thank you for your generous donations. Total collected will be announced shortly.

\* CWF (Compulsory Appeal): Total donated: \$1,884.45; Church contribution: \$11,609.75.

\* Christmas Offering envelopes are now in the pews for your kind contributions. These envelopes goes to a Central Fund that attends to the needs of the priests of the Archdiocese. These include: sick priests, priests in special works, migrant chaplains and priests undertaking further studies. Some of these priests are often "out of sight, out of mind" but they do need to be supported. Please give them some thought especially at this time. Thank you.

\*\* Christmas Day Gathering: If you are on your own on Christmas Day, Fr. Jerzy cordially invites you to join him in the presbytery for a meal. For catering purposes, please let Fr. know of your attendance. \*\*

**This weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) F & G Hogan (R) S Kim, J Yong (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) M Alimario, G Gates (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) M Tjokrowidjaja (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counter:** J De Andrade

**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) M Wong, Volunteer (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** J Heaney, G Diab (A) Volunteer/F De Andrade (R) A Burke, Sr Betty (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) M Tjokrowidjaja, D Tjahjadi (R) Volunteer (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counter:** G Hogan

Time Magazine: Tribute and recognition to the Pontiff for his significant ongoing contributions to the Church and world especially at the level of moral ethics and social justice.



"My great thanks to Fr Jerzy, Patricia and my Parish friends for helping me celebrate my upcoming birthday with a huge surprise party last week in the Church Hall. It was a tremendous honour and something I shall never forget."  
Anne-Maria Slattery.

**Christmas Season Programme:**

- \* **Penitential Evening: Wed 18 Dec. from 5pm.** Devotions and Benediction. (Individual Confessions: 5:15 to 5:45pm). **6pm: Mass** followed by individual Confessions. The evening will end at 8:30pm with evening prayers and Benediction. (Priests from surrounding parishes have been invited to hear individual confessions from 6:30pm to 8pm.)
- \* **Christmas Eve: Tue 24 Dec: 6pm:** Family Mass
- \* **10:45pm:** Carols in Church \* **11pm:** Night Mass
- \* **Christmas Day: Wed 25 Dec:** Mass times: **8am, 9:30am & 5pm.**
- \* **New Year's Eve: Tue 31 Dec:** Thanksgiving Mass: **7:30am**
- \* **New Year's Day/Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God: Wed 1 Jan:** Thanksgiving Mass **8am**

*Christmas Eve Family Mass at 6pm: All children are invited to attend and come dressed as shepherds, angels, animals as depicted in the Nativity scene.*



Image from Dec 2012

'Lights of Christmas' – St Mary's Cathedral. The spectacular laser light story of Christmas is once again on at the Cathedral starting every night at 8:30pm until midnight right through to and including Christmas Day night. Everyone is welcome to this free public event in the Cathedral forecourt where there will also be different choirs performing from 7:30pm. Bring your family and friends and come and enjoy this year's theme "Lighting the World".



Image from Dec 2012

\* **Artes Christi Annual Carols Festival "Christmas in the City"** will be held on **Sun 22 Dec at 5pm** at St Peter's Catholic Church, 235 Devonshire St, Surry Hills. Entry by donation (\$10+) but bookings essential on 0422 442 189 or visit [www.christmasinthecity.org.au](http://www.christmasinthecity.org.au) for more details.