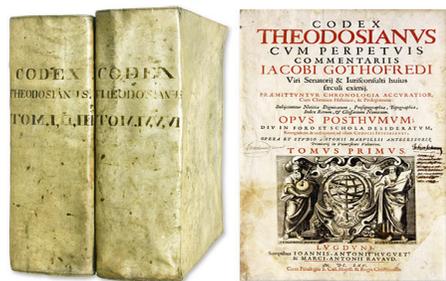
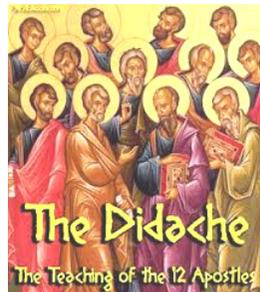


What Christians are fighting against today, then, is not yet another sexual innovation peculiar to our “enlightened age,” but the return to pre-Christian, pagan sexual morality. In ancient Rome homosexuality was just as widespread among the Romans as it was among the Greeks. The Romans had adopted the pederasty of the Greeks. There was nothing shameful about such sexual relations among Romans, if the boy was not freeborn. Slaves, both male and female, were considered property, and that included sexual property. But the Romans also extended homosexuality to adult men, even adult free men. And it is likely that this crossing of the line from child to adult, unfree to free—not homosexuality as such—was what affronted the more austere of the Roman moralists. History of homosexual marriage in ancient Rome gives a clearer understanding of what is at stake. As is the case today, it appears that the incidence of male-male marriage followed upon the widespread acceptance of homosexuality; that is, the practice of homosexuality led to the notion that, somehow, homosexual unions should share in the same status as heterosexual unions. The first-century A.D. catechetical manual, the *Didache*, makes refreshingly clear what pagans will have to give up, in regard to Roman sexuality, once they entered the Church. It begins with the ominous words, “There are two ways: one of life and one of death—and there is a great difference between the two ways.”

The pagan converts are then confronted with a list of commands. Some of which would have been quite familiar and reasonable to Romans, such as, “You will not murder” and, “You will not commit adultery” (although for Romans, abortion wasn’t murder, and a husband having sex with slaves or prostitutes was not considered adulterous). But then followed strange commands (at least to the Romans), “You will not corrupt boys”; “You will not have illicit sex”; “You will not murder offspring by means of abortion and you will not kill one having been born.” Against the norm in Rome, Christians must reject paedophilia, fornication and homosexuality, abortion, and infanticide. The list also commands, “You will not make potions” a prohibition against widespread practices in the Roman Empire which included potions that stopped conception or caused abortion. The Roman elevation of sexual pleasure above procreation, and hence outside this tightly-defined area of sexual legitimacy defined by Christianity, led to the desire for contraceptive potions, abortifacients, and infanticide. It also led to seeing marriage as nothing but an arena for sexual pleasure, which in turn allowed for an equivalency of heterosexual and homosexual marriage. The Theodosian Code, drawn up by Christian emperors in the fifth century, A.D. made same-sex marriage illegal (referring, as precedent, to edicts published under fourth-century emperors Constantius II and Constans). We can see, then, that Christians face nothing new in regard to the push for gay marriage. In fact, it is something quite old, and represents a return to the pagan views of sexuality that dominated the Roman Empire into which Christianity was born.



St Michael's Catholic Church

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 mob. 0438696396 or 93491292
 School principal: Mrs Allana Vedder,
www.stmdaceyville.catholic.edu.au;
 Ph. 93448512

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



19th July 2015 (B)
16th Ordinary Sunday

1ST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2ND READING: Ephesians 2:13-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

GOSPEL: St Mark 6:30-34

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 (18/07/15 to 24/07/15)

Sat 9:15am: †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera

Sat Vigil: †Edgar & Marie Busuttill

Sun 5pm: †Tomo & Meceline Pedisic

Sun 8am: Pro Populo

Mon: Special Intention

Sun 9:30am: †Carmela Cicciari & †Martha Ciani

Tue: †Thomas John Munro

OUR SICK: Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Alan Sargeant, Joseph Haggar and 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 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)

FINANCIAL REPORT OF TOTAL GIVINGS/APEALS 2014/2015:

- 1st Collection: \$635 average per week;
- 2nd Collection: \$365 average per week;
- SvDP Collections: \$2,289.30
- Project Compassion: \$3,490.80
- Priests' Retirement Foundation: \$2,138.05
- Holy Land Appeal: \$979.50
- Catholic Mission Appel: \$827.00
- Holy Father's Appeal: \$1,344.55
- CWF: \$32,105.00 (Parish portion & donations received from parishioners)

Mass for the Investiture of the Pallium of the Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP: All are welcome to attend this Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Sat 25th July at 10am. If you would like to attend, please see Patricia after Mass for tickets for seating arrangements.

Happy 51st Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood to Fr. Anthony Simari. (A combined celebration with Fr. Jerzy's 61st birthday will be planned for next month)

Happy Birthdays to: Natalie Bell, Henry Morris & Maria Ibanez (20th), Vanessa Low (21st).

Next CWF Appeal will be held on the 1st / 2nd August 2015.

Parish School News: 1) Grandparents' Mass: Fri 24th July; 2) Family Mass: Sat 25th July: Yr 5. 3) Sacrament of First Holy Communion: Sun 14th Sept. Parents' Info. Evening: Thur 6th Aug @ 6:30pm.

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) 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) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) F & G Hogan (R) G Hage, S Tjen (C) Thomas W. (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) G Guerrero, F De Andrade (R) A Burke, Volunteer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) M tjokrowidjaja, Delwin T (R) N Cook, K Wong(C) T Chin (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** M Wells

“Modernity has been marked by an excessive anthropocentrism...Often , what was handed on was a Promethean vision of mastery over the world, which gave impression that the protection of nature was something that only the fainthearted cared about. Instead, our “dominion” over the universe should be understood more properly in the sense of responsible stewardship”. (from Laudato Si by Pope Francis)



Parish Mission Board and Finance Committees are due for reviewing membership and recruiting new members by October this year.

Next annual combined meeting of PMB and FC Is on Monday 3rd August at 7:30pm.



Snapshots from last weekend



Sunday devotions (Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy, Litany to Our Lady) . 4pm –4:30pm

The striking things about today's Gospel passage is that we see Jesus dealing with an unplanned event. He and his disciples had planned a couple of quiet days together in a deserted place. They probably got food three or four days , put it in the boat, and happily sailed off. But when they arrive, a crowd is there waiting for them. It's like parents planning to go up north for a few days, and one of the youngsters gets sick . . . and you know the rest of the story. That set me thinking. I wonder what percentage of our lives is made up of unplanned events. To get a hold of this, let's start out by brainstorming the kinds of unplanned events that are common in people's lives. Let me hear from you some examples of the kinds of things that are unplanned in most people's lives.- Sickness. That's true. We don't sit down and plan to get sick.- Death. I read recently that about 50% of deaths are unexpected.- Automobile accidents. True. We don't sit down and say, "I think I'll get into a car accident next Tuesday.- Alcoholism. You don't hear someone say, "I'm going to grow up and be an alcoholic." It's not something anyone intends in advance.- Re-locating to another city. Most relocations are decided by the company you work for.- Pregnancies. Well, that can be. Actually, when you think about it, you and I didn't plan our own birth. We didn't plan to be born, or to be born at this time in the world's history, or in this place on the globe, or with the genetic make-up we have. We ourselves had no way of designing it or anticipating it. Our whole existence is, from our own point of view, an unplanned event.- Divorce: Of course. The divorce was not part of the marriage plans.- Some homilies! Well, I'd have to say that I've heard some homilies - and given some homilies - that sounded like they were unplanned.- Arguments. Sometimes you're in the middle of an argument and you wonder how it got started in the first place.- Theft. True enough. You don't plan to get robbed.- Losing something. You might plan to lose weight, but you don't plan to lose the car keys. Well, that gives us some ideas. All in all, what would you say - 25 per cent of our lives is made up of unplanned events? Or is it higher than that? I'm not sure. But there are a lot of them.