

Dear families, With this letter, I (Pope Francis) wish, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of "pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization". Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family. This important meeting will involve all the People of God – bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world – all of whom are actively participating in preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer. Such support on your part, dear families, is especially significant and more necessary than ever. This Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church. I ask you, therefore, to pray intensely to the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit may illumine the Synodal Fathers and guide them in their important task. As you know, this Extraordinary Assembly will be followed a year later by the Ordinary Assembly, which will also have the family as its theme. In that context, there will also be the World Meeting of Families due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015. May we all, then, pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel. I am writing this letter to you on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The evangelist Luke tells us that the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, in keeping with the Law of Moses, took the Baby Jesus to the temple to offer him to the Lord, and that an elderly man and woman, Simeon and Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, went to meet them and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah (cf. Lk 2:22-38). Simeon took him in his arms and thanked God that he had finally "seen" salvation. Anna, despite her advanced age, found new vigour and began to speak to everyone about the Baby. It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. He is the one who brings together and unites generations! He is the inexhaustible font of that love which overcomes every occasion of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments: meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support... Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life which sustains us on our journey. Dear families, your prayer for the Synod of Bishops will be a precious treasure which enriches the Church. I thank you, and I ask you to pray also for me, so that I may serve the People of God in truth and in love. May the protection of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph always accompany all of you and help you to walk united in love and in caring for one another. I willingly invoke on every family the blessing of the Lord. FRANCISCUS

## St Michael's Catholic Church

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**2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 (A)**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Isaiah 49:14-15

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Rest in God alone, my soul.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** Corinthians 4:1-5

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 6:24-34

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

I will sing to the Lord for his goodness to me, I will sing the name of the Lord, Most High.

### **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 (Hostel)

**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 9:15am:** †Peter Kim      **Sun 5pm:** †Charles Robinson (10<sup>th</sup> Anniv)  
**Sat Vigil:** †Deceased members of the McGregor family  
**Sun 8am:** †Antonio Cavaco      **Thu 7:30am:** †Oscar Mallion  
**Sun 9:30am:** †Mario Rogja

**OUR SICK:** *Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari, Joy Williams, Moira Butler, Domenico Cirillo, Marilia Amaro, Yolanda Pappalettera 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.**

**Parish School News:** 1) Class Mass: Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Mar: Yr 1; Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Mar: Kindy & Yr 6; 2) Family Mass: Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Mar: Stage 3 classes; Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Mar: Stage 2 classes.

**Other Notices:** ☛ **Catholic Youth Services** run various events for young adults like City Silence, Catholicism 101, Youth Camps and Music Ministry workshops. Visit [www.catholicyouthservices.org](http://www.catholicyouthservices.org) for more info. ☛ **Catalyst for Renewal Dinner with The Hon. Tim Fischer AC on Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Mar at Villa Maria Parish Hall, Hunters Hill from 7pm.** Ticketed event. For more info, visit [www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au](http://www.catalyst-for-renewal.com.au) or ring 9990 7003. ☛ **Day of Prayer and Discernment for Women – “My Grace is Sufficient for You” – Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Apr from 9:30am to 4pm at St Joseph’s Convent, 2 Missenden Rd, Camperdown.** For more info, ring 9557 2398 or email [stjoseph@rsmofalma.org](mailto:stjoseph@rsmofalma.org). ☛ **What is the state of your soil? Free Discernment Weekend for Men Exploring the Priesthood (3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> May) at Good Shepherd Seminary, Homebush.** For more info, ring Sr Anthony Mary on 9390 5970. ☛ **Discover Weekend for Women.** A self-knowledge weekend for young women (18-35) from 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar at Mt. Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, Mulgoa. For details, please email [juliebrcar@gmail.com](mailto:juliebrcar@gmail.com). ☛ **2014 Archdiocesan Rite of Election and Presentation of Baptised Candidates for Full Communion will be held next Sun (9<sup>th</sup> Mar) at 2pm at St Mary’s Cathedral.** All are welcome! ☛ **Breakthrough Workshop** for all couples going through periods where their relationships are strained. **Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar from 2-5pm at Luddenham.** For more details visit [www.smartloving.org](http://www.smartloving.org) or rina 9319 6280.

**History of Christianity**  
**Next Sun 9<sup>th</sup> March at**  
**3:30pm, Presbytery.**

**This weekend: Vigil:** J Haggart (A)      A Wojciechowski, T Haglund (R)      M Wong, Volunteer (C)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A)      Volunteer/F De Andrade (R)      O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C)      P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A)      Volunteers please (R)      G Pulella (C)      A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), Volunteers      **Counters:** J De Andrade, M Wells

**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Haggart (A)      F & G Hogan (R)      F Doherty, Volunteer (C)      Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A)      A Brinck, Volunteer (R)      Volunteery, G Gates (C)      P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A)      I Lie, J Lie (R)      S Pedisich (C)      A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), Volunteers please      **Counters:** G Hage, V Hage



Cardinal Pell said (after being appointed to Rome) he was deeply honoured by the appointment. “If we can get things in order within a couple of years it will be a substantial achievement of this papacy,” he said. “If we make better use of the resources entrusted to us we can improve our capacity to support the good works of the Church, particularly our works for the poor and disadvantaged.” (In the meantime, we welcome Bishop Peter Comensoli as the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Sydney).

## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

Mass Times: 9:15am (School Mass) and 7pm.

Holy Hour before the Mass from 6.00pm

On this day, we fast and observe abstinence from meat.

On Fridays - abstinence from meat.

ASH  
WEDNESDAY

**Stations of the Cross** will begin from Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Mar to Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Apr from 7pm.

**Lent lasts from Ash Wed to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper exclusive (7<sup>th</sup> Apr).** On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter Fast is observed.

**Lenten books (Walking the Way of Mercy and Simplicity)** will be available from the church foyer for your home groups. Please join the programme by forming groups of 3-10 people for only 6 weeks.

**Lenten groups:** Tuesday 8:15- 9:00am (in Church); Thursday 4:30pm (in Presbytery); Sunday 6:00pm (in Church).

There are myriad ways to promote a film these days, most notably through trailers, billboards, media junkets and talk-show appearances. Now "Noah" star Russell Crowe is trying to reach a higher power, beseeching Pope Francis on Twitter to watch his upcoming biblical adventure, which is based on the Noah's Ark story from the Book of Genesis. Addressing the pontiff as "Dear Holy Father," Crowe on Monday tweeted, "#Noah film. Screening? The message of the film is powerful , fascinating , resonant."



**Catechists’ Courses:** 1) **Accreditation Course (Intermediate)** will be held on 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> Mar, 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Apr (Fridays) at Polding Centre from 10am to 2pm. 2) **Catechist Ministry Certificate: “Call to Holiness”:** 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Mar (Wednesday) from 10a to 2pm at Polding Centre. *If attending, please contact Gennie, Catechist Co-Ordinator on 9663 3657.*