



Since Christ invited Doubting Thomas—for whom a vision of the resurrected Son of God was not enough—to put his hands into the visible wounds, Christian faith has engaged with all five senses of the body. Faith most obviously comes through hearing, as St. Paul first taught us. But in ways subtle and sublime it also is related to each of the four other senses, even the sense of smell and taste. Hearing from a personal God: Faith, as Scripture tells us, comes through hearing. But why? Why not reading, for example? The encyclical *Lumen Fidei* (written by Benedict XVI) points to the story of Abraham as an example. Abraham's encounter with God, Benedict notes, was marked by hearing a divine voice. This happened in his native city, his new home in the future promised land, and on the mountain where he took Isaac. While it may be lost on modern audiences, in the ancient world this encounter marked the God of the Israelites as a God of the person, rather than a god of place.

The human body has approximately one hundred million sensory receptors that enable us to see, hear, taste, touch, and smell. And that is a testament to our Divine Designer. We are wonderfully made. We have seven million cones that enable us to perceive about ten million different colours. Doesn't it seem like we owe God seven million thank-yous? Neurologists estimate that the average three-year old has one quadrillion synaptic connections. Honestly, those numbers numb us. But I think they reveal something significant. Our ability to imagine things in our mind is far greater than our ability to interpret physical reality. Mathematically speaking, imagination is ten million times more powerful than our five senses put together! Naturalism is living down to the limit of our one hundred million sensory receptors. It is the inability or unwillingness to perceive reality that is beyond our five senses. The end result? Our Universe shrinks to the size of our senses. Faith is living beyond our five senses. It is being certain of what we do not see. One dimension of faith is imagining what our five senses can't perceive or confirm. It is extra-sensory perception. And that is why faith often seems like it is out of touch with reality. But that is because it is ten million times more powerful than our senses! One of my favourite verses is Ephesians 3:20. It is actually our most-used benediction. **"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and throughout all generations for ever and ever, Amen."** God is able to do immeasurably more than we can imagine with our one quadrillion synapses. Amazing isn't it? Our imagination is ten million times more powerful than our five senses. But God is still able to do infinitely more than anything any of us can imagine with our one quadrillion synaptic connections. And to top it off, *no mind has conceived* of what God has prepared for us! (Mark Batterson)

Leading prayers for the safeguarding of creation, Pope Francis prayed that people would learn to contemplate God in the beauty of the universe, give thanks and protect all life. During an evening celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, the pope prayed that God would "enlighten the lords of power and money so they would not fall into indifference, but would love the common good, encourage the weak and care for the world in which we live."



## 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: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

### SUNDAY DEVOTIONS:

4:00 to 4:30pm

### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

80% 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

6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2015 (B)  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Isaiah 35:4-7

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Praise the Lord, my soul!

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: James 2:1-5

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: St Mark 7:31-37

### 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](http://www.vocationcentre.org.au)  
 GODGOSSIP

**MASS INTENTIONS (Sat 5/09/15 to Fri 11/09/15)**

**Sat Vigil:** †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera

**Sun 8am:** †Antonio Cavaco

**Sun 5pm:** Pro Populo

**Sun 9:30am:** †Deceased family & friends

**Tue:** †Special Intention

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

**Happy birthday to:** Rose Pisani (10<sup>th</sup>),

Our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to the family of the **late Joyce May Lynch**, our faithful parishioner and long-time resident of Southern Cross Nursing Home, Daceyville. Joyce passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> August and her funeral service was recently held in our Parish.

**ANointing MASSES: THIS WEEKEND: 5<sup>TH</sup> / 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPT.**

**WYD FUNDRAISER** held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept at Souths Junior: **TOTAL RAISED: \$787.20.** Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who contributed to this very worthy cause. Don't forget our next fundraiser will be the **FETE on SUN 20<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

WYD2016 Raffle: **3 tickets for \$10** on sale in the church foyer.

**PARISH / WYD2016 FETE: SUN 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPT:** Please offer your kind assistance in the following manner:

- 1) **Financial sponsors** for stalls to buy supplies, prizes etc.
- 2) **White elephant stall:** Any donation of 2<sup>nd</sup> hand items will be gratefully accepted. No clothes or books please. You may bring them to the presbytery or at weekend Masses.

**Parish School News:** 1) Class Mass: Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Sept: Yr 6. 2) Family Mass: Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Sept: KB

☛ **St Mary's Cathedral Scholars Fundraising Concert: Thur 10<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7pm IN THE Cathedral Crypt.** Tickets: \$30 adult/\$10 for students/children available from <http://www.trybooking.com/IWMD> or at the door. ☛ **Archdiocese of Sydney Smartphone App** now available for free-search "Archdiocese of Sydney" in the Google Play and App stores.

**Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – Upstairs one-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 Hagggar (A) F & G Hogan (R) G Hage, S Tjen (C) Thomas W. (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) P Chen, L Hart (C) P Low (M)  
**9.30am:** A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) S Pedisich, K Wong (C) A Burton (M)  
**5.00pm:** R Yang (A) J Chandra, D Sarmiento (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** G Hage, V Hage

**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Hagggar (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) M Butler, L Paquin (C) Thomas W. (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) A Burke, Volunteer (C) P Low (M)  
**9.30am:** A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) C Findlay, C Goncalves (C) T Chin (M)  
**5.00pm:** R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** G Hogan

This weekend, we are conducting the **Priests' Retirement Foundation** Appeal which supports our sick and retired priests by providing them with appropriate accommodation, health care and other practical support – basic but vital assistance they need to live in decent comfort upon retirement.

We owe much to our priests who have dedicated their lives to serving God and nourishing our faith, as well as contributing in many ways to the life of this community. **Supporting the Priests' Retirement Foundation is a practical way we can show our thanks** to these men who have given their lives in the service of others. *Please use the specially printed envelopes available in the pews for your donations.*

"Fathers play a unique and important role in the lives of their children. As mentor, protector, and provider, a father fundamentally influences the shape and direction of his child's character by giving love, care, discipline, and guidance. As we observe Father's Day, our nation honors fatherhood and urges fathers to commit themselves selflessly to the success and well-being of their children. And we reaffirm the importance of fathers in the lives of their children. Raising a child requires significant time, effort, and sacrifice; and it is one of the most hopeful and fulfilling experiences a man can ever know. A father can derive great joy from seeing his child grow from infancy to adulthood. As a child matures into independence and self reliance, the value of a parent's hard work, love, and commitment comes to fruition. Responsible fatherhood is important to a healthy and civil society. Numerous studies confirm that children whose fathers are present and involved in their lives are more likely to develop into prosperous and healthy adults. Children learn by example; and they need their father's presence as examples of virtue in their daily lives. A child's sense of security can be greatly enhanced by seeing his parents in a loving and faithful marriage." (Georg W. Bush)

**THE CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLAINED** at 10.45am on Sundays.  
 Video sessions: 1) **6<sup>th</sup> Sept: Divine Revelation Pt 2:** 30mins.  
 2) **27<sup>th</sup> Sept.:** The Bible and Story of Salvation: 67 mins.



**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

For all things you've lead ne through and taught me. And for promising me that you will never leave me. Through and through you've shown me the ropes. Helping me in anything and everything I face. Everyday you're there for me by simply calling your name. Rarely do I get to thank you enough. So on this special day, I do exactly that. Thank you for being my Father!



**THE APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER**  
**on Saturdays and Sundays**  
**4.00 – 4.20pm in the Church.**