



**The invaders** destroyed Jerusalem in 587 B.C.E., deporting many Jews to Babylon. Almost fifty years later, Cyrus the Persian defeated Babylon and decreed that exiles could return to their homelands. Many returned to Judah and Jerusalem, but some stayed behind among the pagans. These people became known as the Diaspora ("dispersion") Jews. Most remained faithful to their religion, but cut off from the single Temple, which was in distant Jerusalem and not yet rebuilt anyway, they became People of The Book. They nourished their faith on the teaching of God's word delivered by prophets, scribes, and priests, primarily in their synagogue gatherings. They continued to feel their kinship with Judah's Jews and express longing for Jerusalem and its Temple, but their writings are primarily about keeping the faith in a pagan milieu. The book we read today is named after Baruch, the secretary of the prophet Jeremiah who lived earlier in Jerusalem and in exile. But the book's contents convince us that it's a Diaspora document. This passage expresses Jews' loyalty to Jerusalem. It rehearses a prophecy that Baruch or Jeremiah might have delivered in that devastated city when exiles began to trickle home. Understanding the Details: The first paragraph has three images of Jerusalem "dressing up" for the return of the exiles. Be sure you know the meaning and pronunciation of "mitre." In last Sunday's passage, Jeremiah said the restored exiles would be known by the new name "The Lord is our justice perhaps better, 'our righteousness'". Baruch declares their new names will be "the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship." Baruch 5:7 shares with Isaiah 40:3f this startling image: Between the land of the Captivity and Jerusalem, the desert will be levelled, its mountains smoothed down and its valleys filled up, so the returning exiles can travel in ease. Isaiah's version is familiar to us from the gospel sayings of John the Baptist, and from the aria "Every Valley" in Handel's *Messiah*.

The three lines on the Baruch bulla read: "(Belonging) to Berekyahu, the son of Neriyaahu, the scribe." The suffix -yahu was a common epithet attached to names in Judah, meaning, "blessed of Jehovah." While translations sometimes render it "-iah" some texts drop it altogether. What is unique about this is the clear impression of a fingerprint on the upper left of the bulla. The article suggested this was the "fingerprint of Jeremiah's scribe." <sup>3</sup> While it is presumptuous to assume this is Baruch's fingerprint, at the very least discoveries such as this remind us that the people of the Bible were not imaginary figures from fairy tales, but real souls who served our God in the past.

In 1975 the first few pieces of 200 clay bullae were discovered in the shop of an antiquities dealer in East Jerusalem.<sup>1</sup> Bullae are lumps of clay which were attached to documents and impressed with a seal. From the shape of its Hebrew characters scholars date the collection to the 6th century BC, the time of Jeremiah. Within this collection are two bullae believed to have belonged to Baruch, and Jerahmeel.



## 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.

### APOSTOLATE OF PRAYER (SAT. &

### SUN): 4:00 to 4:25pm

### 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> Dec 2015 (C)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. of Advent

1<sup>ST</sup> READING: Baruch 5:1-9

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

2<sup>ND</sup> READING: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: St Luke 3:1-6

### **To follow on the internet :**

"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; American Thinker; tarsus.ie.

**MASS INTENTIONS (Sat 5/12/15 to Fri 11/12/15)**

**Sat Vigil:** For deceased parishioners

**Tue:** †Wilhelm & Teresa

**Sun 9:30am:** Thank You

**Wed:** Rose Houghton's birthday

**Sun 5pm:** Pro Populo

**OUR SICK:** Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Alan Sargeant, Pat De La Motte, Richard Swords, Barry Dunn and Southern Cross residents...

Happy Birthday to: Rose Houghton (9<sup>th</sup>)

**Anointing Masses** will be held this weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> December.

We welcome **Amelia Joan Long** and her family to her Baptism this Sunday.

**SVdP Christmas Appeal** this weekend. Please use the specially printed envelopes that will be available in the pews for your donations and place them on the collection plates. Thank you for sharing X'mas with the underprivileged by your kind donations to SVdP.

Thank you to all who donated to the recent **CFW Appeal**. Total donations collected: \$1,351.30. Our quota: \$12,400.

**Triple Celebrations** in the hall on **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. after the Thanksgiving Vigil Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.** (Please bring a plate to share):

- 1) El-Shaddai Prayer Group Christmas Get-together
- 2) Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day celebrations
- 3) Rose Houghton's birthday...

**Parish School News:** 1) Family Mass: **Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Dec: KB;** Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec: KH. 2) End of year Mass: **Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.** 3) Personalised engraved tiles are now available @ \$50 each for the Centenary Garden. For details and application forms, contact School office. Offer closes 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

**Calling All Children!** We welcome all children to come dressed as shepherds and angels for the Family Christmas Eve Mass at 6pm.

**CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES:** Thur 24<sup>th</sup> Dec: **6pm** (Family Mass); 11:30pm. Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Dec: **8am, 9:30am and 5pm.**

Thur 31<sup>st</sup> Dec: Thanksgiving Mass: **7:30am;** Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Jan: New Year's Day and Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: **7:30am.**

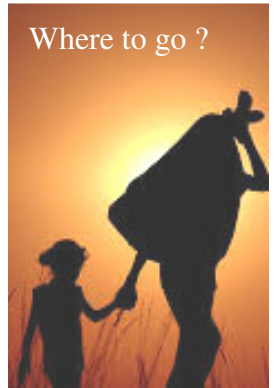
**Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – Upstairs one-bedroom unit is now open for inspection. Please call Joe de Andrade (Manager-Property) on 0438 696 396 or Patricia Low (Manager-Admin) on 9349 1292 for an appointment or for further details.**

**This weekend: Vigil:** N Sarmiento (A) F & G Hogan (R) G Hage, S Tjen (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab, J Hoang (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)  
**9.30am:** Anu V, Magdi Z(A) I Lie, J Lie (R) C Findlay, C Goncalves (C) A Burton (M)  
**5.00pm:** Volunteer (A) Volunteer (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

**Next weekend: Vigil:** N Sarmiento (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) M Butler, L Paquin (C) Thomas W (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab, J Hoang (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) Volunteer, J Yong (C) P Low (M)  
**9.30am:** Anu V, Magdi Z (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) N Jenner, L Jenner (C) T Chin (M)  
**5.00pm:** Volunteer (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** J De Andrade



On 9 September 2015, the Federal Government announced Australia's decision to welcome 12,000 Syrian refugees fleeing persecution in their home country. The Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher OP, has echoed Pope Francis in calling on all Catholics to respond generously to the official Archdiocese of Sydney appeal by providing whatever assistance they can.



Learn about Catholic Faith: Sunday at 11.00am to 12Noon (Presbytery). "The Messenger"



The Door of Mercy will be inaugurated at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on Sunday 13th December 2015 at 10.30am. Parishioners are warmly invited to attend and carry parish Banners. Gather in the grounds of Cathedral House, near St Mary's Road, before 10.30. After the beginning prayers, follow the Archbishop in procession on the footpath along College Street to the main doors of the Cathedral. When the Door of Mercy is opened, follow the Archbishop into the Cathedral for Mass. Parishes and communities of the Archdiocese are invited to send representatives to this important gathering of the Archdiocesan family. It would be very appropriate for parish representatives to carry Parish Banners during the procession to the cathedral, as many do during the annual "Walk With Christ" procession at Corpus Christi.

**PLANNING YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY ? FRI 18<sup>TH</sup> DEC. IN THE PARISH HALL FROM 6PM. BYO FOOD/DRINKS. DECORATE YOUR TABLE PLEASE. ALL.WELCOME!**

**Day of Spiritual Revival: WED 16<sup>th</sup> DEC. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 1 – 6pm (personal prayers and Confessions ). 6pm Holy Mass. After the Mass till 8.30pm Confessions and Evening Prayer.**

*I saw you at your lowest point; miserable, wallowing and pitiful, sorrowful and shamed. And I still love you. - God*

**"God's Word 2016" books: Individual books are now being sold at \$10 each in the piety stall.**