



Our God is coming. The time of exile - the long separation of humankind from God due to sin - is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy. Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile.

But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God - the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God. God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus towards the promised land (see [Exodus 23:20](#)). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see [Malachi 3:1, 23-24](#)). John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has done all this, not for humanity in the abstract, but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle. Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives, so that everything we do leads us to Him. Today, let us hear the beginning of the gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion. (Dr Scott Hahn)

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE — Pope Francis said last Sunday he is ready to go anywhere, anytime to meet with the head of the Russian Orthodox Church — even while acknowledging that he doubts the day will ever come that Catholic and Orthodox theologians will agree to end the 1,000-year schism. Francis spoke to reporters Sunday on route home from Turkey, where he made a remarkable gesture of deference to the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians by bowing down to receive his blessing. Francis also assured Turkey's Orthodox community that the Catholic Church wouldn't force the Orthodox to give up their patrimony on the path to unity. Asked about prospects of meeting with Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Francis said both wanted to meet. "I said I'll go wherever you want — you call me and I'll go. And he also has the same desire," Francis said... The Catholic and Orthodox churches split in 1054 over differences on the primacy of the papacy. The two churches have grown closer together in recent decades, but long-running tensions in Russia between Orthodox faithful and Catholics in Russia prevented Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI and before him St. John Paul II from achieving their long-sought dreams of a meeting with the Russian patriarch.



Today is a "Day of Prayer" for the Persecuted Christians of the Middle East and other places in the World. Today's "Leaving Collection" is requested to assist Catholics in the Middle East.

St Michael's Catholic Church

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 Deepen your faith-find answers on
 Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments.
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7th Dec. 2014 (B) 2nd Sunday of Advent

1ST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

2ND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-11

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 Mark 1:1-8

Please buy
The Catholic
Weekly and help
WYD 2016
pilgrims with 30
cents of each \$2.



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 – 5:45pm

Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

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.

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: Thanksgiving & Good Health **Tues:** †Bob & Betty Folwer
Sun 8am: Pro Populo **Wed:** †Norma & James Delprado
Sun 9:30am: †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera
Sun 5pm: Thanksgiving **Thur:** Special Intention
Mon: †Margaret Negri **Fri:** †Mary, Margaret & Daphne Jones

OUR SICK: Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Moira Butler, Alan Sargeant

Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – waiting list available. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 for further details.

ANOINTING MASSES will be held this weekend: 6 / 7 Dec.

We welcome **Leo Robert Burton** and his family to his Baptism this Sunday.

Congratulations to **Jeffrey Boateng and Stephanie Kapodistrias** who will be celebrating their Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in our Parish this Sunday at 1pm.

SVDP Christmas Appeal: this weekend. Please use the specially printed envelopes for your donations and put them on the collection plates. Thank you.

➡ **Parish School: 1) Family Mass: Sat 6th Dec: Yrs 5&6. 2) End of year Mass: Thur 11th Dec @ 9am.**

Christmas Season Programme

★ **Pre-Christmas (Penitential) Day: Sat 13th Dec**

(see opposite page for details)

★ **Christmas Eve: Wed 24th Dec:**

6pm: Family Mass 10:45pm: Carols followed by Mass at 11:00pm

★ **Christmas Day: Thur 25th Dec:**

Mass times: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

★ **New Year's Eve: Wed 31st Dec:**

5pm: Holy Hour 6pm: Thanksgiving Mass

★ **New Year's Day/Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God: Thu 1st Jan**
 Thanksgiving Mass: 7:30am

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) L Paquin, J Spora (R) G Hage, S Tjen (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) N & L Jenner(C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** G Haggar, M Wells

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) S Kirpalani, R Williams (R) M Wong, P Tjugito (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: G Diab (A) A Brinck, F De Andrade (R) Sr Betty, J Yong (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) M Tjokrowidjaja, I Tjahjadi (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Pre-Christmas Preparation Day – Sat 13th Dec.

10:30am: Procession
11:00am: Rosary, devotions and Confessions
12noon : Mass
12:45pm: Birthday lunch for Rose Houghton (in hall) Please bring a plate to share
2:00pm Video in hall; Confessions in church (to 4:45pm)
5:00pm: Vigil Mass



St Mary's Cathedral Programme:

☼ **Lights of Christmas** will be launched on **Tues 9th Dec.** and run through to and including Christmas Day night from 8:30pm to midnight. Hosed by the Archdiocese, the presenting partner this year is PAYCE and the theme is service – giving what we can to our family, friends and the community.
 ☼ **The Christmas Story – Catholic Students Art Exhibition** – open to all in the Crypt. Over 90 inspired artwork from Yrs 5 & 6. Mondays to Thursdays from 10am to 4pm.
 ☼ **Christmas Carol Service – Fri 19th Dec at 7:30pm.** The Cathedral's spectacular service of readings and Christmas Carols with the renowned St Mary's Cathedral Choir, in the presence of Archbishop Fisher.

Nearly 50 years after Vatican II's decree on **the Adaption and Renewal of Religious Life, Perfectae Caritatis**, Pope Francis convoked the Year with the aim of expressing the "beauty and preciousness of this unique form" of Christian discipleship. The Year for Consecrated Life begins Nov. 30, the first Sunday of Advent, and concludes Feb. 2, 2016. Through various initiatives in the coming months, Pope Francis told consecrated men and women in his message that their "shining witness of life will be as a lamp," placed where it can "give light and warmth to all of God's people." Pope Francis renewed his call made in a message to Superior Generals a year ago to "wake up the world," illuminating it with their "prophetic and counter-current witness!" Consecrated men and woman can respond to this invitation, first, by "being joyful!" the Pope said. "Show everyone that to follow Christ and to put His Gospel into practice fills your hearts with happiness!" This happiness should be contagious... leading people to seek the reason for this joy so that they can share in it. The Holy Father also told consecrated men and women to be "courageous," reminding them that "he who feels the Lord's love knows how to place full confidence in Him." Finally, Pope Francis called consecrated persons to be "deeply rooted in personal communion with God." "Show that universal fraternity is not a utopia, but Jesus' same dream for all humanity." The Holy Father "wanted to dedicate the year 2015 to consecrated, men and women of the whole Church," who have been called by the Lord "to a life [that is] closer to the God of Love, by means of evangelical councils of poverty, chastity, and obedience." Coinciding with the first Sunday of Advent, this Year for the Consecrated life, the cardinal continued, commences "in the sign of Christian hope because the Lord is faithful and, with his mercy, transforms our unfaithfulness."



Parish X'mas Party Sat 20 Dec

in the church grounds after the Vigil Mass.

Please bring your picnic blanket and baskets. Coffee/tea and sausage sizzle provided by the parish.