

While the journey of Advent continues, we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist calls us to conversion. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man. "And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behaviour in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity. Through the



Gospel John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear



words bring health to us, in these times in which

even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately reflects materialistic attitudes. The voice of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external wastelands, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ.

TAIPEI, Taiwan, December 2, 2013 About 200,000 people marched in front of Taiwan's Presidential Office on Saturday, according to organizers of the march. The crowd was protesting a proposed law that would allow same-sex couples to 'marry' and adopt "God created human beings as male and female. Only the union of a man and a woman can create the next generation, and the ability to create offspring is an important function of a family," said 40-year-old Ann Huang, who joined the rally with her friends, reported *Focus Taiwan*. The protesters, consisting mainly of families with their children, held signs that read "Made by Daddy and Mommy", "Defend Marriage", and "Oppose Amendment to Civil Code Article 972", the current law which holds that marriage is between a man and woman. The event was organized by The Coalition for the Happiness of Our Next Generation.



Pope Francis has asked for prayer for the Orthodox nuns of the convent of Santa Tecla, in Maaloula, in Syria who last week were forcibly abducted by armed men.

St Michael's Catholic Church

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 Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments.
 www.vocationcentre.org.au



8th Dec 2013 (A)

2ND SUNDAY of ADVENT

1ST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

2ND READING: Romans 15:4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Rise up, Jerusalem, stand on the heights, and see the joy that is coming to you from God.

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 Apts)

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: Pro Populo
Sun 8am: †Eugenio Biscotto
Sun 9:30am: †Aloysius Chong
Sun 5pm: †Wilhelm & Teresa

Mon 7:30am: †Luke Boekelman
Tues 7:30am: †Paul & Luigi Vaccarella
Thur 7:30am: †Catherine Marshall

OUR SICK: *Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Alan Sargeant. Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari Joy Williams, Moira Butler and Domenico Cirillo...*

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.

Happy Birthdays to: Heatherbelle Hazelton (7th) and Rose Houghton (9th)

★ **St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal** this weekend (7/8 Dec). Please use the specially printed envelopes in the pews for your donations. Thank you.

★ **Parish School News:** 1) **Family Mass:** Sat 7 Dec: Yrs 3 & 4. Sat 14 Dec: Yrs 5 & 6. 2) **End of Term Mass:** Mon 16 Dec. 3) **Last day of Term:** Wed 18 Dec.

Photos from last weekend celebrations



This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) Yrs 3-4 Parents(R) G Hage, Volunteer (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: J Heaney, G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) O Sarmiento, V Meyer (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) E Widjaja, H Widjaja (R) I Tjahjadi (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counter:** J De Andrade

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) Yrs 5-6 Parents(R) S Kim, J Yong (C) Thomas W (M)
8:00am: J Heaney, G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) M Alimario, G Gates (C) P Low (M)
9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) M Tjokrowidjaja (C) A Burton (M)
5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counter:** J De Andrade

Congratulations to our dear parishioner Anne Slattery on receiving her Outstanding Service Award from Botany Council for her 22 years of service in the City of Botany Bay. Anne served as a Councillor from 1990 to 2012. In retirement Anne continues her voluntary service to the community in many capacities. Above all, our very best wishes for her upcoming 70th birthday in the coming weeks...



Parish Christmas Party: Sat 14th Dec after the Sat Vigil Mass in the Parish Hall. BYO food and drinks. **PRIZES** will be awarded for:
 ☛ Best dressed table; ☛ Best dressed boy, girl, man, lady.
 Lucky door prizes galore!! Christmas concert featuring the Youth music ministry, St Michael's carollers, Alex Burton & family band...**ALL WELCOME!!**

Christmas Season Programme:

- ★ **Penitential Evening: Wed 18 Dec. from 5pm.** Devotions and Benediction. (Individual Confessions: 5:15 to 5:45pm). **6pm: Mass** followed by individual Sacrament of Reconciliation. The evening will end at 8:30pm with evening prayers and Benediction. (Priests from surrounding parishes have been invited to hear individual confessions.)
- ★ **Christmas Eve: Tue 24 Dec: 6pm:** Family Mass
- ★ **10:45pm:** Carols in Church ★ **11pm:** Night Mass
- ★ **Christmas Day: Wed 25 Dec:** Mass times: **8am, 9:30am & 5pm.**
- ★ **New Year's Eve: Tue 31 Dec:** Thanksgiving Mass: **7:30am**
- ★ **New Year's Day/Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God: Wed 1 Jan:** Thanksgiving Mass **8am**

Other Notices: ☛ **An evening of beautiful music,** readings and prayer presented by the Grail Singers on **Wed 11 Dec at 7:30pm** at St Mary MacKillop Chapel, North Sydney. ☛ **The Manhood Forum.** A new online community is available for Catholic men at www.beingcatholic.com.au/men_invite. A dynamic online community for single men, husbands, fathers and religious. The Manhood Forum is an exciting new initiative for any man that wants to deepen in faith, love of the Church and their vocation as men. ☛ **New raffle to support the Priests' Retirement Foundation.** 1st prize-2 tickets to attend the Canonisation of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII in late April 2014; 2nd & 3rd prizes: \$500 shopping vouchers each. To buy tickets online, visit www.prf.org.au or phone order to 1800 753 959.