

Francesco Zuccarelli invites us into the Transfiguration of Christ in his painting (front page). Present in the scene are the key characters of the Gospel story: Peter, the bearded elder whose symbolic keys rest on the grass in front of him, John the youngest in the middle of the Apostles, and James, arms thrown upward. Christ himself is luminous in the cloud, flanked by Moses to the left and Elijah to the right—symbols of the Law and the prophets. The figures tell the story through their expressive gestures. Peter is almost prostrate in adoration, James's arms are raised in praise, and John rests in a pious bow. Zuccarelli offer three versions here of what a person's natural response might be to such an amazing experience of the divine. Christ's own gesture is one of openness, embrace, and ascent. He is giving himself fully to his Father with luminous and serene expression. Moses and Elijah are the steadiest figures of the scene—figures of heavenly transcendence breaking in to our reality with an otherworldly centeredness and poise. As if to further emphasize the encounter between heaven and earth, Zuccarelli pays great attention to the natural landscape in which these figures are situated. The careful detail of the trees and plants, the rolling landscape, and the building and pastoral scene in the distance all communicate to the viewer the importance of the natural world as the context in which this manifestation of the divine has taken place. Surrounding the key figures of the story, there is a general sacramentality to the created world; this too is a part of communicating the presence of God. The most important element of this is the cloud—a common element of nature, which here becomes the vehicle that both reveals and conceals a glimpse of heaven. The cloud is heavy, with darker edges on the outside, and it lightens toward the centre. It has a dimensionality to it, as if its centre is a portal, an opening that invites us into an ever-brightening depth. Clouds normally reflect the light, but this one seems to generate its own—or it holds within itself a source of immense brightness, which tells us, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Bringing together heaven and earth, the Transfiguration is a comprehensive experience in which the divine voice addresses the human heart through all of its senses.

Ministries in need of a more new "blood":

- pastoral visitations
- letter dropping
- piano players
- drums players
- wardens
- readers
- Holy Com. Ministry – Catechists

Great appreciation for those who are in and joined recently these and other not listed ministries for their dedication and commitment.

Dear Parishioners thank you for your outstanding support of our Community through your prayers and financial contributions. Average weekly: 1st coll. \$ 810 and 2nd coll. \$180 Planned Giving \$ 750.

Lenten Groups:

1. in the Presbytery every Sunday at 3.30pm
2. Young Adults Lenten Group in the church after evening Sunday Mass 6.00pm

Stations of the Cross Friday at 7pm in Church.

St Michael's Catholic Church

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 Assisting Retired Priests:
 Fr. Anthony Simari & Fr. Peter Lynch



1st March 2015 (B)

2nd Sunday of Lent

1ST READING: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

2ND READING: Romans 8:31-34

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: St Mark 9:2-10

Internet resources:

"Zenit News"; "Catholic on Line";
 "Liturgical Year Calendar"
 Children's web: Google, EWTNKIDS
 Deepen your faith-find answers on
 "Tim Staples; Catholic Sacraments" videos;
www.vocationcentre.org.au

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:

Vigil: †Anne Hardy

Sun 8am: †Antonio Cavaco

Sun 9:30am: †Yolanda & Giuseppe Pappalettera

Sun 5pm: †Charles Robinson

Mon: Special Intention

Tues: †Isabella Rees

Wed: Richard Heffernan

OUR SICK: Marie and Edgar Busuttill, Pat Raby, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Moira Butler, Alan Sargeant, Henry Morris and Minerva Alimario...

Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – waiting list available now. For further details please call Joe de Andrade (Manager-Property) on 0438 696 396 or Patricia Low (Manager-Admin) Parish Office on 9349 1292

Happy Birthdays to: Natalie & Kristie Chandra (6th)

THE NEXT ANOINTING MASSES will be held on this weekend (28th Feb / 1st March).

We welcome Zara Eloise Lindley and her family to her Baptism this Sunday at the 9:30am Mass.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS: 1) Family Mass: Sat 21st Feb: Kindy & Buddy; Sat 28th Feb: Kindy & Buddy. **2) Class Mass:** Fri 27th Feb: Year 2; Fri 6th Mar: Year 4.

The Great Adventure: Bible Study, 3rd Sundays of the month, 3:30pm presbytery. Second session: 15th March.

Catholicism, The Journey with Fr. Robert E. Barron. 4th Sun. at 3:30 pm presbytery. Second session: 22nd March.

☛ **Quarterly Memorial Mass in Botany Cemetery** will be held on **Sat 14th March** at 11am at the South Chapel. All are welcome.

☛ **St Patrick's Feast Day Mass** will be held on **Tues 17th March at 10:30am** at St Mary's Cathedral.

☛ **Aquinas Academy:** Courses available. Visit www.aquinas-academy.com or ring 92474651.

☛ **Casual Youth Coordinator, Kensington Parish:** Ring 9663 1070 for more details.

☛ **Xt3 2015 Digital Lent Calendar and APP:** Visit www.xt3.com/lent or download the free App by searching for "xt3 Lent" in the Google Play or App store.

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) Volunteer, R Williams (R) M Wong, P Tjugito (C) Thomas W (M)

8:00am: G Diab (A) G Guerrero, F De Andrade (R) Sr Betty, J Yong (C) P Low (M)

9.30am: A Varghese (A) I Tjahjadi, Darlene T (R) J Lie, I Lie (C) A Burton (M)

5.00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteers (R) Volunteers (C) **Counter:** G Hogan

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) P Tjugito, P Low (R) S Kim, S Boen (C) Thomas W (M)

8:00am: G Diab (A) A Burke, Volunteer (R) M Alimario, K Jayasiri (C) P Low (M)

9.30am: A Varghese (A) H Evening, K Wong (R) M Tjokrowidjaja, I Tjahjadi(C) T Chin (M)

5.00pm: R Yang (A) Volunteers (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** V Hage, G Hage

On the Lent Season

Often we don't look forward to Lent. Childhood memories of giving up candy or sitting through weekly Stations of the Cross come immediately to mind. Words like "sacrifice," "discipline," and "self-denial" are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured rather than a time of grace and spiritual growth. Have you ever thought of Lent as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance, or do-over, to "return to God with our whole heart." We're highlighting Lenten practices and memories of people who have shared their stories with us. Their experiences range from pious and traditional to creative and out-of-the-ordinary, but all of them represent attempts to make the season of Lent a meaningful time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for themselves, their loved ones, and their communities. Invite family members to share their thoughts, hopes, and desires for



"As the waters of human knowledge lap at the shores of Eternal Being, our spirit is drawn into the Heavens to be returned to us in the life-giving rain of revelation."

Lunar New Year Celebration at Dacey Gardens, Kingsford, last Saturday 21 February.

After having served in capacity of Chancellor and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Sydney for 10 years Mgr. John Usher formally retired on 1st of March. He will be succeeded by Fr Dr Gerald Gleeson as the new Vicar General and Mr Chris Meney as the new Chancellor.



Fr. John Usher



Fr G. Gleeson



Mr C. Meney

Lent. Decide to support one another in whatever you choose to do. As you journey through this annual second chance, remember that each step brings you closer to the welcoming arms of our loving God.

Last Saturday evening Connie was baptised in the Southern Cross Apps. Two days later she passed away at the age of 94. The gift of a new life from God reached here hart at the very last moment of her journey. RIP

