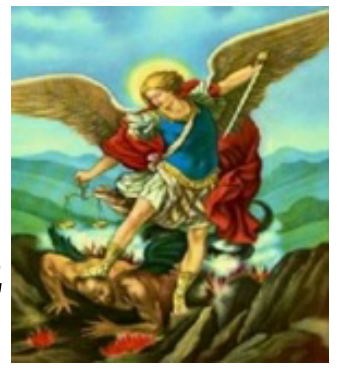




St Michael's Church - Meadowbank

The Parish Bulletin

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr B/2
2018: Celebrating 70 Years as a Parish

**Entrance Antiphon:**

Cf. Ps 26: 7, 9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

1st Reading:

Ezekiel 17:22-24

I will plant a shoot on the high mountain of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 91(92):2-3,13-16

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

2nd Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

We want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel: *Mark 4:26-34*

The kingdom of God is a mustard seed growing into the biggest shrub of all.

Communion Antiphon:

Ps 26: 4

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Gospel

Mark 4:26-34



Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

Reflection from Father James McCarthy

Have you ever considered God as a gardener? The Scriptures are full of stories about gardens, trees and plants. The Book of Genesis has God as a gardener who walked in the cool of the day when Adam and Eve were hiding after they sinned. There are images of gardens in the Old and the New Testaments, and even Mary Magdalene thought Jesus was the gardener on the day of resurrection.

The Prophet Ezekiel in our first reading gives us a few words from God about gardening. But because God is God, and this is prophecy and not Back Yard Blitz, it is probably about something more than gardening.

God says he is going to take a shoot from the top of a very tall tree, and plant that shoot on the top of a very high mountain. When it grows big and tall, it will be so big as to be a home in the mountains for all kinds of birds. And God says, "I can do this, because I can do anything."

While God can do anything, the first reading is a metaphor for us to listen and learn from. God is telling his people that he took one group of people out of all his creation and he planted them as a special people, in a high place for all to

Acknowledgement of the land

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Wallumattagal clan, part of the Dharug people of the Eoiria nation. We walk gently on the land, sharing it with them as we now work and live on it.

Parish Directory

Parish Administrator: Fr James McCarthy
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Please submit requests for publication by 12 noon Wednesday.

Acolytes: Arthur Lee

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Communion:

Sue Metzmacher

(Weekdays & Special Roster)

Felicity Donnelly (Vigils & Sundays)

Music Ministry

Coordinators for 6pm Saturday Masses:

1st Saturday - Richard Borges (Family Mass)

2nd Saturday - David Foong

3rd Saturday - Prescilla Luzon

4th Saturday - Aneela Pereira

Music Ministry - Sunday Masses:

1st & 3rd SUN 8am - Maree Twomey

2nd SUN 8am - Muntia Gouw

4th SUN 10 am - Muntia Gouw

1st SUN 10am - Peter & Jenchris

3rd, 5th SUN 10am - Mary Towers

2nd SUN 10am - David Foong

Children Liturgy - Elsa Manu

Sacramental Coordinators: Marisa

Squadrito & Liz Mulcare

Ushers/Collectors - Michael Wixted

Altar Society - Marie Bennett

Liturgy Committee - Sue Metzmacher

Finance Committee - Stephen Topple

St Vincent de Paul Society - Jim Lemcke

Catechists - Judith Orrock

St Michael's Primary School

School Principal - Brian Story

53 Maxim St, Meadowbank, NSW 2114

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Welcome to St Michael's Church - Meadowbank!

A warm welcome to all attendees and visitors to our church! May you find our parish community a place where your faith life will be nourished and you will take up the invitation to share your special gifts and talents. Your prayers, presence, talents and skills are most welcome.

**REFLECTIONCONTINUED**

see. The Chosen people were to grow in population and become a beacon of light through their good deeds and their love of God and love of neighbour. And then God says that through this people he had 'planted', all nations will be able to live in the shade of this vast tree of people. Through Ezekiel's prophecy, God is telling us that God's Chosen people will be welcoming to include everyone in the tree of life.

It shouldn't be a surprise for us that Jesus also talks about trees. Jesus uses a short series of parables about the kingdom of heaven. Jesus' first parable in our Gospel is about a clueless gardener who throws some seeds all over the place and then simply waits for the seeds to do their thing! He doesn't do much to the garden, but only seems to get up and go to bed each day without paying much attention to the garden.

Like the Gospel parable, a gardener doesn't have to do all that much when planting seeds, because God, in his wisdom has created the earth to know how to make the seeds grow, and the seeds (and especially weeds) do actually grow without all that much effort. At some point, the gardener only has to realize that it is time for harvest – the seeds have grown, borne fruit and done their thing. So the gardener goes in, picks the flowers, the veggies or the fruit, and reaps what God has set to grow and produce.

To increase the kingdom of God, we have to plant the seed, to talk to others or to preach the Word. If we do this, then we can rely on God's grace to allow the seed of faith to grow, flourish and produce fruit over and over again.

This parable may have been a warning to the Judean's that they weren't to fight Rome to get the kingdom of God established or to use arms to convert people. This parable may also have been a way to tell the apostles that they should not get too discouraged if it takes a long time for their preaching to bear fruit. All things eventually come good in God's good time, and sometimes, like the earth, we have periods of draughts, or floods, and periods of huge growth and periods of recession.

The second parable in our Gospel is about the tiny mustard seed. You plant this very tiny seed, and surprise! – it grows into a large bush, large enough for birds to build nests in and shade themselves. And the kingdom of God is just like this, Jesus says.

Like these parables about trees, the kingdom of God is a place for living, shade and rest. And all we have to do is plant just a little seed in people's hearts and minds, and then we let God's grace do the rest of the work.

2018 Holy Father's Appeal (June 30 and 1 July)

Our parish will hold the Annual Holy Father's Appeal in 2 weeks time. Your gift can help Pope Francis bring hope, opportunity and the spirit of Jesus to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world. Please give generously and use the appeal envelopes provided.

Download & Sync Parish Calendar. The parish calendar of activities is available for download from the Parish Website. It is updated on a daily basis. If you use a google calendar, it is very easy to include the calendar in your own calendar by simply hitting the + button located on the parish homepage: www.stmichaelsmeadowbank.org.au

St Michael's Playgroup

Every Thursday 9-11am in the Parish Hall
Children ages 0-5 welcome. Enter via the school gate on Hughes St.
Cost \$2 and a piece of fruit to share
Free play, sing song, story-time, art/craft and lots more!
For more information on either of the above, please contact Elsa Manu elsa.manu@syd.catholic.edu.au

Kindergarten 2019 Enrolments

Applications are now being accepted for students who intend to start Kindergarten next year at St Michael's Meadowbank Catholic Primary School. Enrolment packs can be collected from the school office on 9808 2658. Fr James and the Principal Mr Story have been conducting enrolment interviews throughout May/June for parents and students enrolling for 2019. Enrolment offers will be allocated at end of June. Please contact office asap if you are intending to enrol.

Extraordinary Ministers 2 Week Course

7th and 14 July from 9:15 – 12noon
St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 2A Charles St., Ryde
Contact Parish Office for registration forms.

A Course of Formation for Acolytes.

This course is primarily intended to prepare lay men to be instituted by the Archbishop into the ministry of Acolyte. This programme of formation will be led by Fr Don Richardson, who has had over 30 years experience as a server, acolyte, sacristan, master of ceremonies and priest at parish, cathedral and papal liturgies.

The course is conducted over three sessions. The venue and dates for the forthcoming course are as follows:

WHEN: Saturdays 4th, 11th & 18th August 2018, (9:00am-12:00pm). Registration from 8:30am

WHERE: Parish Centre. Ryde-Gladesville. 2A Charles Street, Ryde NSW 2112.

Contact the Parish office for registration forms.

Men Alive Weekend at Eastwood Parish - 30 June & 1 July

The menALIVE Men's Weekend is an opportunity for men to explore what makes them feel fully alive.

During the weekend, the menALIVE team will share about their lives, the challenges they face and the hope they have discovered in seeking to walk this journey with God.

Perhaps the most important thing the weekend offers is space for men to share and reflect with one another about themselves, their families and their lives. The experience of the weekend is powerful and dynamic and many men are inspired and encouraged with a new sense of purpose and mission.

The weekend is organised by men in the local community and conducted by an experienced team of menALIVE leaders. It is suitable for all men from 18 years of age.

PROGRAM DETAILS

*This is a day program - all events are held at St Kevin's Eastwood Parish Hall below the church**

SATURDAY 30 JUNE 2018 (8:45am to 9pm)

Lunch, BBQ Dinner, & Refreshments provided

SUNDAY 1 JULY 2018 (8.45am - 1.30pm) with Mass at 12.30pm

Go to www.menalive.org.au for more details. Cost is \$50

PULPIT POINTS 17-June

- ACT attacks Confession
- Australia Day honours
- Exclusion zone reaction
- Lewisham makeover
- Book review: Made for this

Confirmation Program

The sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated this year on Friday 21 September at 7pm for candidates in Year 6 and above.

PARENT FORMATION EVENING will occur on Tuesday 26 June at 7pm in the Hall. Candidate sessions occurring on Tuesday evenings throughout August.

Collections Update from 10 June

Thank you for the generosity of all parishioners.

1st Collection (to assist clergy): \$1264 (\$40 under target)

2nd Collection (parish costs): \$1600 (\$300 under budget)

The sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated this year at the following Masses:
Saturday 16 and 23 June at 6.00pm Mass
Sunday 17 and 24 June at 10.00am Mass
Congratulations to each of the candidates receiving Holy Communion for the first time this weekend.
Thank you to our sacramental coordinators and to all the parents and parishioners who have helped prepare for the First Holy Communion.

Meadowbank Parish 70th Anniversary

On 1 October 1948, Fr Bush was appointed as the first parish priest of St Michael's Meadowbank. To honour his memory and the 70 years of the parish, there will be an Anniversary Celebration on the Solemnity of St Michael the Archangel, the Parish Feast Day, on Saturday 29th September. Please keep the Saturday evening available in your diary for the 70th celebration dinner. Details to be available in the next few weeks.

Visit of the Relic of St Anthony of Padua to Toongabbie Church

Parishioners and friends of St Anthony are invited to join the celebrations culminating in the reception of the Holy Relic on Thursday 21 June and Masses and public veneration of the Relics on Friday 22 June.

See parish website: www.stanthonyschurch.org.au or phone 9631 3316 for full details of the Celebrations.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal NSW.

Invites you to a Formation Day with the inspired preacher Fr. Roni George of the Divine Retreat Centre, Somersby on 30 June, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Theme; "Three Major Weapons in His Vineyard". Venue; St. Joseph's Church Hall, Gordon St. Rozelle. Please register by June 27 at CCR Centre 9810 2499 or e-mail: email@ccrnsw.org.au.

Cost by donation. Lunch provided.

**NEXT
WEEKEND**

Roster: 23/ 24 June

Time	Acolyte	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
6:00PM Vigil	Jim Lemcke	Parents and First Communion Candidates	1 Sue Metzmacher 2 Sunitha Victor 3 Robyn Meehan 4 Rita D'Mello 5 David Doring 6 Joseph J K
8:00AM	Stephen Topple	Jo-anne Peters Maureen Fairbairn	Mel Talisayon Nora Gardner
10:00AM	John Fillion	Parents and First Communion Candidates	1 Connie Buttigieg 2 Celeste Villarente 3 Maureen Richardson 4 Darryle Fernandes 5 Felicity Donnelly 6 TBA

Liturgy for this week (18 - 24 June 2018)

Sacraments:

Reconciliation: Saturdays 5:15pm-5.45pm

Devotions: Prayer for Priests: 8:45am every 1st Saturday

Morning Prayer: 7:40AM every Sunday

Rosary: 8:50am on weekdays before the Mass (except Friday)
Friday before Mass : **Silent Prayer**

Holy Hour and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

8:15am-9:15am every Friday

8:15am-9:15am every Saturday (with Benediction at 9.05am)

Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet - Wednesdays after AM Mass

Weekday Services this week:

9:15am - **Communion Service:** Monday

9:15am - **Weekday Mass:** Tuesday to Saturday

Weekend Masses:

6:00pm - Saturday Vigil Mass

8:00am & 10:00am - Sunday (*Children's Liturgy at 10am Mass*)

The Piety Stall will be open after all Masses this weekend. Among the items on sale are First Communion cards and a variety of "First Communion keepsakes."

St Vincent de Paul.

Thank you to all those who have donated to the St Vincent de Paul WINTER APPEAL.

Receipts for taxation purposes will be issued for all donations. If you would still like to contribute, envelopes can be found at the doors of the Church.

Once again the Society thanks you for your generosity.

Church Cleaning, Altar Linen and Flowers

Join the Altar Society and keep our church fit for God. We are in need of more helpers in the Church to clean, do flowers and vacuum. More help needed. Contact Marie Bennett on 0447 830 551.



Prayer to St Michael the

Archangel. Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Parish Weekly Mass Offerings

Saturday 16th June 2018 9:15am

Thanksgiving Mass for all the Blessings received:
Vinodh, Danima & Hannah

Tuesday 19th June 2018 9:15am

Thanksgiving Mass for their Birthday:
Matthew Tan, Aidan Dy, Michelle & Ella Bautista

Wednesday 20th June 2018 9:15am

Remembrance Mass for Alia Moussa
& Tony Michael

Thursday 21st June 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Cedric Moussa,
Michael, Kannan, Moussa, Moses & Elias
Deceased Family Members

Friday 22nd June 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Philomina Paulraj

Saturday 23rd June 2018 9:15am

Mass of Remembrance for Sarkis Mawad

NOTE: ONLY ONE MASS OFFERING IS PERMITTED PER DAY

Saints of the Week

Tue 19 Saint Romuald, Abbot

Thu 21 Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

Fri 22 Saints John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs

• Saint Paulinus of Nola, Bishop

Sun 24 THE BIRTHDAY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Planned Giving Envelopes for 2018/2019 are now ready for pick-up at the back of the church.

Sacramental Programs 2018

All important sacramental program dates are available for download from the Parish Website. Dates are also included in the downloadable parish calendar.

Become a Catechist Now.

All Christians are called through our baptism to teach and help bring others to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. A rewarding and outreach activity is to become a Catechist by sharing your faith with children in our local public schools. Ring **Judith Orrock on 98742825** if you are interested. You will be trained in conducting a class, what to teach and provided all teaching materials to make you a successful catechist.

