PLEASE TAKE YOUR COPY OF THE GOOD NEWS HOME

St Michael's Parish Good News



PARISH SUPPORT CENTRE: 121-123 High Street, Berwick 3806 Ph: 9707 1355
WEB: www.stmichaelsparish.org.au **FACEBOOK:** fb.me/StMichaelsBerwick
Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9.00am - 4.30pm, Tue: 1.00pm - 4.30pm, Thurs: 9.00am - 12.00pm
St Michael's Catholic Parish acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Bunurong People.
We pay respect to all elders, past, present, and future, and we are committed to achieving Reconciliation.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Welcome to St Michael's Parish, where we foster the wellbeing and safety of all children and adults at risk. Since we take the safety of our young and vulnerable parishioners seriously, we have a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to abuse. All our parishioners have the right to feel safe and welcome at St Michael's Parish. Any concerns, please contact the Safeguarding Officer on 9707 1355 or secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B, 28/29 NOVEMBER 2026

COMING WEEK'S MASSES
Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 7.30am, 9.00am,
10.30am, 6.00pm

WEEKDAYS
Mon: 9.30am
Tue: 9.30am
Wed: 7.30am
9.30am
Thu-Fri: 9.30am
Sat: 10.00am
All preceded by the Rosary

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 8.30am - 9.45am
5.00pm - 5.45pm

PARISH PRIEST
Fr Confidence Masvosva
confidence.masvosva@cdsale.org.au

SECRETARY
Dorota Shields (Safeguarding Officer)
Geraldine Martin
Phone: 9707 1355
secretary@stmichaelsparish.org.au

PASTORAL/SACRAMENTAL TEAM

Pastoral Associate
Tara Bau
Phone: 9707 4072
associate@stmichaelsparish.org.au

Pastoral Team Member
Tina Nicholson

Sacrament Co-Ordinator
Diana Bernal
Phone: 9707 1355
Sacrament enquiries:
sacraments@stmichaelsparish.org.au

PRESBYTERY
119 High Street, Berwick
Phone: 9769 7430

PARISH INFORMATION

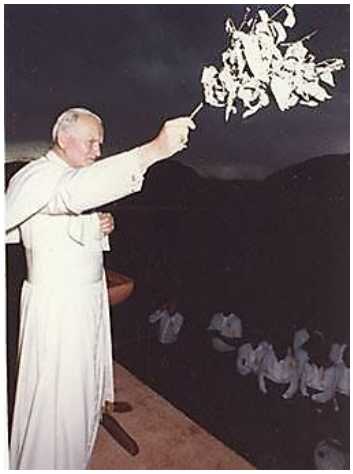
BAPTISMS
Please contact the Parish Centre

MARRIAGES
At least six months' notice requested

FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBerwick/

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS
https://www.cdsale.org.au/safeguarding-resources

Today we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II visiting Australia, during which he visited Alice Springs on 29 November and met with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Blatherskite Park.



"You are part of Australia
and Australia is part of you.
And the Church herself in Australia
will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants
her to be until you have made
your contribution to her life
and until that contribution
has been joyfully received by others."

Message from Pope John Paul II to Aboriginal People.

VOICES IN CELEBRATION CONCERT FUNDRAISER
This Sunday, 2.00pm-5.00pm in the School Stadium.
We will be raising much-needed funds for our new sound system.
Tickets can be bought at the door.



Happy New Church Year Dear Parishioners!

Advent begins with the First Sunday of Advent, at the end of November or the beginning of December. This is the beginning of the church year. There are always four Sundays of Advent, before Christmas, whether Christmas day falls on a weekday or a Sunday. The word 'advent' means 'coming'. During this time, we look forward to our Lord's coming as a human baby at Bethlehem and to his final coming as king at the end of time. We also remember his continual coming to his people in his word and sacraments. Advent is therefore a time of waiting, preparing, and hoping. This involves both repentance and joyful anticipation.

Jesus encourages his disciples to "stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." This call to courage and resilience captures the essence of Advent it is a time not of idle waiting, but of intentional, hope-filled preparation.

Advent is far more than a countdown to Christmas. While we anticipate celebrating Christ's birth, the season also reminds us to look forward with expectation and urgency to his promised return. It is easy to fall into a passive waiting, treating Advent as a nostalgic ritual or a season to be endured until we can finally celebrate. But Advent is about being ready not just for a single day but for the transformation of our hearts and lives.

As we journey through Advent, may we resist the temptation to "pointlessly wait." Instead, let us embrace the spirit of anticipation, allowing it to renew our commitment to God's work in our lives and the world.

Fr Confidence

MEETINGS

MONTHLY CUPPA
2nd Sunday after 9.00am Mass – Dec 13
3rd Sunday after 10.30am – Dec 20

RCIA
Wednesday 7.30pm

MONTHLY PRAYER MINISTRY:
1st Sun of each month from 10.00am

FILIPINO MASS
3rd Sunday at 3.00pm – December 20

INDONESIAN MASS
1st Saturday at 5.00pm PSC – Dec 5

LEGION OF MARY
Tuesday 10.15am - 11.45am PSC
Prayer Box in foyer for intentions

MENS GROUP
Tuesday 7.30pm PSC

PARISH ROSARY:
Monday 2.30pm Password 12345
Zoom 829 9519 6798

SVDP CONFERENCE
2nd Tuesday of the month 7.00pm PSC

CBS BIBLE STUDY
Resumes in February

MEDITATION SESSIONS
Resumes in February

RISEN LORD COMMUNITY
Friday 7.15pm

PARISH SCHOOLS

ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY
16 Scanlan Street, Berwick
Phone: 8794 2400

ST CATHERINE'S PRIMARY
73 Ridgemont Drive, Berwick
Phone: 9702 1466

ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY
25 Bayview Road, Officer
Phone: 5943 2447

ST FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE
Phone: 9707 3111

SERVICES AVAILABLE

SHALOM WORLD: Catholic channel.
SWTV via https://www.stmichaelsparish.org.au

CATHOLIC CARE: 1800 522 076

SVDP SOUP VAN THUR/SUN:
Narre Warren IGA - 6.30pm / 6.45pm
Hampton Park Baptist Church - 7.30pm / 8.00pm

MOBILE PANTRY VAN: 1st & 3rd Tue
Narre Warren IGA - 11.30am-11.45am
Hampton Park Baptist Church - 12.00pm-12.30pm

Vinnies Welfare Assistance
Mon-Fri - 1800 305 330

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP

ORANGE DOOR: 1800 319 354
Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

SAFE STEPS: 1800 015 188

NO TO VIOLENCE - MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE: 1300 766 491
Mon-Fri: 8.00am – 9.00pm,
Sat-Sun: 9.00am – 6.00pm

MULTI-CULTURAL CENTRE AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE: 1800 755 988

WAYS Emergency Accommodation:
9703 0044 or after 5.00pm 1800 825 955

LIFELINE: 13 11 14

BEYOND BLUE: 1300 22 4636
or https://www.beyondblue.org.au/

PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF: Maria Bau, Baby Lara Rose Mastroianni, Leon Rampant, Marion Fletcher, Brian Curtis, Bobby Richardson and all those who died recently and for Doug Hilder, K.C. John, Glen Rawlins, John Nichols, Joe Hilder, Miriam Dabeesing, Hervè Babet, John Chacko, Dominic Botlero, Loretta Waterfield, Maria Hubai, Dawn Player and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

THOSE WHO SEEK OUR PRAYERS: Michelle Wright, Fr Terry Wade, Meesha, Toin Jansan, Patricia Bosser, Anthony Morril, Michael Trottor, Ricardo Cabrera, Gloria Leonardo, Marlene Rico, Anna Tekin, Sandra Walker, Veronica Ogilvie, Marielle Steinhage, Josie Richardson, Maureen Donnelly, Heath O'Loughlin, Brian Homewood, Judith Van Es, Harry Cullen, Jeremy Fahie, Hilda Newstead, Maureen Dalai, Betty Guerin, Danielle Tobin, Elmo Silvapulle, Marie Restituto, Jackie Otoole, Rex Clair, Rita Rowland, Mary Clarke, Peter, Ivor Silvapulle.
[Names will be removed after one month, unless advised]

BAPTISMS: Our parish welcomes Pippa and Bobbi Scanlon, Archer Perera, Eliza, Darcy and Penny Genoni, baptised recently. We pray that they will continue to be a special part of our parish.

GOOD NEWS: Notices required by 10.00am, Thursday. Thank you.

CHURCH CLOSURE: Due to electrical works in our church on December 7 & 8, the church will be closed, for **ALL** purposes. The 9.30am Mass on Monday and Tuesday will be held in the Parish Support Centre.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Ready for collection in the Church Foyer. Thank you for supporting St Michael's Parish.

PIETY: God's Word $25.00, Columban Calendar $10.00, 'The Way of the Heart' Advent Daily Reflection $5.00. All are available at the Parish Support Centre or the Piety Stall.

ADVENT GROUPS: Mondays 7.30pm, Tuesdays 12.00pm and Fridays after 9.30am Mass in the Parish Support Centre.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION: Will be held on Friday, December 11.

PARISH SOCIAL GROUP: Thank you to everyone who attended and enjoyed our recent get-together. Meetings in the future will generally be held on the first Monday of each month. However, the next meeting will be on December **14,** 12.00pm-2.00pm. Please advise Jennifer on 0416 163 202 what you are planning to bring for the Christmas lunch.

SVDP VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Will be taken up next weekend, December 05/06. Your help for people experiencing financial hardship, disadvantage, poverty and homelessness is needed more than ever. Please support people and families in need. Donations are tax deductible.

THE LAMP: A **BIG** thank you to the many volunteers who made this event possible, and to our wonderful Archangel youth leaders who led the day so beautifully. It was also a true blessing to have Bishop Greg and Fr Confidence lead our young people in prayer. With over 100 youth attending from across our Diocese and beyond, it was a faith filled day with fun, friendship and prayer.
Thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day so special.

God is good, all the time!

THE GIVING TREE

Stars can be collected from the basket in the foyer.
Gifts can be placed under the Christmas tree until December 06/07 to enable early distribution of gifts. As there is a lack of gift choices for teenagers SVDP has suggested gift cards or movie vouchers for this age group. Thank you.

PLEASE DO NOT WRAP PRESENTS.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027: "Take Courage! I have overcome the world" John 16:33
Diocese of Sale is inviting young people aged 16 years to 35 years to be a part of this pilgrimage. If you wish to attend as either a pilgrim or a small group leader, Expressions of Interest are now OPEN and will close on Friday December 4. Register at https://www.cdsale.org.au/world-youth-day-seoul

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER & VACUUMING ROSTERS: Were emailed out this week. Rosters for those without an email address are in the foyer. Vacuuming Rosters will be emailed out early next week.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: Let us pray for families experiencing the absence of a mother or father, that they may find support and accompaniment in the Church, and help and strength in the Faith during difficult times.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA GLOBAL GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS: You can give a meaningful Christmas card that helps create lasting change for vulnerable communities around the world. Your gift can change lives by putting food on a family's table or helping a young girl stay in school. Give a gift this Christmas that reflects the true spirit of giving and makes a lasting impact. Browse the full range of Global Gifts: https://www.caritas.org.au/global-gifts

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY: On December 3 is a time to recognise the dignity, gifts and contributions of people with disability and to promote greater inclusion in our communities and parish life. The Catholic Church in Australia reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all people are welcomed, valued and protected from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. It is also an opportunity to listen to the experiences of people with disability and work together to build a more inclusive Church and society. More info: cdsale.org.au/news/international-day-of-people-with-disability

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Divine Physician of our souls and bodies,
by your word you relieve every disease and every spiritual,
mental and physical illness that burden us,
look with loving kindness on all those who seek refuge in your mercy.
From your own hands pour out your healing grace upon your servants who turn to you,
the Unfailing Source of life.
Command that every spirit of disease and pain be driven far from them.
Raise them up so that restored to health they may give all honour and glory to you,
all praise and thanksgiving, for ever and ever. Amen.

Most Rev Robert Rabbat, Bishop of St Michael of Sydney, Disability Delegate

REFLECTION: Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?
Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving to each his work.'
You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep-down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.
We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

REFLECTION: Nick Brodie – Leo's Lens

'Do not be afraid,' Pope Leo says. 'God is with us. Rejoice and be strong with the strength that comes from the Lord.' 'We are', the Pope says, 'called to receive God's grace.' In practice, that means seeking 'processes of forgiveness and reconciliation that renew peace, hope and charity within us.' 'Let us be sincere,' the Pope says, 'acknowledge our faults and ask the Lord for forgiveness; forgiveness for that beggar, for that tear I caused to fall; forgiveness for those eyes that, when they met mine, I refused to look at.' This is how we prepare for Christ's coming! This is a time of year when, the Pope acknowledges, we 'can feel tired, disappointed or disoriented.' It is just the time to find renewal in Scripture. 'Let us allow ourselves to be enlightened by it,' the Pope says, 'for the word of God is a lamp for our steps and a light to our path.'
Each of us is 'invited to demonstrate charity in the manner of Christ', the Pope reminds us. 'Loving like Christ is not a matter of doing great things,' he adds, 'but of remaining faithful at the Lord's side.' Preparing for Christmas 'is a matter of looking at life through heavenly eyes and painting each of our days with the colour of hope.'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8
You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R.**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R.**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R.**

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark 13: 33-37
Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

NEW WEEK'S READING:

First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
Second Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8-14
Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8