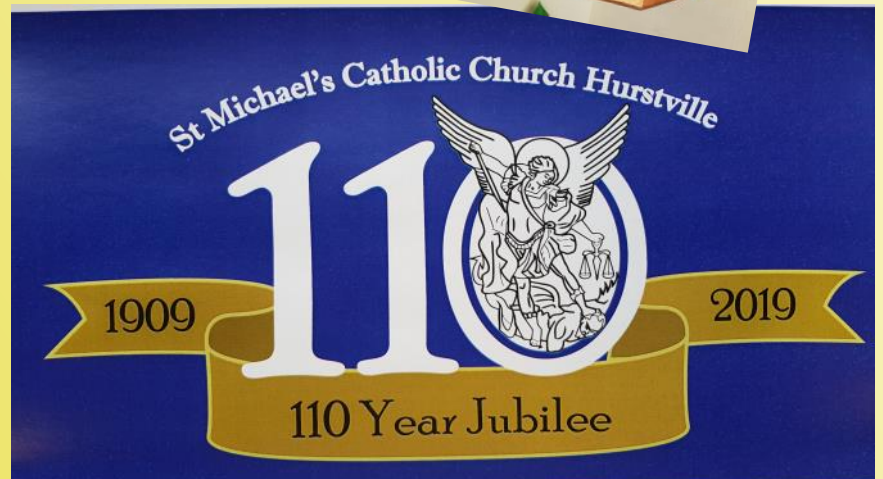


St Michael's Church Hurstville

110 Years Jubilee

Part 2: 2009—2019



*His Disciples remembered that it was written:
"Zeal for your house will consume me." John 2:17*



In Honour of the Angels

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The CONGREGATION of SAINT MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL (CSMA)

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2019



St Michael the Archangel,
A Warrior for Today

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

POPE FRANCIS AFFIRMS THAT ONLY PRAYER CAN DEFEAT THE GREAT ACCUSER. FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, HE EXHORTED THE FAITHFUL TO PRAY THE ROSARY SHELTERING "BENEATH THE MANTLE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD" AND THE PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL ASKING FOR HIS INTERCESSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CHURCH. WE SHOULD MAKE IT A HABIT TO CALL ON SAINT MICHAEL ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF SPIRITUAL TURBULENCE AND TRUST THAT OUR PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls, Amen.

In Honour of the Angels

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From the Parish Priest



On 16th May 1909 Cardinal Moran consecrated our church known since then as St Michael's Hurstville. We just completed a year of celebrations to mark the 110 year Anniversary. We wonder what motivated the past generations to keep this church thriving and to hand it over to the next generation even in better shape? Would that be the same spirit of zeal that lead Jesus to the act of the purification of the Temple? (John 2: 13-17) It is now our duty to keep this church a place of worship and the heart of our parish community. What can inflame our zeal?

Firstly, we have to see that this is the dwelling house of Jesus Christ Himself, He is a permanent Resident here. He is the Host that invites us to appreciate the rich symbolism and the many signs of His Presence. When entering the foyer we realise that we are stepping out from the secular and external world into the spiritual reality of God's house. Then at the entrance door, we use the Holy Water to bless ourselves with the sign of the cross, which reminds us that we entered the Church through the waters of Baptism, emphasized also by the presence of the Baptismal Font and the Paschal Candle. The confessionals at the rear provide the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* that unite us with God and one another, and that ultimately paves the way to the Altar and the Eucharist. Anything that separates us from God or others must be resolved before the Mass in the confessional. (See Matthew 5:23-24).

The centre of the Mass is the Altar, the sign of Christ's sacrifice. As in our homes, the table unites us at mealtimes, so too, in the Church, the Altar unites the community of the faithful. We gather around the Altar as the sacrifice of Christ is celebrated. On the side of the Altar there is the Ambo (Lecturn), from which we are nourished with God's Word. (Matthew 4:4). On the front wall there is the Tabernacle, where Jesus is present anytime we want to meet Him outside of the Mass, to adore Him, take him to the sick or just to pray or spend time with Him. Along the walls, we have a number of statues of the Saints and beautiful stained windows which help create an atmosphere of worship and praise.

Finally, we the people, the faithful, are the living sign of Christ's presence at the Mass. In the spirit of unity, through the prayers, hymns and symbols we participate in the liturgy alongside the Angels and Saints. (Matthew 18:20)

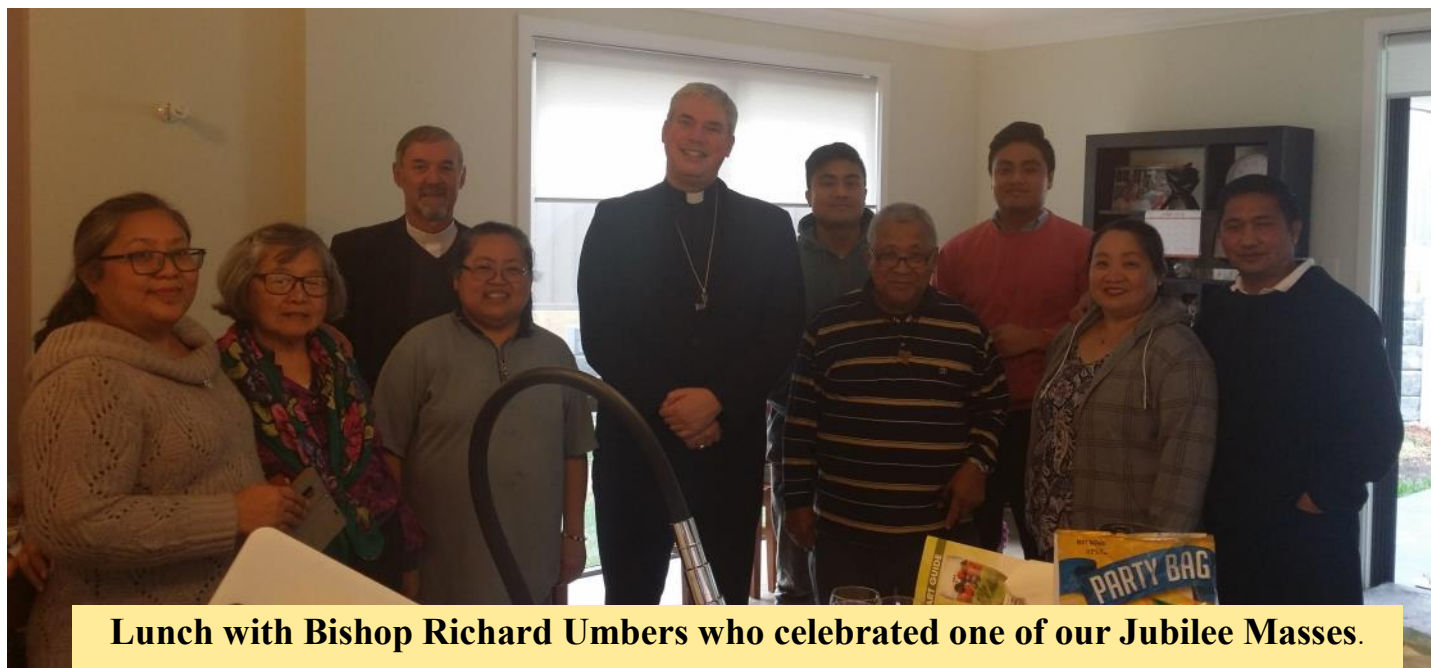
Dear Brothers and Sisters, my hope is that we all continue with a spirit of zeal and dedication to be the "Hands of Jesus" in the care of our church and in the service to our parish community and all those who need our compassion and love.

God bless you all.

Fr Janusz Bieniek CSMA



Jubilee Mass



Lunch with Bishop Richard Umbers who celebrated one of our Jubilee Masses.



Chinese choir performing at Jubilee Concert

Blessing from Archbishop



Speaking the truth in love
Eph 4:15

6 March 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

I offer my warmest congratulations to the parish of St. Michael's, Hurstville, as you celebrate your 110th anniversary this year.

From humble beginnings in a church building which doubled as a school run by the Sisters of Charity, the parish grew to the present church, opened on 16 May 1909. Though there have been alterations since then, the building remains the same, and I've no doubt the same is true of your parish spirit.

Anniversaries are often times for reflection. To look back on the milestone events and on the quiet beats of every day gives a new perspective on the past and renews our fervour for the future. During the last hundred years the people of this parish have no doubt braved new challenges, and overcome adversity, but it is my hope that you have also experienced unimaginable joys, and through this journey you have found alongside you many friends with whom you have shared so much, and who celebrate with you today.

So I join with the parishioners of St. Michael's in thanking God for the many blessings and graces He has bestowed on this community, and which this community has bestowed on Australia. As the parish celebrates its 110th anniversary celebrations, we give thanks to those who have contributed so much to the growth and spirit of its members, and draw on their inspiration for the future, and the years ahead.

Happy birthday St. Michael's parish!

+ Anthony Fisher OP

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Parishioners meeting with Archbishop Fisher after seminar



Archbishop Fisher meeting the Superior General on his recent visit to Australia.
Also Frs Stan Kluk and Jerzy Sosinski.

Letter from Superior General

Who Is Like God!

The jubilee of 110 years of the Hurstville parish church under the patronage of St Michael the Archangel offers a special opportunity to sing to God the great hymn "Te-deum laudamus" for His exceptional love for humankind, expressed in His presence here, in this House of God, for so long. It is here that our Creator waits for us, sanctifies us, blesses and redeems us. Here, in His concern for our wisdom of life, He presents to us His worth and here, in His sensitivity, He shares himself with us. Here, through the service of pastors, God transforms our hearts.



St Michael the Archangel, the patron of our parish community, appears today as a gift from our merciful Father for the protection of humanity. When evil increases, the lost person - indifferent to the values of eternity - entraps himself in this earthly life while false prophets promote a world without God. The Creator once more shows unlimited love towards His children and sends the great Archangel for their protection. His uncompromising allegiance to God blocks the enemy and nullifies Hell's power, restores the original order of life and becomes a source of courage and enthusiasm for believers building of the world according to the Creator's original plan.

On the occasion of this jubilee I would like to give my wholehearted greetings to the pastor and the parish community and assure you of our spiritual connection at this joyful time of celebration. To the parish priest I would like to express my gratitude for his zeal for the spiritual growth of the parish community and his dedication to the work of the salvation of the faithful entrusted to him by God's providence. To everyone who belongs to the parish family, I congratulate you on this beautiful jubilee and thank you for your personal involvement in the everyday life of the Catholic Church.

I wish that each day the parish community will become a place of discovering God, loving him and witnessing to all who need to experience His limitless love. To all who call upon His help, may St Michael the Archangel inspire admiration for the omnipotent God and aid in the battle for the victory of good in our world.

With heartfelt greetings and gratitude for your goodness.

Fr Dariusz Wilk CSM.A

Superior General

Congregation of St Michael the Archangel

Message from Michaelites' Provincial



This year you celebrate the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the foundation of the parish of St Michael's Hurstville. Since its foundation, St Michael's has stood as a beacon of faith, hope and mercy for generations of Australian Catholics. It has been a place where Hurstville Catholics have gathered in times of celebration, in times of fear and in times of tragedy. All the while, your faith in the Gospel message of Jesus Christ has been the bedrock on which the parish has stood.

As Michaelites, we are honoured to have the privilege of ministering in your parish. It is fitting for us both as a parish and as a religious Congregation entrusted to the care of St Michael, that we continue to witness to the Gospel with the sign of faith, to those who continue to make present the message of Jesus Christ in the local church, all those priests and religious who so faithfully ministered to this community over the last 110 years, and our young parishioners who are the future of the St Michael's parish community.

Let the message of St Michael "*Who is Like GOD!*" be what continues to inspire us to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel of life that Jesus Christ proclaims and for which our world hungers.

Fr Stan Kluk CSM.A

The Superior, Pacific Vice Province of Mary Help of Christians



From left:
Fr Kenneth Kaimalan,
Bishop Richard
Umbers,
Fr Dariuz Wilk,
General Superior of
the Congregation of
St Michael and
Fr Janusz Bieniek,
Parish Priest

**Fr Stan Celebrates
25 years
Ordination**

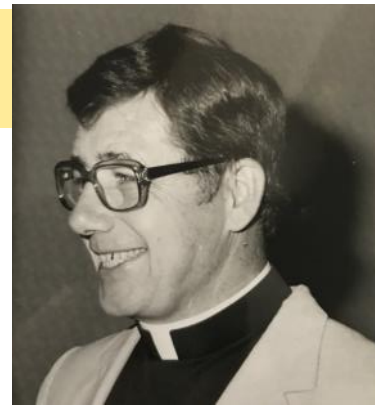
From left:
Fr Anthony Casamento,
Fr Stan Kluk,
Nuncio Adolfo Tito
Yllana
Fr Janusz Bieniek



Fr Stan Celebrates 25 Years of Ordination
with the Honourable Victor Dominello -
Member of Ryde and
Fr Janusz Bieniek



Letter from Bishop David Cremin



I recall as if yesterday my first day at St Michael's. I had just been ordained a Bishop and appointed to live at Hurstville. On that first evening, I was invited to dinner with my sister, Sister Monica (a sister of Mercy) who came to my ordination. We were welcomed by our beloved Sisters of Charity to a lovely meal. I was given a very warm welcome by Fr Ron and sadly, I am writing this on the fourth anniversary of his death, RIP. Remembering that Fr Ron was Parish Priest of St Michael's before I came, he very graciously accepted and welcomed me as the new Pastor.

My appointment also meant that I was to be the Bishop of the newly-established Southern Region of the Archdiocese. I was more than scared and apprehensive as a young bishop wondering how I would be accepted by much older and far more experienced Priests of the area. I spent my days visiting Parishes and schools, celebrating Confirmations, attending endless meetings but what a joy it was to come home to our Presbytery.

There I always found the warmest friendship. There was Ronnie at the head of the table. The dear old Fr Arthur Maher had been part of the family since the days of our former Pastor, much loved Fr Tom Dunlea. Fr Arthur used to regale us with stories of his days in Rome and later in Cowra and Dunedoo. His "Games for God" were legendary. I remember asking one of the mums if the children understood the games. She said, "Not really, but we all love Fr Arthur".

A delightful young Priest came to join our family at the same time as I did. He was Fr Kevin Fitzpatrick. He was a marvellous help to me as I was learning the "Bishopping Trade"!!! Beloved Shirley Hennessey had been Parish Secretary for many years and very generously took on the added tasks of doing secretarial work for me and the Region. She was a gem. We had a delightful Housekeeper, Yvonne Bohey. Her cooking was excellent and she must have attributed great wisdom to me because every Saturday morning I had to pick up winners for her at the TAB!!!

Another marvellous Priest, Fr Phil Linder, fol-

lowed Kevin Fitzpatrick and Tina Spata brought her gibredness and joyful spirit to the Secretary position following after Shirley. There were many other dedicated priests at St Michael's in my time like Frs Anthony Mifsud, Andrew Benton, a very fine speaker called Vincent Finegan and for a short period, Robert Slattery. Then we were blessed with a beautiful priest from India, Fr Mani Malana, who was our Administrator. Not only was he a fine priest but he cooked a delightful curry too. Later came his fellow MSFS priest, Fr Salas Muttathukattil. They were all so patient and kind in putting up with my Irish idiosyncrasies and attempts at telling funnies!!! In my time after delightful secretaries Shirley and Tina, came dear Mary Doyle who brought her own kind and caring personality to the position. I just want to pay my few words of appreciation of the work of our Secretaries. They do so much to be in touch with all the agencies of the Parish. They are patient on the phone, welcoming at the door, tolerant of complainers and in general keeping the priests, religious, teachers and parishioners as one happy family, Alleluia! Dear Leena now is in that great tradition.

I could go on and on but I worked to recall mainly my early recollections of my first years at dear old Saint Mick's. However, each year we were given a Fantastic Treat as Gerry O'Neill and friends presented the Annual Awards known as the "The Mickies". There were "The Phillies" presented by Fr Phil Linder, "The Ronnies" by Fr Ron and I had the honour of presenting "The Stars of David". These delightful presentations were started in 1980 and were the highlights of entertainments every year until 1991. We all laughed our heads off and send ups were taken as good fun. Thank you, Gerry and all your Team.

As St. Michael's celebrates, I pray blessings galore on Fr Janusz and his team of dedicated priests, on the Sisters and Teachers, the great team of Liturgy and Music who are carrying on a Wonderful Tradition.



Bishop David and Fr Ron Harden



Bishop David Cremin and Fr Mani Malana present at the Jubilee luncheon



Parishioners enjoying Jubilee luncheon

Letter from Fr Mani Malana MSFS



I started my ministry at St Michael's Parish on 22nd February 2005 when Bishop David celebrated his 75th birthday. I remember that I was the first Indian or non-European priest in Hurstville. Being eight years in Hurstville, it was the Parish I had my longest years of service as Parish Administrator. Fr Ron Harden of sweet memory had just retired into his family home in Bexley. He used to visit St Michael's often and give me "all technical advices" to look after the parish and the buildings. I am always so grateful to Bishop David who is my eternal teacher. I had such a great time with him until 2011 when he went into his retirement. I was much taken up by his humour, honesty and simplicity and I am always indebted to him for what I am today. I gratefully remember the services of Fr Isaac Koi. His gracious presence always made a great difference in the presbytery and parish. I also had a great time with Fr Salas who joined me in October 2011 up until 2013 when we both left St Michael's.

It is really amazing that most of the significant events of the parish and my own life were celebrated during my life St Michael's. I remember we had our centenary celebration of the Church in May 2008 with Cardinal George as the main celebrant of the Mass and the chief guest in the entertainments and celebration in Bethany Hall. Being his maiden visit to the Parish, so many parishioners made it a point to say hello to him and he was much impressed with the participation and activities of the Parish. On the other hand, people were surprised with his friendly and open conversation. So many dedicated volunteers, the stem cells of the parish were given awards and the church was officially dedicated on that occasion by the Cardinal.

One of the most powerful memories I have is the World Youth Day in July 2008. Bishop Harold Perera of Kurunegala diocese, in Sri Lanka with 14 young priests and over two dozens of youth from all over Sri Lanka staying with us in the Presbytery and in the

College building, was such a thrilling experience for all parishioners, having entertainment almost every day and people bringing warm clothes and food for those lovely young people so much so that when they left the Parish, most of us were in tears. The hospitality and care exhibited by the parishioners was adorable.

I remember the Silver Jubilee of my ordination in 2007 and my 30th year in 2012 were celebrated in such a grand way. I recall the celebrations with all multicultural cuisines and entertainments in Bethany Hall and in the presence of so many priests and people. I still remember on the stage, Bishop David Cremin lifting me up almost to his shoulder like a boy. I don't think I will ever have such celebrations in my life again. The support of Bethany College and St Mary's Star of the Sea, its principals and its staff with the students was great always. The warmth and the welcome they extended to me throughout are still fresh in me.

Bishop David Cremin and I used to go to the Charity Sisters' Convent for Mass once a week. Srs Joan Jurd, Mary Cook, Helen and Edith were incredible nuns and they used to tell me all the stories of Convent life. Conversations across the breakfast table were very informative and I could learn a lot about Australian and Irish Sisters. When I had to take up another Ministry in India and had to leave Hurstville in June 2013, Fr Janusz, who was my friend and work-mate at Mount Pritchard in 1998, was appointed as the new Parish Priest of St Michael's, I was so happy and thrilled.

As the Parish is celebrating its 110th Jubilee Year, I congratulate and assure you my humble prayers to all the Parish Priests and Parishioners. May our Parish continue to be a model Parish under the protection of St Michael.