



In Honour of the Angels

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The CONGREGATION of SAINT MICHAEL the ARCHANGEL (CSMA)



St Michael the Archangel,
A Warrior for Today

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

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

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Feast of St Michael the Archangel

Dear Friends, as usual in September we are celebrating the Feast of St Michael the Archangel and we take a moment to reflect on the importance of St Michael and his Heavenly Army for the Church and each one of us individually.

For the first time the name of Michael is attributed to the individual angel in the book of Daniel: *His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze and the sound of his words like the noise of a multitude* (Daniel 10:6).

In his vision, Daniel is given an insight into the future history of the Chosen people and the role that St Michael will play in it. *At the time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever* (Daniel: 12:1-3)

The name Mi-cha-el means "Who is like God" and it is the battle cry of the angels fighting on the side of God. The book of Revelation gives us an account of the struggle between the armies of God led

by St Michael against the rebellious angels. *Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven* (Rev: 12:7-8). It was natural that early Christians saw in St Michael a powerful ally in their struggles to carry on their mission as witnesses to Jesus and His Church. Although Michael himself had no example to imitate, he has become for us an example of loyalty and faithfulness to God in our daily battles.

Satan lost in the battle with St Michael, but he is still trying to gain some ground with us. Are we ready to fight for what St Michael stood for? Are we ready to acknowledge in every situation that God is above all?! Do we value the things of heaven more than our material possessions? Are our prayers focused on God's will more than on ourselves? Are we prepared to give our Sunday time to God even at the expense of some social and leisure activities? Are we prepared to fight for the unity of marriage even if it may call for sacrifices?

Every day is a day of battle where we face questions, choices and dilemmas that we cannot resolve on our own. With the help of St Michael and the holy angels we can be victorious, stand firm in our commitment to building the Kingdom of God, here on earth, and be part of it in eternity.

Fr Janusz Bieniek CSMA

A Tribute to Fr Zdzislaw Kruczek



Fr Zdzislaw (Ziggy) Kruczek was born in the village of Futoma South East Poland on 9th January 1945. He attended primary school in his home village and entered the Michaelite Minor Seminary in Miesjce

Piastowe. He did his 2 year Michaelite novitiate in Pawlikowice, completing his HSC in Rzeszow and then he did his pastoral practice in Torun. He studied for the priesthood in the major seminary in Przemysl and was ordained a Michaelite priest in 1973. He worked as an assistant priest in the parish of Struga for 2 years. During that time he also completed his Masters studies on the History of the Church.

In 1976 he was commissioned by the Michaelite Superior General to undertake missionary work in Papua New Guinea (PNG). He spent a few months in Australia to study the English language and then in February 1977 he arrived in PNG and started work in the Mt Hagen Diocese. For 6 months he was introduced to missionary work and studied *Pisin* in a place called Mabuga. He then became Parish Priest in Kuruk parish and worked there until 1986. In February 1986 he moved to the Diocese of Wabag and was appointed parish priest in Wanepap. There he was also appointed a member of the Diocesan College of Consultants for the Bishop of Wabag. 1989 he returned to Poland to continue his studies and after 2 years he obtained his doctorate in Missiology from the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw.

In 1991 he returned to PNG and stayed in Wanepap till 1992. In April 1992 he attended the General Chapter in Warsaw Poland where he stayed for a year continuing his academic research. In 1993 he returned to PNG and lived in Mt Hagen where he supervised the building of the Michaelite Monastery, which after completion was blessed by Archbishop Meier on 29 September 1995. From 1994 he lectured in the seminary in Mt Hagen. In the same year he took over the duties of the office of the Vocation Director and was responsible for the recruitment of new candidates for the Congregation until 2004. In 1995 the Michaelite Community in PNG published its first Annual: MI-CHA-EL CSMA. The publication commemorated the Community's 25th Anniversary of work in PNG. Fr Kruczek was the founder and editor of the publication completing 15 volumes to the current date.

From 1st January 1996, the Michaelites in PNG received the status of the Religious House and were placed under the direct jurisdiction of the General Council of the Congregation. Fr Kruczek was appointed its first local Superior. and stayed in this role for the next 9 years. In 1997-1999 he lectured at the Catholic University in Madang. From January 2001 till mid 2002 Fr Kruczek supplied pastoral care to the parishes of Kasap and Wanepap. For another year until mid 2003 he continued to carry out pastoral work in Wanepap only.

From 1st July 2001 he was appointed Director of the Postulancy program, the role he held till 2012. From 22nd October 2004 until 2007, Fr Kruczek was the Rector of an Inter-diocesan Seminary at Mt Hagen. In 2005 he obtained the Habilitation in the History of the Church from the Catholic University in Lublin, Poland. After completing a term of 3 years as Rector, from the start of 2008 he supervised the novitiate program as a Novice Master in Mt Hagen. He was also responsible for the formation program for the Michaelite candidates and seminarians. He continued this role until 2011. In 2011-2012 he was a visitor lecturer in the Diocese seminary of Vanimo and the Inter-diocesan seminary in Port Moresby.

From January 2013 until his departure he was employed as an Executive Director of the Flexible Learning Centre and Associate Professor at the Divine Word University Madang.

Among all his pastoral, formation and academic work he was an exceptionally prolific writer. He will be especially recognized for his input in recording the history of the mission and Catholic Church in PNG. He published 15 books, over 140 academic works of various kinds and numerous ancillary minor contributions.



Chronicles

Fr Peter Prusakiewicz visiting Sydney, 25-31 July 2014



Parish Retreat at Hurstville Parish

We thank Fr Peter for coming from Poland and giving us his words of wisdom regarding the angels over a period of 3 days. Fr Peter preached at all Masses that weekend and brought home to us the scriptural and traditional foundation of our belief in angels as well as the daily reality of the presence of angels in our lives. Divine Mercy, Mother of Perpetual Help and St Michael devotions were incorporated into the retreat. There was opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and we also had the distribution and investment of the scapulars of St Michael.

Visits at Terrigal, North Ryde and Horsley Park

While here, Fr Peter also visited and preached at our other Michaelite parishes sharing his knowledge about Angels and on the Divine Mercy. He strongly encouraged us to wear the St Michael scapular for protection and guidance in our lives and revealed how many of the saints eg: St Faustina and Padre Pio

had a close affiliation with their guardian angels and St Michael. His inspirational talks on the Holy Angels helped us to understand, to know and to be mindful of their presence in our lives. He taught that their example of holy service to do the will of God is a lesson for all of us to learn and imitate.



The Pilgrim Statue

The St Michael pilgrim statue has been visiting our Michaelite parishes beginning with Terrigal during the months of May/June, then to North Ryde in July and then Clovelly in August. During its time in each parish, St Michael prayers were recited regularly and parishioners wrote down their prayer petitions and a Mass was offered for all these intentions prior to its departure. It then returned to its home parish in Hurstville in time for the St Michael novena and feast.



PNG—Change of leadership

From 1st July Fr Jozef Pekala was appointed as the third local superior of the Michaelite community in PNG. Fr Jozef will be responsible for the wellbeing priests working in the parishes, for the studies and formation of candidates and seminarians. He will be stationed in our Mt Hagen monastery. We congratulate and wish him all blessings and successes for the next 3 years.

The previous superior, Fr Bogdan Swierczewski, carried these duties for the last 10 years and contributed enormously to the growth of the Michaelite presence in PNG. We are all grateful for his dedication and tireless efforts while in this office.



Fr Anthony Casamento has been busy over the last few months in his role as Director of Identity & Mission at Australian Catholic University. ACU is now the larger Catholic university in the English speaking world with over 30,000 students across 7 campuses. In July Fr Anthony was invited to present a seminar at Boston College on Catholic higher education administration and took the time while in the US to visit colleagues at Catholic University of America and Georgetown University in Washington DC, St Johns and Fordham Universities in NYC. In August Fr Anthony was host, on behalf of ACU to 2 high profile Cardinals – Cardinal Tagle of Manila and Cardinal Dolan of NYC – both of whom received Honorary Doctorates from ACU recognising their contribution to the intellectual life of the Church.

Knights of St Michael The Archangel



This is a lay Catholic Religious Movement whose members under the banner of St Michael are set on a mission to proclaim the victory of Christ over Satan, to obtain the conversion of sinners and to expiate for the sins of humankind.

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In Honour of the Angels Quarterly Newsletter

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St Michael Mission Society (SMMS)

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Welcome Michaelite Fathers to Sydney

Fr Jacek Kokosa CSMA

Born in 1974 in Poland. At the age of 18 years after finishing primary and high school education, he joined the Michaelites and was sent to Italy to study for the priesthood. In 2001 he was ordained a priest in Rome, Italy where he remained and worked in a local parish. Later he was sent to the St Michael shrine of Monte Sant' Angelo in Gargano where he worked for several years and then to Switzerland where he remained for 7 years. In 2011, his superiors sent him to Canada to study English. At the request of his superiors, he came to Sydney in July this year to work with the Michaelites here in Australia. He is currently working in Hurstville parish.



Fr Piotr Hadro CSMA

Born In 1983 in Poland. After finishing high school he entered the seminary of the Congregation of St Michael in Krakow at the age of 20, to study philosophy and theology. After 3 years the superiors transferred him to Castel Sant' Elia, near Rome, Italy to finish the course in theology. In 2011 he was ordained to the priesthood and then transferred to Monte Sant' Angelo, Gargano. In August this year, after accepting the superior's proposition, he came to Sydney to learn English and to prepare for missionary work in PNG. He has already commenced a course in English and is residing at Clovelly parish.



St Michael Mission Society Works

The St Michael Mission Society (SMMS) in Hurstville parish currently has 60 members approx. Funds have been raised through membership and donations. In August, a fantastic Fashion Parade was organized and coordinated by Margaret Vella and Susan Adams, parishioners of Hurstville. The Fashion parade was held in Bethany College School Hall and almost 300 people attended. Prizes were auctioned, entertainment and supper provided and many people from neighbouring parishes attended including 12 from North Ryde parish. Overall, it was a wonderful, fun night that brought our community together for a good cause, raising in total \$14,000 that will assist with medical supplies in Mt Hagen and a girls school in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea. Special thanks to all those people who contributed their time, talents, energy, offered

prizes and to everyone who attended, for making this night a success and for a job well done!



St Michael Mission Society Annual General Meeting

**Tuesday 30th September
commencing with Mass
at 7pm.**

**Holy Spirit Parish
191 Cox's Rd North Ryde
All welcome**