



ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Solemnity of Christ the King

26th November 2017

BIRDS AND THE BEES: Father Joe received a beautiful little gift just over a week ago. It's a real live baby cockatoo and has been named "Little Joey" who has since proven to be a great hit with the kids. Little Joe is often kept just outside the presbytery door and welcomes a few words of kindness as parishioners arrive and leave the church.

Occasionally a problem emerges that requires a little special attention. A few weeks ago a rather substantial beehive was noticed in the morning on a tree in the children's playground along-side the parish office. The beehive was so large that a decision was taken to keep the children away from the upper playground. An apiarist was called who, a few hours later, arrived to gently remove the bees. All ended very well and the playground was available for play and exercise later in the afternoon. As ever, every precaution is taken to preserve the children's welfare.



SACRAMENT OF PENANCE PROGRAMME: Families with children in Year 2 or higher, and who have been baptised, are invited to register at Masses from next weekend.



~~~ First Holy Communion ~~~

Congratulations are extended to all our families whose little sons and daughters celebrate their First Holy Communion this weekend. The overwhelming number of parents have very willingly participated in the programme by bringing their children to Mass and to the workshops, and by assisting them with various home activities. The new challenge is to keep the momentum going by ensuring the children have an ongoing experience of Sunday Mass in which their young lives will continue to be sanctified with the reception of Holy Communion. Thanks Parents.



Raffle to be held in December

Ann and Richard Stomber

We would firstly like to thank all who bought raffle tickets just before Christmas last year. The money raised was to build a much needed dormitory to house approximately 60 children in Gumpalagudem India. We are pleased to advise that this building is now completed. This year we are raising money to build a toilet block and washroom for the children now housed in the new dormitory. Tickets will be for sale on the 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th December before and after each of the Masses. Tickets will be \$2 each, 3 for \$5 and 7 for \$10. Prizes will be drawn after the 5pm Mass on Sunday the 10th of December. Let's make a difference!

THE GLORIOUS HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

A musical rite of the Advent and Christmas season, this Baroque-era oratorio still awes audiences 276 years after it was composed.



Hallelujah! The beloved festive-treat, "Messiah", comes to St Paul's in Camden on Sunday evening, 17th December, 2017. Join us for an unforgettable pre-Christmas celebration.

Handel poured his heart and soul into this work. Visitors found him shaken by the emotional labour of composing it. Something of this power remains in the piece – the profound sadness; the transporting joy; and the mystery of Christ's birth and resurrection. With its musical richness, dramatic power and spiritual intensity, there is something in the "Messiah" **oratorio** for people of **all** faiths.

An **oratorio** is a musical piece that is usually lengthy and based on some Biblical or religious event. It is a performance for voice and orchestra but the story is told through the music: and not with scenery, costumes and action. The "Messiah" was first performed 276 years ago in Dublin. It still fills recital-halls around the globe and is a tradition for concert-goers across all ages.

"Messiah" dazzled even those musical titans who would succeed Handel. "**Handel** was the greatest composer who ever lived. I would uncover my head and kneel before his tomb." That's what **Beethoven** said about Handel, the great master of the baroque and composer of what must surely be the world's most performed concert work, the oratorio, "**Messiah**".

In an unprecedented and exciting move and through the very welcome and willing assistance of friends from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) in Blair Athol, Campbelltown, the very professional Sydney LDS Chamber Orchestra and Choir will come to our St Paul's church to present the oratorio under the direction of Conductor, David Meredith, and perform the world's most-performed baroque work – indeed, baroque's greatest hit - for the first time in our Parish in what will be a heavenly synthesis of the LDS Orchestra, Choir and wonderful young soloists.

The Sydney LDS Chamber Orchestra and Choir first performed *Handel's "Messiah"* at an LDS Sydney church service in 2014. Due to the very positive reception, their rendition of the beloved oratorio has become the core of the annual "Community Leaders Reception" and is open to the public to enjoy as well! Experienced and loved by people of all faiths over many generations, "Messiah" shares the life of Christ through music that uplifts and inspires us all to come together in the joyous spirit of "Hallelujah!" Indeed, its concluding iconic "**Hallelujah Chorus**" will fill with joy the hearts of those who hear it. A prominent Sydney musical director has put the question, "Who doesn't experience an endorphin-rush when they hear or perform it? The "Messiah" brings people such overwhelming pleasure and it is easy to understand its phenomenal popularity."

Complementing the performance of the "Messiah" will be a few of our own wonderfully-talented local St Paul's personalities who will provide song and music leading up to the "Messiah". All up, this will be **an evening "not to be missed."**

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"



WHEN SHOULD I ARRIVE?

Doors open at 6.30pm. The performance begins at 7.00pm. Seating is "free choice" so those who arrive first will obviously get the most-favoured seats. Any overspill will be able to view the proceedings in our chapel relayed there via TV.

HOW DO WE BUY TICKETS?

Due to an anticipated attendance of a significant number of LDS visitors as well as official guests (incl. Bishop Peter Ingham) and their having been allocated tickets, we have a limited supply. For Enquiries and Sales, contact **ASAP** our Parish Secretary, Elizabeth, at St Paul's Parish Office (Tel: 4655 3684) Tickets are a very low \$10 each: and a Family Ticket (for 2 adults and 2 kids) is \$30. **NOTE:** though the performance is, generally speaking, suitable for all ages, parents should consider that younger children attending could find that sitting quietly on the church pews for what could be over 3 hours might not be what they are used to and it could lessen their enjoyment and appreciation of the performance. On the subject of sitting on our church pews, taking a cushion with you might be helpful for your comfort. With or without the cushions, you'll have a wonderful evening. **But do get in early for the tickets.**

FOOD and DRINK?

No food or drink – except for, say, bottled water - will be allowed.

WHAT DO I WEAR?

There's no real dress-code for this event. You'll fit right in wearing smart casual. But, if you'd like to dress up, go for it! It's a special occasion and dressing up makes everything that much more enjoyable.

WEBSITE

The contents of this leaflet will be added to the Parish website

<http://www.stpaulscamden.org.au/messiah>

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

We would appreciate any offers from parishioners to help us with the organisation of the evening. For example, we need people to help bring chairs from the Heritage Hall to the Church and place these and other equipment on the sanctuary which will become our stage for the performance. Afterwards, the Sanctuary will have to be cleared and the chairs returned to where they belong; we need Welcomers and Ushers; we may need people to help provide/serve refreshments to the Orchestra and Choir but this has still to be decided. If this goes ahead, it will probably be served in our Heritage Hall. Anyone able to help might contact Elizabeth (as above) or Joseph 0488-67 21 21