

# **Saints Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church (SMG)**

Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Michal Zghaib

72 Belmore St Ryde NSW 2112

Keep in touch with us: [www.smg.org.au](http://www.smg.org.au) Archdiocesan Website: <https://www.antiochian.org.au>

Facebook: Sts Michael and Gabriel Orthodox Church;

SMG Playgroup Meadowbank; SMG OYYA

Rev Fr Michal Zghaib: 0403 847 690 or [parishpriest@smg.org.au](mailto:parishpriest@smg.org.au)

**Sunday, April 07, 2019; Tone 4 / Eothinon 1 Fourth Sunday of Great Lent**

**Commemoration of John Climacus, Author of "The Ladder"**

**Martyr Kalliopios of Cilicia; Venerable George, bishop of Mitylene; repose of Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America**

## **Welcome to SMG**

Welcome to our parish and please stay after the Divine Liturgy to share in fellowship with us as we would love to get to know you better. During school term, your children are also welcome to join our Church School lessons, which takes place directly after the Divine Liturgy in the Parish house.

You will notice that at SMG we do not pass a plate collection, and that general donations and offerings can be placed in the donation boxes located at the candle stands as you enter the Church. Generally, our parishioners participate in the Financial Stewardship Program based on regular ongoing pledging.

We look forward to meeting you. And please feel free to take this bulletin home.

## **Today's Divine Liturgy**

*Refer p.11 of service book*

### **Troparion of the Resurrection, in Tone 4**

**Having** learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the Disciples saying: Death has been spoiled, Christ God is risen granting the world the great mercy.

### **Troparion of Saint John of the Ladder, in the Eighth Tone**

**The** Barren wilderness you did make fertile with the streams of your tears; and by your deep sighing you have given fruit through your struggles a hundredfold. Accordingly, you have become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles. Therefore, O righteous Father John, intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

### **Troparion of the Archangels tone 4**

**Commanders** of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech you; by your prayers encompass us under the wings of your incorporeal glory, and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to you; deliver us from all harm, for you are the commanders of the powers on high.

### **Kontakion for the Sundays in Lent, in the Eighth Tone**

**O** Champion leader, to you I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos you have delivered me from terror. And as you have invincible power, O Theotokos, you alone can set me free from all danger. Set me free and deliver me that I may cry out to you: hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

## **The Epistle**

**Prokeimenon:** The Lord will give strength to his people. The Lord will bless his people with peace

### **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (6:13-20)**

**Brethren,** when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by one greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So, when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath. So that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

# The Gospel

Refer p. 14 of service book

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (9:16-30)

At that time, a man came to Jesus, kneeling down and saying unto him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Thy Disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And Jesus answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Jesus, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if Thou canst do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when Jesus had entered the house, His Disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And Jesus said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And Jesus would not have anyone know it; for He was teaching His Disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and after He is killed, He will rise on the third day."

## Important Messages

### Hospitality Sundays



*"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."* (Hebrews 13:2)

As many of you know, following Sunday Divine Liturgy we gather to enjoy fellowship and a light snack. This is a wonderful time to catch up with fellow parishioners and greet our guests. Hospitality Sundays are hosted by parish volunteers, one of the many service opportunities at Sts. Michael and Gabriel.

Maybe you also want to celebrate a special occasion in your family? Hosting a Hospitality Sunday is a great way to bring that celebration into the church family.

We ask people hosting to please observe fasting guidelines. Please also note that Sts. Michael and Gabriel parish supplies coffee, tea, milk, cups, plates and cutlery.

Please contact Fr Michal with your preferred date.

### Confessions and prayer requests



Father Michal is available to hear confessions and receive prayer requests at any time during the week and weekend.

Please contact Fr Michal via mobile/ SMS on 0403 847 690 or email [parishpriest@smg.org.au](mailto:parishpriest@smg.org.au)

### SMG Financial Stewardship Program



The Financial Stewardship Program at SMG is a simple, practical and a Christian plan aimed at funding the operations of the parish and its ministry programs. Participation encourages us to express our financial commitment in a Christ-centred way as expressed in the scriptures, and creates a predictable flow of income. For more information about our Stewardship Program or to start a regular pledge, please speak to SMG Treasurer, Marisa Gazaleh, or contact her via [treasurer@smg.org.au](mailto:treasurer@smg.org.au). New pledging forms can be found at the entry of the Church.

Pledges and/or general donations can be made by EFT to the following bank account: Commonwealth Bank | Name: Sts Michael & Gabriel Orthodox Church | BSB: 062-310 | Account: 1012 8321

## Our Liturgical Calendar



**Please refer to the Great Lent Services Schedule for a complete list of all our week night services. You can pick up a schedule to take home from the back of the church.**

**\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\*\***

**SMG Lenten Retreat Day**  
**Friday 19 April 2019**  
**(Western Good Friday Public Holiday)**

Please join us for our SMG Lenten Retreat Day

**This year we will be looking at the Old Testament Scripture readings and their significance to our preparation as we approach the Holy Resurrection. More details will follow!**

## West Ryde Easter Parade and Fair

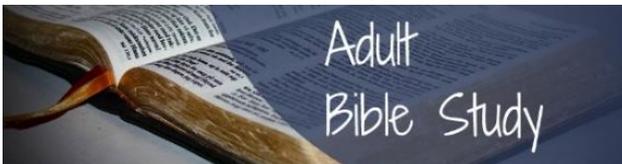


Please join us as we participate in the West Ryde Easter Parade and represent our Parish in this community mission event.

**Date: Saturday 13 April 2019**  
**Time: Various events from 9.00am – 3.00pm**

Please speak to Vivien for more information and if you would like to participate.

## SMG Adult Bible Study



## Adult Bible study

**Next session: TBC**  
For more information please contact Ray via [raymondhaddad5@gmail.com](mailto:raymondhaddad5@gmail.com)

## Ladies Auxiliary Bible study

Sessions are held every second Monday at 7pm. after the Paraklesis service. Hosted by Fr Michal.

For more information please contact Fr Michal or Nouha on 0404 886 964.

## SMG Under 5's Playgroup



**ST MICHAEL AND GABRIEL**  
**PLAYGROUP**  
[www.smg.org.au](http://www.smg.org.au)

**Playgroup is held every Thursday during school term, 10am-12pm at Shepherd's Bay Community Centre, 3a Bay Drive, Meadowbank.**

The playgroup is an informal gathering for parents and caregivers with children under the age of 5. All children must be supervised by an adult carer.

For more information please contact: Dr Victoria Khoury via [drvictoriajk@ihug.com.au](mailto:drvictoriajk@ihug.com.au) or 0414 547 842. Facebook: SMG Playgroup Meadowbank.

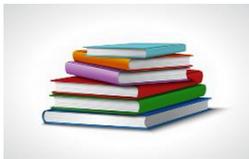
Church School



**SMG Church School lessons are held in the parish house after Divine Liturgy during school term. All students are encouraged and welcome to join the children's choir.**

Contact: Christine Ayoub, SMG Church School Director  
0410643685 | [cjabbour23@hotmail.com](mailto:cjabbour23@hotmail.com)

# SMG Bookshop



Please also note that stock is now permanently located in the new cabinets opposite the kitchen.

**EFPTOS** facility is now available for any purchase at SMG Bookshop.

**NOW SELLING**

**CDs** "Out of the Mouths of Infants" (Hymns of the Orthodox Great Feasts for Children) \$15

**PENS** "Sts Michael and Gabriel Antiochian Orthodox Church" with **stylus** \$5 each or 5 for \$20

For any further information please see Maria Haddad ([mhaddad391@gmail.com](mailto:mhaddad391@gmail.com)) or Raymond Haddad ([raymondhaddad5@gmail.com](mailto:raymondhaddad5@gmail.com))



**Please do not block our neighbours' driveways or park on any footpath or grassed areas.**

**Thank you for your cooperation.**