

INTERSECTION

OCTOBER 2009

By Alana Pryor

ST MICHAEL'S DAY—A RIOT OF COLOUR

Rain and a chilling wind couldn't stop the celebration of St Michael's Day on Sunday 27 September. Colour saturated the church, smiles shone from many faces and the air was alive with positivity and hope as the festivities of St Michael's biggest day took shape.

For a lucky 160 people the day started with an excellent breakfast and inspirational talk by guest speaker Lynn Allison, President of *Dying With Dignity Victoria*. The official celebrations for all started with the day's opening ceremony in the Celebration garden.

A trumpet called us, dressed in St Michael's Colours, to the garden. Water was poured on the Rock of Compassion, bright flowers laid and incense burnt in Remembrance of the children of the world. All in attendance were symbolically unified by the gold

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PLAYING FOR THE RELIEF OF HUNGER

Amir Farid is a popular guest performer at St Michael's. He most recently took part in the successful fund-raising concert for *Wheelchairs for Kids* during St Michael's Week. His brilliant command of the piano keyboard and obvious talent have won him many admirers.

On Sunday 25 October he returns to play his own recital at St Michael's Uniting Church. This will be a wonderful event, showcasing his piano mastery with all proceeds going towards the *Children's Hunger Relief Fund*

Farid, winner of the 2006 Australian



National Piano Award, is a Melbourne based solo pianist who has been described as "a highly creative musician, a pianist of great intelligence and integrity. He completed his B.Mus (Hon) at the University of Melbourne and later attended the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM). In 2009, he graduated with distinction as a Scholar supported by the Gordon Calway Stone Memorial Award at the Royal College of Music, London. He has performed with numerous

Australian orchestras, securing many prizes for his playing.

This is a great opportunity to see a talented musician play while donating to a good cause and we invite you to make the most of it.

PIANO RECITAL WITH AMIR FARID

When: Sunday 25 October at 1 pm

Where: St Michael's Uniting Church
120 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE 3000

Tickets: \$15 / \$10 (concession)

from Pam and Ian Smart
after Sunday Service and at
the door.

Pre-paid sandwiches available - \$3

Enquiries: 9654 5120

or reception@stmichaels.org.au

All proceeds from the concert to go to *Children's Hunger Relief Fund*.

m i n g a r y

COUNSELLING SERVICE

Professional, confidential counselling for a broad range of personal issues.
Male and Female Counsellors.

\$30 Initial Consultation \$20 Subsequent Consultation

Monday-Friday: 9 am-5 pm

St Michael's Centre 120 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000 T (03) 9654 5120 F (03) 9650 3863

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cord threaded through the people - the cue for the St Michael's Day service to begin within the church.

The tradition and solemnity of the procession lent an air of splendour to the service, enhanced by the underlying spirit of positivity and hope. Colour burst within the church and inspiration was found in all aspects of the service. There was an uplifting joy when *The Choir of Hope and Inspiration* raised their voices in song, and as Dr Francis Macnab spoke of what it is to be bruised but not beaten. But the proof of what good humans are capable of were especially apparent as the St Michael's



Medallions were presented.

Presenter of the medallions, Albert Muyunga spoke of what his work, a generous person who is on call 24/7 to help others cope with suffering from stress and trauma. He presented the medallions to two deserving women who have also significantly helped the lives of many young people. The good work of Wendy Stamps-Marshall and Seda Douglas is truly inspirational. The wonderful changes they have made to young orphans and the families who

have been able to adopt them are amazing. Both women were moving in their humble acceptance of their medallions, down-playing the remarkable hard work and great changes they had made for many.

The day ended on a passionate note, with a flamenco display in the courtyard – the fire and zeal of the dancers keeping the cold at bay before the day ended with a warming cuppa and conversation.

The colour, the passion, the fun and the hope were a wonderful part of this truly important day. St Michael's Day was a great success and we are thankful to all those who organised the events, the decoration, food and entertainment.

ENJOYING ST MICHAEL'S WEEK

St Michael's Week 2009 was filled with music, dance, and conversation.

The celebrations began with a beautiful cello concert on Sunday. Cellists David Pereira and Bonnie Smart joined pianist Amir Farid and played a fantastic repertoire and successfully raised \$3000 for *Wheelchair for Kids*.

On Monday the conversation *Who am I in Cyberspace* organised by the Parliament of World Religions drew quite a crowd. Dr Francis Macnab and Mandy Salomon using their

expertise to delve into the world of cyberspace and spirituality.

The crowd returned on Tuesday for Dr Macnab's second New Faith Lecture. This lecture is now available on DVD for those who missed it.

With the magnificent performance by the Australian Chamber Choir on Wednesday evening the week was deemed a success.

There was so much to see in one short week. Many people found themselves returning for each event.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Cancer affects the lives of many Australians and on Sunday 4 October there is an opportunity to acknowledge the strength and courage faced by those fighting the disease, their family members and friends.

The National Breast Cancer Foundation, Breast Cancer Network Australia and National Breast and Ovarian Cancer



Centre invite you and your family to attend a service to honour and remember loved ones whose lives have been affected by breast and prostate cancer.

The service will be held at St Michael's Uniting Church, 120 Collins Street, Melbourne on Sunday 4 October 2009 at 2pm.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2009

The continued smooth operation of St Michael's doesn't just happen. It comes down to the hard work and dedication of its volunteers, of which there are many.

In particular volunteers who are elected to the Church Council take on a good deal of responsibility. They

are very involved in all aspects and decisions concerning the property, Sunday service and Pastoral Care.



Theirs is a big job but they do a fine job as ambassadors of St Michael's and contributors to the church community and events.

The Council elections are held annually and this year they will be held on Sunday 18 October after

Sunday Service. Members of St Michael's are invited to vote and ensure St Michael's continues to run smoothly.

NEW FAITH DISCUSSION GROUPS

Over the year talk about the New Faith has been forefront on people's minds, within and outside of the St Michael's Community.

In response to the questions and the interest, members of St Michael's have organised a number of New Faith discussion groups that have been held after Sunday Service.

The heavily attended workshops have explored the many facets of "The New Faith" with interesting presentations and some amazing guest speakers.

There are still several sessions planned for the rest of this year and for anyone interested or keen to discover something new, you are welcome to attend.

ST MICHAEL'S NEW FAITH DISCUSSION GROUPS

These are scheduled for the following dates after morning service:

October 4

"Themes"

A repeat of the popular investigation the Themes of the New Faith with reference to Dr Macnab's book *A Fine Wind is Blowing* with Simon McCall and Peter Kahane.

November 15

Guest speaker Val Webb.

November 22

"Gifts and Givens"

Session 3 with guest speaker Cath Connelly.

SAGE

SUCCESSFUL AGEING, GROWTH AND ENHANCEMENT

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

AS YOU AGE—
SOME LET THEIR MORAL
BOUNDARIES SLIP
SOME TIGHTEN THEM.



A New Moral Compass for the 2nd Half of Life.

Time: 11 am to 1 pm
Where: St Michael's Hall
120 Collins St,
Melbourne.
Cost: \$15 inc. Lunch

For more information
please call Margaret Karafilowska
at Cairnmillar on 9813 3400

ST MICHAEL'S

ON COLLINS - MELBOURNE

120 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

P: 9654 5120

F: 9650 3863

E: office@stmichaels.org.au

W: www.stmichaels.org.au

REV FORREST CHURCH

A few years ago St Michael's was fortunate enough to welcome Rev Forrest Church, pastor at the Unitarian Church of All Souls, New York to Sunday service. The message he advocated was of love, compassion and social service and, like many of our guests, he was deeply involved in searching for a theology for humanity.

After a three year battle with cancer he died on Thursday 24 September 2009 at 61 years. He has dedicated his career to humanitarian works – setting up a shelter for homeless

women in Harlem and organising free meals to the homeless. In 1985 organised a campaign where placards reading "AIDS is a human disease and deserves a humane response" were placed on buses and subways.

As well as preaching love, life and death he had written numerous books that applied his theology to everyday life and in his last years, wrote two books expressing his philosophy of death and dying and his theology.

A committed man devoted to the cause of humanity, he set and inspirational pathway.

The St Michael's Office will be closed on Monday 2 November and Tuesday 3 November for the Melbourne Cup holiday. The office will resume regular office hours on Wednesday 4 November at 9 am.

TAKE A BREATH

We are in the final months of the year and the pace of life is picking up. Even with the promise of a Christmas break on the horizon we can still feel the heat and pressure of family and social commitments and work deadlines. Sometimes it can all get too much.

At St Michael's there is an opportunity to stop and take a well deserved breath.

Join Barry Fox at his second meditation course which starts on

Monday 26 October. Discover how you can calm your mind, overcome stress and find your own well-being.

Those currently attending his course can attest to the fact that this is a great and constructive course offering a solid introduction to meditation.

Through meditation you can develop the right tools that help you deal with the stress that comes with the closing of the year with confidence and a greater peace of mind.

LEARN TO MEDITATE

Six one-hour sessions
26 October – 7 December

Time 1 pm - 2 pm

Where: St Michael's Centre

Cost: \$70 includes comprehensive notes

Bookings St Michael's 9654 5120

Queries: Barry Fox

CALM YOUR
MIND