



# MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

## Our Parish Mission Statement

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish is a welcoming, diverse, multicultural, Catholic community. We seek: to live, teach and share the joy of the Gospel; to grow as disciples of Jesus through prayer, witness and action and to respond to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

*We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.*

**Sunday, 5 Nov 2017: Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A**

## **THE GREATEST AMONG YOU MUST BE YOUR SERVANT**

Recently I celebrated morning Mass in the parish and still wearing my alb quickly moved on to concelebrate at a funeral in another parish. When I arrived some parishioners half-jokingly said to their parish priest, *ah now we have a priest who looks like a priest*. My response was simple; *and what does a priest look like?*

Controversy about clerical dress goes back to 428 when Pope Celestine I took issue with the clergy of France, who distinguished themselves by their attire. The pope argued that learning, purity, and good conduct should mark the clergy rather than their clothing.

Today's Gospel warns against distinguishing dress, taking places of honour and the use of titles. Pope Francis has often warned against such clericalism, clerical privilege and the pursuit of career within the Church. He calls such a mentality leprosy! Over the years I have become increasingly distrustful of people who are dependent on titles. This mentality is of course is not resisted to members of the clergy. I see it not only among clergy but also in our schools where careerism can also be, as Pope Francis would say, a *leprosy!*

In recent years our diocese has seen a proliferation of clerical titles, diocesan honours, with introduction of Monsignors and Papal Knights (NB no Papal Dames!) Such was never promoted by Bishop Kevin Manning. Refreshingly under the leadership of Bishop Vincent we are returning to a simpler Gospel approach, where we are reminded that the greatest must be servant.

We could justifiably adapt the insight of Pope Celestine to our own time: In any ministry, lay or clerical we should be known primarily by the manner in which we welcome and serve others, rather than by what we wear or the title some choose to give us.

*Fr Peter Confeggi*

## CONTACT US

### PARISH TEAM

Fr Peter Confeggi  
Fr Dénes Ledeczki  
Fr Luis Herrera  
Deacon George Bryan  
Sr Grace Roclawska CSFN  
Lisa Bright  
Antoinette Mangion  
Jacqueline Castillo-Anchique  
Georgia Scott  
Aaron Pinto

**Parish Team Meetings each Monday  
from 12.30pm - 2.00pm**

### St Michael's Church

58 Orwell St  
Blacktown  
Office Hours:  
Sunday 8.30am - 11.30am

### St Patrick's Church

51-59 Allawah St,  
Blacktown  
Office Hours:  
Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm

Tel: 9622 1125  
A/H: 9621 3146  
Fax: 9671 6425  
Email: [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au)

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## LITURGY TIMES

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**St Michael's**  
Mass 8:00am Mon, & Fri & 7.30pm Wed  
Communion Service 8.00am Tues & Thurs

**St Patrick's**  
Mass 9.00am Tues & Thurs & Sat  
Communion Service 9.00am Mon, Wed, Fri  
First Friday 7.30pm St Patrick's

### SUNDAY MASSES

5.30pm Saturday Vigil (St Patrick's)  
7.00am Sunday (St Patrick's)  
8.00am Sunday (St Michael's)  
9.30am Sunday (St Michael's)  
10.00am Sunday (St Patrick's)  
12.00pm 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday - Syro Malabar Mass  
(St Michael's)  
11.30 am 4th Sunday - Filipino Mass (St Michael's)  
2:00pm Sunday - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)  
5.30pm Sunday (St Patrick's)  
6.00pm Sunday (St Michael's)

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wednesday 7.00pm—7.25pm (St Michael's)  
Saturday 9.30am - 10.25am (St Patrick's)

### Anointing of the Sick

First Saturday during 9.00am Mass (St Patrick's)  
or by appointment contact Parish Office

### HOLY HOUR:

6.30pm - 7.30pm Wednesday @ St Michael's  
6.30pm - 7.30pm First Friday @ St Patrick's

### Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals

by appointment. Please contact office for details

## CONNECT

### PARISH SCHOOLS

**St Michael's Primary** 9622 9910  
**St Patrick's Primary** 9621 4122  
**Nagle College** 8887 4501  
**Patrician Brothers College** 9671 3000  
**Catholic Early Learning Centre** 8814 8406  
(St Michael's)

**Institute for Mission** 9831 4911  
Fr Paul Roberts (Director)  
[paul.roberts@ifm.org.au](mailto:paul.roberts@ifm.org.au)

**Diocesan Ministry Centre** 8838 3460

**Catholic Care** 8822 2222  
[Blacktown@ccss.org.au](mailto:Blacktown@ccss.org.au)



[www.mqofblacktown.org.au](http://www.mqofblacktown.org.au)



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# YEAR OF MATTHEW - YEAR A

## Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!

**FIRST READING: MAL 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. V.7**

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

**SECOND READING: 1 THES 2:7-9. 13**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You have one Father, your Father in heaven;  
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ..  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL: Mt 23:1-12

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

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### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Anniversaries:** Rodney Flewitt

**Special Intentions:** Rex Scott, William Peppin, John Kastelan & family



**We remember and pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ:**

Yufang Dong, Paul Clemson, Fr George O'Mara, Doreen Stanslaus, Vic Farrugia, Cristina King, Sofia Rodriguez, Charity Thompson, Charlie Taouk, Alain Asmar, Antonio Lareza, Lourdes Lareza, Ossie Zaia, Pat Byrne, Mary Mendes

If you would like to include, in the bulletin, the name of a loved one who is ill, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or email [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au)

**M 6 Nov:** Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14

**T 7 Nov:** Rom 12:5-16; Lk 14:15-24

**W 8 Nov:** Rom 13:8-10; Lk 14:25-33

**Th 9 Nov:** Ezek 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

**F 10 Nov:** Rom 15:14-21; Lk 16:1-8

**S 11 Nov:** Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Lk 16:9-15



## Frankly Speaking...

"We must always walk in the presence of the Lord, in the light of the Lord."  
*Pope Francis*



MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY  
PARISH, BLACKTOWN

**YOU'RE INVITED**

# Ministry Thanksgiving Mass

1 DECEMBER 2017

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, ALLAWAH ST

REFLECTION LED BY SR CATHERINE RYAN  
AT 6.00PM

MASS OF THANKSGIVING AT 7.30PM  
COCKTAIL FOOD AND DRINKS TO FOLLOW

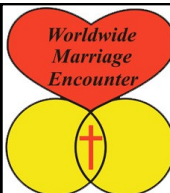
*looking forward to seeing  
you there!*

RSVP: 26 NOVEMBER 2017

TO: [ADMIN@MQOFBLACKTOWN.ORG.AU](mailto:ADMIN@MQOFBLACKTOWN.ORG.AU)

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

We pray for our young people and their families as they begin their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May the love and peace of God be with them in their growing and sharing.



### A Worldwide Marriage Encounter

**Weekend** is a *Marriage Enrichment*

experience for married couples – set in peaceful, picturesque surroundings, away from the distractions of everyday

life. During the weekend, couples have a unique opportunity to reconnect, rekindle and refresh their relationship. Take time out of your busy schedule, to invest in your most precious asset... your Marriage!

**Weekend date: 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> November, at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW**

**Bookings online at [www.wmme.org.au](http://www.wmme.org.au) or**

**Adrian and Janet Sullivan: on 0490 774 419 or [adrian.janet1@bigpond.com](mailto:adrian.janet1@bigpond.com)**



At Mary, Queen of the Family Parish we WELCOME, GROW and ACT

## National Open Mosque Day



For the third year in a row, a group of MQOF parishioners led by Fr. Peter and accompanied by Bishop Vincent on this occasion, visited the Blacktown Mosque to meet and greet the local Islamic community.

We were warmly welcomed by the mosque leaders and treated to a succinct presentation on the Islamic religion – ranging from basic tenets of their faith to the commonalities of our religions and surprise, surprise.... the Islamic perspective on environmental health! While most of us are aware that Abraham is the revered patriarch of both Christians and Muslims, we were amazed to discover that Jesus is referenced as a prophet numerous times in the Quran! Likewise we learnt that Mother Mary is honoured in the Quran — with the oft-denounced hijab (or headscarf) is worn by Muslim women to emulate Mary's modesty in covering her hair. There were opportunities to ask questions or clarify misunderstandings and the openness to dialogue was clearly evident.

Contrary to a church which is filled with pews and statues or holy pictures adorning the walls, Blacktown Mosque is an unpretentious hall, embellished with Quranic verses in eye-catching turquoise and gold calligraphy, and a simple niche for the imam to lead the prayers. Here we were educated on the essential elements of a mosque and the Muslim customs of worship. What followed afterward was a profound partaking in tradition - Arabic chanting from the Quran on the message of angel Gabriel to Mary, followed by Fr. Peter and Bishop Vincent reading the English version. What a beautiful affirmation of a shared foundation upholding the world's two largest religions, and it timed perfectly with the weekend Gospel reminder from Jesus to "love your neighbour as yourself".

All round an enriching experience and a ground breaking step in fostering religious diversity and community harmony in Blacktown.

- **Natalia Gabriel**

NAGLE COLLEGE PRESENTS

# PRESENTATION DAY

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TUESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2017  
12:30pm-4:30pm



### JEAN & BETTY'S TOURS

TUES 7 NOV - NOV 9

#### HUNTER VALLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Approx. cost \$500 pp twin share \$640 single supplement. Inc coach travel, morning tea where applicable, tour of Maitland Gaol, dinner, bed & breakfast motel accommodation, Christmas dinner at the Hunter Valley Gardens, Christmas lights, daylight Garden entry and train ride around the gardens. Wineries for purchasing, Morpeth Historic Town.

*For further information contact Jean: 99203401 or 0425251754*

### MUSIC MINISTRY

Could all Music Groups please send through their availability for Masses during the months of December and January ASAP so we can plan for any areas that require filling. Please send to [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au). Thank you!



This November, we remember those who have gone before us.

In the churches of St Michael's and St Patrick's, there will be a book for the Intentions of loved ones and the crosses remembering friends and family who have died. This will be displayed in front of the altar and will remain for the whole month of November.

*Lord, may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*

## SPONSOR A CHRISTMAS LUNCH

You are invited to 'sponsor a lunch' for 23rd December. Your donation of \$20 per lunch will go towards making this Christmas that little bit more special for those in need. All donations can be given to the Parish Office marked, "Christmas Lunch."

### JOURNEY OF FAITH TO ITALY & MALTA

27th August—18th September 2018

Consider this pilgrimage to Italy and Malta sharing so much beauty and history of Italy and Malta. Join Fr Luis and Lisa on this wonderful experience! Contact the Parish Office for an itinerary or to find out more information.

# A simple way to pray for our HSC students

Loving God,

Be with our HSC students as they prepare and sit for their exams.

Thank you for the many gifts and talents you have given them  
and for the opportunity to receive an education.

Calm their nerves and anxiety, help them to remember all that they have studied,  
to express it clearly and to answer the questions as best they can.

Holy Spirit, be with our young parishioners during their exams and always.

We ask this in Jesus' name,

Amen.

I CAN DO  
ALL  
THINGS  
THROUGH  
CHRIST,  
WHO  
GIVES ME  
STRENGTH

Philippians 4:13

**YOUTH MINISTRY** MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN



The greatest among you will be your servant.

What can we do  
to be of service  
to others?

Draw a picture  
of yourself being  
of service to  
another.



## DWF COLLECTION 11th & 12th November

Your donations will go towards such services as CatholicCare, seminary, Ephpheta Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

## VINNIES PANTRY

Your ongoing support of the Vinnies Pantry is greatly appreciated. The Pantry is in need of Cereals, Baked Beans, Longlife Milk, Soap, Noodles, Spreads (Jam, Honey, Vegemite). Your donations can be left at the church doors.



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