

# Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktow

<u>Our Parish Mission Statement</u> 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, 4 Aug 2019: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

#### THE ESSENTIAL THINGS IN LIFE

Let us explore this seemingly pessimistic author of the Book of Ecclesiastes known to be Ooheleth. His work belongs to Wisdom Literature. In this Sunday's 1st reading, Qoheleth is talking about vanities. We encounter this word ordinarily, much more in the product ads promoting the "value" of vanity. We see them on TV commercials. This becomes so common that we tend to ignore or take for granted what it really means to our life.

I propose that we go back to the roots of the word vanity. Its Latin equivalent is "vanitas" which means emptiness or "vanus" meaning empty. There seems to be a prevailing atmosphere of weariness and emptiness in the tone of Qoheleth's writing. He feels that everything that happens in this world is all vanity. While there may be a grain of truth with what he experienced, he should not be taken literally. The world's goods are still good and are meant to give enjoyment to human beings. These are gifts we receive from God!

But what makes them vain? I believe Qoheleth was trying to find meaning in life, and at the end he could not find it in wealth, pleasures, and even the grief and sorrows of human life. I surmise that ultimately what makes us empty and meaningless is when we allow these goods to become end in themselves, and they control us so we become slaves to them. Unfortunately, when this happens to us, we grow in our pride, greed and selfishness. Reflect the parable of Jesus in our Gospel reading this Sunday (Luke 12:13-21)!

St. Paul exhorts the Colossians in his letter, "Seek what is above... Think of what is above, not of what is on earth" (Col 3,1-5.9-11). This points us to the truths of higher values or transcendental realities. These are realities that we could not encounter by our five senses alone but with a spiritual sense formed by our faith in Christ. These are our experiences of truly loving and being truly loved, of the strength of hope born of our faith in God, in the works and mission of Jesus we share to others like sharing to the Church our time and resources. We may have taken for granted already these things.

It was once told in the famous book "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, that what is most essential in life is invisible to the eyes. There is, thus, the existence of spiritual things that will truly give meaning and deeper satisfaction in human life. Meaning sustains joy within and makes us endure even in the most trying times of our life. We need to ask ourselves every now and then, "What is the meaning of my life?" "What is happening and what is going on

with my life?" "What's the true purpose of all these that keeps me busy and preoccupies me?" Hopefully, we start to seek the counsel of the best person who could ever teach us. The disciples call him master, our Lord Jesus Christ who is truly a human person, while truly divine. He said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Let us also find one spiritual person who can accompany us in our spiritual journey whenever warranted. But most of all let us pray to the Lord that we may grow in our faith in Him so that we may be sustained by the joy and happiness that the world could not give but He alone. Fr Regie

#### CONTACT US

#### LITURGY TIMES

#### CONNECT

PARISH TEAM Moderator: Fr Regie Lavilla Fr John Paul Escarlan Priest: Priest: Fr Jack Green Deacon: John Cinya Finance Officer: Sarah Damole Pastoral Care Coordinator: Antoinette Mangion Sacramental Coordinator: Christina Rodricks Cate, Kaitlyn, Todd. Ann Parish Assistants:

The Parish Office is closed each day between 12.30pm-1pm Parish Team Meetings each Wednesday from 10.00 - 11.00am

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 9671 6425 Fax: Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

WEEKDAY MASSES St Michael's: 8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri Wednesday 8.30am & 7.30pm <u>St Patrick's:</u> 9am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat riday 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) 11.00am 4th Sunday - Filipino Mass (St Michael's) 2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's) 3.30pm - Syro Malabar Mass (St Michael'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)

<u>Anointing of the Sick</u> 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 Friday @ St Patrick's

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals by appointment. Please contact office for details

PARISH SCHOOLS St Michael's Primary 8869 6200 St Patrick's Primary 8869 6000 Nagle College 8887 4501 Patrician Brothers College 88110300 Catholic Early Learning Centre 8814 8406 (St Michael's) 9296 6369 Institute for Mission **Diocesan Ministry Centre** 88383460 **Catholic Care** 8843 2530 Blacktown@ccss.org.au www.mqofblacktown.org.au WWW www.facebook.com/



bPoint payment system Follow the links Make a Payment on our website. to my Parish

#### **YEAR OF LUKE - YEAR C** Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

First Reading: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Ps* 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. *R. v*.1

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading: Col 2:12-14 Col 3:1-5, 9-11

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

#### Gospel: Lk 12:13-21

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

#### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** *Wis 16:20* You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

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#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries:: George Sede, Alex Scollard, Connie Scerri, Alfred De Hoedt,

**Special Intentions:** Monica Spiteri, Beatriz B. Alaura, Andrew

We remember and pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital at this time: Paul Clemson, Raymonde Clair, Baby Sophie Debono, Katarina Gjumbir, Shane McKechnie, Dayne-Taylor Riew, Helen Sumera, Joseph Nakhoul, Cecile Clair, Steven Griffin, Doreen Stanslaus, Dalton Gunnulson, Mary Key, Tony Clarke, Robert Alaura, Elita Tuca Huffton, Anthony Michael, Danny Velcich, Flavio Hose Tunac, Tina Prendergast, Sr Elia, Christian, Arthur, Bev & Family

If you would like to include in the bulletin the name of a loved one who is ill or you are going into hospital and would like to be anointed, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au. You may also write your mass intention on the envelopes provided, indicating the time and date that you would like your intention to be offered.



#### **Mass Offerings**

#### Mass Intentions

To help our team ensure that Mass Intentions are offered at the correct Mass day and time and to include the offering correctly in the bulletin, please be sure to print the name/s of the person clearly with the church and mass time that you would like the offering to be said. If there are no details of when the Mass is to be offered, it will be offered at the next available Mass. Thank you.

#### **Daily Readings**

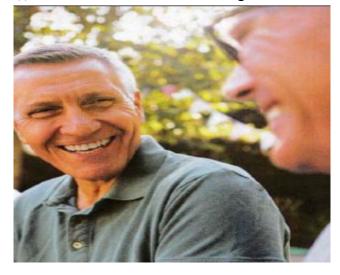
- M 5 Aug: Num 11:4-15; Mt 14:13-21
- *T* 6 Aug: Dan 7:9-10, 13-14
- W 7 Aug: Num 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29, 34-35; Mt 15:21-28
- Th 8 Aug: 1 Kg 17:8-16; Col 3:12-17; Mt 6:25-34
- F 9 Aug: Deut 4:32-40; Mt 16:24-28
- *S* 10 Aug: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26
- S 11 Aug: Wis 18:6-9; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19;Lk 12:32-48

# Frankly Speaking...

"The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created." — Pope Francis **The Catenians** Strengthening family life through friendship and faith Faith - Friendship & Networking among Catholic Men. Try it once or join us once a month.

For more information

Contact George Doublesin on 0404 104 270 htts://www.thecatenianassociation.org.au



You are welcome to attend a meeting and dinner without obligation or cost, to decide whether you would like to join the Men's Association.

Come Break Open The Word Join the Bible Study Group in the Sid Mosley Centre at St Michael's every Thursday. The study will be from 7.30pm finishing at 9pm.





MQOF Flower Ministry Coming Soon Do you want to know how to make flower arrangements?

The Workshop will be on the 7th September at 2 to 5pm and is provided by a qualified flower arranger. A donation of \$15 is required to help cover the cost of flowers and materials. You can bring home your own arrangement! Please register by the 30th August to the Parish Office. 9622 1125 or

#### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** 10-11 August at Engadine

A marriage enrichment experience for 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! Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Adrian and Janet Sullivan on 0490 774 419 or adrian.janet1@bigpond.com





The Office of Pastoral Planning invites Parishioners from all over the Diocese to attend a Presentation by Fr Ray Sanchez CP, who will explore the relevance of Passionist Family Groups in the change of era in our Church today.

If you are interested in developing the sense of authentic community in your parish, you will be enlivened by this presentation.

There are Four opportunities to hear Fr Ray:

- 6:00pm Saturday 10 August John 23<sup>rd</sup> Parish Stanhope Gardens
- 8:00am Sunday 11 August St Michaels, South Blacktown
- 10:00am Sunday11 August St Patricks, Blacktown
- 11:15am -12.45pm Clancy Room, followed by a shared brunch

Any enquiries, call Parramatta Diocese's Family Group contacts: ELIZABETH and DENNIS FARRAR 0425 209 840

#### Feast of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop

The Josephite Associates would like the Parish Community to join them to celebrate the Feast of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop on the 8th August.

Mass will be celebrated at 9am St Patrick's, followed by morning tea

and a speaker, Kelly Vance, from the Mary MacKillop Today Foundation, who will talk about the Josephite's Mission in Timor Leste.



<u>Healing our world through spiritual,</u>	St Bernadette's Parish Retreat Day
social and environmental action.	THE PRECIOUS GIFT
We need your vote for Nagle College's Bush	OF THE EUCHARIST
Tucker Garden of Healing and	
Happiness.	MQOF Parishioners are invited to come along
	for the Day Retreat. Directed By: Fr. Hugh Thomas C.Ss.R.
	Date: 10 August 2019
	Start: 9:50am
	Finish: 3:30pm
	Where: St Joseph's Retreat Centre
	Baulkham Hills
	Cost: \$35 per person
	Morning Tea, Afternoon Tea and Buffet Lunch
Nagle College is a successful finalist in the running to receive	will be provided. For more information please contact St
unding for a <b>BUSH TUCKER GARDEN</b> through the NSW Gov-	Bernadette's Lalor Park on
ernment's My Community Project. See below for more de-	9672 4037 or pick up a flyer from the foyer
ails.	
To be awarded the \$20,000.00 we need votes.	Malta Travel - Tours 2020
/oting closes soon. 15th August, 2019	
• Do you live in the electorate of Prospect?	1. <b>Tasmania -</b> Join us on a <b>February</b> group to
<ul> <li>Are you 16 years or older?</li> </ul>	the Island of untamed beauty and friendly
• Do you have a MyServiceNSW account or is your	people. Call Monica - 9896 0712 or 0414 859386
name is on a Medicare card?	2. Gorgeous Hawaii: Mid-May 2020. Join us
IF YES TO THE ABOVE, WE NEED YOUR VOTES!	on a hilarious escorted tour: Honolulu - Pearl Harbour Polynesian Culture - Maui - Hilo -
Fo read more about our proposal, click here <u>https://</u>	Kona - Kauai. Call Paul Vassallo: 9666 6684,
nycommunityproject.service.nsw.gov.au/project?	Mob: 0416 951 502.
projectId=cjy159jmugx1n0770r3t9bwjy	3. NEW TOUR: East Canada & USA: September 2020. Boston - Montreal - Quebec -
	Ottawa - Kingston - Toronto - Niagara Falls -
For information on how to vote, click here	Washington - New York. Call Charlie - 9631
https://mycommunityproject.service.nsw.gov.au/how-to- vote	2689 or 0412 523 893.
	You get the lot: flights, hotels, food, touring, transfers and insurance.



#### <u>Seminar – Understanding Family Law</u>

CatholicCare Solo Parent Services is holding a two session Seminar on "Understanding Family Law". These sessions are presented by an Accredited Family Law Specialist and will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Session 1: 10am – 12pm – Understanding the Family Law Act Focus on Divorce/Separation and Children's needs.
Session 2: 1pm -3pm – Understanding the Family Law Act – Focus on Property Settlements.
Venue: St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta. Entry and onsite parking via Boom gate on Victoria Rd. Cost: \$10.00 per session.
Registration Essential: Contact - Rita - PH: 8843 2575 or email: soloparentservices@ccss.org.au

# VOCATION ENQUIRY DAY

with the Capuchin Friars

When: Saturday, 24th August 2019, 2pm-7pm Where: St Fiacre's Hall, 98 Catherine St, Leichhardt

Cost: Free

Terrific opportunity to come and hear a few talks and have your questions answered. For young men (18-35 yrs).

> To register your interest, please contact Fr Thomas: 0432 362 052 or vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au www.capuchin.org.au

Is God calling you to serve Him? Young men (18-35) are invited to come and hear about the life and vocations of the priesthood and consecrated religious life. The Capuchins will host this opportunity to hear about our way of life, to pray, and have your questions answered. It's at St Fiacre's Parish Hall (top of the driveway) at 98 Catherine Street, Leichhardt. Concludes with dinner. For those who would like, there will be the optional opportunity to then go out on the Friars' Van – which is a Capuchin ministry to the homeless in Sydney

#### **Volunteers Wanted**

We are in need of volunteers either in St Michael's or St Patrick's Church who would like to share their time and talents for the following:

Church and Building Maintenance Gardening and Grounds Maintenance Electrical Maintenance Church Cleaning- St Patrick's

The Volunteer sign-up forms are available at the foyers of our Churches.



## **Hospitality Team**

You are invited to extend the spirit of welcome and hospitality to fellow parishioners after Mass. We are looking for people to join the St Michael's hospitality roster after the 9.30am Mass on Sundays. If you, a group of friends or your family would like to host morning tea every 4-6 weeks, call the Parish Office on 9622 1125 with your details.

At Mary, Queen of the Family Parish we Welcome, Grow and Act.

#### **MQOF PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT** Highlights of the Parish Council meeting on the 18<sup>TH</sup> July 2019

Richard McMahon, the Director of Pastoral Planning of the Diocese of Parramatta, has agreed to be the moderator for the discernment day for the PPC elections on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in the Multi Purpose Room commencing at 10.00am for 10.30am. Lunch will be provided for nominees. Please lodge the nomination forms at the parish office <u>before</u> 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Paul Scott attended the Parramatta Diocesan Forum. There were 250 attendees. Bishop Vincent Long called the forum to discuss and relate to the Plenary Council 2020. The theme was: 'Go Out into the Deep: Becoming the Community Christ Calls Us to Be'. Bishop Vincent talked about a church that needs to change, needs to move from being inward looking organisation to an outgoing organisation, to relate to the people on the fringe. Another Council member Kristy Scott presented a video on the same theme and feminine spirituality.

ALPHA course for second half of this year depends upon numbers enrolling. Possibility for a leadership weekend later in the year in the event that a course is not conducted.

The Annual General Meeting of PPC will follow the PPC election. The AGM will be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 11.30am and all parishioners are invited. If any parishioner has a matter to add to the agenda of the AGM, please submit it in writing addressed to the Secretary of the Council at least 14 days before the meeting. Such requests can be left at the Parish office, emailed to <u>admin@mqofblacktown.org.au</u> or posted to the Parish.

### Help stop attempts to make abortion legal up until birth in NSW

Dear Parishioners, Earlier this week, the *Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019* (**Bill**) was tabled in NSW Parliament.

If passed, it will make abortion legal up until birth in NSW, for any reason, as long as two doctors agree if the baby is more than 22 weeks' old.

There has been no community consultation on this Bill. Attempts to rush the Bill through Parliament intentionally exclude the voices of all concerned citizens, including people of faith, from the debate.

### We must act immediately to try and stop this Bill.

Please **urgently** contact your NSW State Member of Parliament and ask them to vote against this Bill. Stephen Bali Member for Blacktown Phone (02) 9671 5222 Fax (02) 9671 5266 blacktown@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Hugh McDermott Member for Prospect Phone (02) 9756 4766 Fax (02) 9756 1544 prospect@parliament.nsw.gov.au]

Simply phone the electorate office during business hours and let them know that you are from the local area, and would like to ask the Member to vote against the abortion bill. Some reasons you can provide for asking them to vote against the Bill include: It would allow abortion up until birth with the approval of two doctors, for any reason.

- It does nothing to provide alternatives for women who feel distressed at being pregnant and feel they have 'no other option.'
- It provides no protection for women experiencing violence (According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 48 per cent of women who report violence from a former partner were abused during pregnancy, as are 18 per cent of women who report violence from a current partner.)
- It overrides conscience of doctors and other medical professionals or institutions, requiring them to disclose their objection and refer to another doctor or institution who will perform the abortion.
- It will leave unborn children and distressed pregnant women even more at risk.
- There has been no community consultation on the Bill.

Voters have been denied the opportunity to have their voices heard in this debate.

Catholics believe that women and babies deserve better than abortion.

If you know a woman experiencing difficulty because of an unexpected pregnancy, please know that there is help available. The Church, through its many agencies, can provide support to women who feel they have no choice available to them other than abortion. **Thank you for your willingness to help in building a culture of life in NSW!** 



#### A DAY OF DISCERNMENT FOR SINGLE MEN AGED 16 AND ABOVE

HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARY 31/33 ALLEN ST, HARRIS PARK 10AM-7PM | 18 AUGUST 2019



#### Reflective Ministry Component 2 at the Institute for Mission

A great opportunity for those involved in any form of service or ministry that is motivated by the Gospel.

**Dates:** 11 Tuesday evening sessions starting from 20 August 6.45pm. Also there is a Saturday morning session 23 November

**Cost:** \$90 (negotiable with subsidies) Visit the IFM Website for more information and registration.

Jesus says... "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest

Every Wednesday 6.30pm - 7.25pm followed by St Michael's Church 58 Orwell St Blacktown Sout

Every Friday 6.30pm - 7.25pm followed by Mas St Patrick's Church 51-59 Allawah St Blacktown



### Baptism for Older Children

Do you have an older child (aged 5-16) who would like to baptised? If you do, call Antoinette

at the parish office (9622 1125) to join other families at the upcoming workshop.

For more information visit the parish website www.mqofblacktown.org.au and click the Baptism tab under Sacraments.

### **Piety Store**

Come and have a look at the MQOF Piety Store after Mass! We have many beautiful gifts available for purchase.



# Social Justice cans and plastic bottles collection

There will be boxes in the foyers for those who want to bring in their cans and plastic bottles. The Social Justice group will recycle them and the funds will help to provide for those who are doing it tough in our community.



# Adult Confirmation

Are you ready to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Adult Confirmation will take place on the 10th September at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Preparations for the Sacrament will begin on the 31st of August at the Institute for Mission (IFM). If you are interested and wish to

find out more details, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125.

# **Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2019**

Sessions are held Mondays 7pm at the Institute for Mission

- Compulsory Introductory Session 12th August
- Ministers of the Word (2 Sessions) 19th & 26th August
- Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (2 Sessions) 9th & 16th September

• Communion to the Sick and Dying (1 Session) 23rd September Please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or come by to collect a form.

