

# Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

we acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship. FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 10 May 2020



The Parish Office will be open from 9am to 1pm. These hours will operate until further notice.

We encourage all parishioners to access our parish website for a variety of resources to aid with enriching your spiritual life in this time of isolation and social distancing.

Resources for prayers, online Masses and more are found on the website homepage

Parishioners are invited to watch the Sunday Mass with Bishop Vincent. Please visit (www.parracatholic.org) Live stream on You Tube www.youtube.com/user/

Parramatta Diocese Facebook www.facebook.com/parracatholic

#### DAILY READINGS

M 11 May: Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26



- **Tu 12 May:** Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31
- W 13 May: Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
- **Th 14 May:** Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Jn 15:9-17
- F 15 May: Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17
- Sa 16 May: Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

**Su 17 May**: Acts 8:5-8,14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18; Jn 14:15-21

#### **OUR 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.



# "Do not let your hearts be troubled." (John 14:1)

What a perfect and fitting Gospel in our current situation!

This Gospel periscope is usually chosen during the Funerals that I had officiated. The statements of Jesus in this Gospel are so comforting to those who are grieving as he is assuring us that in his "Father's house there are many dwelling place" (John 14:2). And Jesus promises a place for us as he said: "I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3).

How can our hearts not be troubled? I think sometimes it is 'easier said than done' to follow this command of Jesus especially when we are in deep crisis. Humanly speaking, it is quite difficult not to be disturbed. But as people of faith, we should not be afraid because we know and believe in Jesus Christ who is 'the way, the truth and the life'.

We surely know people who are calm and undisturbed amidst the storms and challenges they encounter in their lives. One of them whom I know is my mother. I can recall many instances in my life that my mother showed to me how to stay calm and peaceful. When trials and problems came into our family life, she always says, "Don't worry. God will never abandon us." She is woman of faith and love.

As we celebrate Mother's Day this weekend, I wish to express my gratitude to all mothers who faithfully live out their lives in fulfilling their sacred role as mothers and courageously bring up their children with steadfast love.

May our Mother Mary, who continues to lead us to Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, intercede for us!

Fr John Paul

#### **5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

#### **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 97:1-2**

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

#### FIRST READING: Acts 6:1-7

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v. 22

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

#### SECOND READING: 1 Pt 2:4-9

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Jn 14:6**

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL: Jn 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

# COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Jn 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

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#### For all our mothers in our parish

May Our Blessed Mother smile upon you, and with her grace bless your day with happiness.

## From the Parish Team.



#### **Vinnies Pantry**

If you would like to help with food donations to St Vincent de Paul you can drop off your food items at the Hub, 23 David Lane, Blacktown. Monday to Friday. Ph: 8861 9777



They will also accept financial donations, a receipt will be issued to you and the donation will be forwarded to the Head Office.

Thank you for your continued support.

# **Sacramental Process 2020**



Dear families, due the current circumstances in regard to Covid-19, the sacrament of First Holy Eucharist is postponed until further notice.

Further information on the other Sacraments to follow.

Together we wait in hope and prayer!

The Sacramental Team.

## PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members who are unable to participate because of illness or aging.



For more information and to arrange receiving of the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125.

#### PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Deceased members of the Tanti Family

SICK

John & Norma McGettigan, Orfeo Marchetti, Silvana Murphy, Adolfino V Alcedo, George Collin, Candida Irugalbandara,

#### **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

Robert Ernest Parr Ashleigh Names submitted to Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time.

# CATECHESIS

This month of May, let us give special attention to Mary, the bearer of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and turn to her in prayer to intercede for us for our salvation. Let us look at what Saint John Paul tells us about the rosary.

"The Rosary of the Virgin Mary, which gradually took form in the second millennium under the guidance of the Spirit of God, is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness. It blends easily into the spiritual journey of the Christian life, which, after two thousand years, has lost none of the freshness of its beginnings and feels drawn by the Spirit of God to "set out into the deep" (*duc in altum!*) in order once more to proclaim, and even cry out, before the world that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour, "the way, and the truth and the life" (*Jn* 14:6), "the goal of human history and the point on which the desires of history and civilization turn."

The Rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer. In the sobriety of its elements, it has all the *depth of the Gospel message in its entirety*. It is an echo of the prayer of Mary, her perennial *Magnificat* for the work of the redemptive Incarnation which began in her virginal womb. With the Rosary, the Christian people *sits at the school of Mary* and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.

The Rosary, precisely because it starts with Mary's own experience, is *an exquisitely contemplative prayer*. Without this contemplative dimension, it would lose its meaning, as Pope Paul VI clearly pointed out: "Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas, in violation of the admonition of Christ: 'In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard for their many words' (Mt 6:7). By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord. In this way the unfathomable riches of these mysteries are disclosed."

Excerpt from John Paul II's Apostolic Letter 'Rosarium Virginis Mariae', 16 October 2002.

Dear fellow parishioners,

I'm Michael Zerafa, MQOF Parish Finance Committee Chair. I'm making this plea on behalf of our parish community.

### Individuals, families and business are hurting and so is YOUR PARISH.

The absence of weekend Masses means that our parish is no longer receiving donations at this time, other than from those parishioners participating in Planned Giving and who are contributing regularly via credit card or bank account deduction.

*To those parishioners who are continuing to give at this time we say, a very big THANK YOU!* Whilst our church buildings are closed, our usual expenses such as - insurances, loan repayments, staff salaries, and bills must still be met.

Online

Giving

# Thus, the reason for this humble appeal.

There are two ways you can donate:

<u>Transfer funds directly to our Parish Bank Account via your own Bank's On-line-Banking portal</u> The details of our Parish Bank Account are as follows:

Name of Account: Blacktown Catholic Church Bank: Commonwealth Bank BSB Number: 067 950 Account Number: 00677 Remitter Name: Your Surname and Initials

Transfer funds directly to our Parish Bank Account from your VISA or MasterCard using B-Point

To do this, go to the MQOF website, <u>www.mqofblacktown.org.au</u>, go to 'Donate' and then click on B-Point. Once there, select '1400163-Donation' at the Biller Code field, type your Full Name, Phone Number and, at 'Purpose of Payment' type 'Second Collection' then, type in the amount you wish to contribute, and proceed with inputting your credit card details, then finally click 'Proceed'.

On behalf of the Finance Committee and the Parish Clergy Team, we pray God's Blessings on you, and your families at this very difficult time. Thank you for your ongoing support of your parish and we look forward to the day that we all join together, to celebrate Holy Mass, as a family, without Social Distancing!!

God Bless and take care, Michael Zerafa

Chairperson, MQOF Finance Committee



Call the Parish Office on 96221125 for advertising details.

Please understand that Mary, Queen of the Family Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.