



Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER **17 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/

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Loving God and keeping his commandments

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” Love is at the heart of the covenant God has established with the people he chose for himself in order to perpetuate it to the whole of humanity. A covenant requires fidelity to the promises made by the two parties, done freely and out of love. The pinnacle of freedom is seen in the most selfless act of the person towards God and one’s neighbour. “I will be your God, and you will be my people.” This promise of God runs throughout the fabric of the Sacred Scripture. Christ has fulfilled it on the cross. He has inaugurated the new covenant during the Last Supper and renewed again and again when we celebrate the Holy Eucharist. “This is my body... this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant” (Eucharistic Prayer I-IV). “Do this in memory of me.”

The commandments of God are expressions of his love that would lead us to the fullness of life. The temptation of the ancient serpent (Satan or the devil) to Adam and Eve was to put in their minds doubt on God’s love for them and that he’s arbitrary by not allowing them to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. While they are already like God bearing his image and likeness, they gave in to the temptation to be like God without God (CCC 398). That’s the greatest tragedy that has entered humanity. The rest of the story is a bit long to be told. God does not give up, however. His love is everlasting. The ten commandments he has given through Moses are again his most pure and authentic expressions of love that gives us life. Again and again, the Israelites were laid choices as they journey to the promised land. Blessings accompany with obeying the Lord’s voice and observing his commandments. Curse follow on the contrary (see for example Deuteronomy 28).

The Catholic Church, our mother who teaches us, echoes this invitation throughout the generations. “God has loved us first. The love of the One God is recalled in the first of the ‘ten words’. The commandments then make explicit the response of love that man is called to give God” (CCC 2083). We all certainly know our predicament. We are all wounded and we carry this even after our baptism. St Augustine calls this concupiscence, our tendency to sin. This is why God has to redeem us and save us from being eternally separated from him. He sent his only-begotten Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, a God-incarnate, taking on our flesh, he became like us except sin. Jesus willingly embrace the mission entrusted to him by the Father so that through his life, death and resurrection, we will all be led back to our eternal home- to God, the life of the Trinity. When he ascended into heaven, he did not leave us orphans. He sends us another helper, a Paraclete, an advocate- the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit has penetrated every sacrament that we have in the Catholic Church. He will help us to obey God’s commandments and to love God, for He is the Spirit of Love that binds the Father and the Son. He is the fire of love that would enflame our hearts to hold on to the covenant God has made between us in Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sister, let not our failures, our sins stop us to approach the throne of God’s mercy and faithfulness. Let’s continue our covenant journey by loving God and keeping his commandments.

DAILY READINGS

M 18 May: Acts 16:11-15;
Jn 15:26, 16:4



Tu 19 May: Acts 16:22-34;
Jn 16:5-11

W 20 May: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1;
Jn 16:12-15

Th 21 May: Acts 18:1-8;
Jn 16:16-20

F 22 May: Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23

Sa 23 May: Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23-28

Su 24 May: Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23;
Mt 28:16-20

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.

Fr Regie

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 48:20

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:5-8. 14-17

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 65:1-7.16.20. R. see. v. 1

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING: 1 Pt 3:15-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jn 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.
I shall ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate
to be with you for ever,
that Spirit of truth
whom the world can never receive
since it neither sees nor knows him;
but you know him,
because he is with you, he is in you.
I will not leave you orphans;
I will come back to you.
In a short time the world will no longer see me;
but you will see me,
because I live and you will live.
On that day
you will understand that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them
will be one who loves me;
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Jn 14:15-16

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete,
to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

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Are you wondering how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting the Church around the world?

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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


SICK

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

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Frank Pugliese, Van Suu Vu

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



CATECHESIS

Many people have a reluctance to pray the rosary because they think it detracts from Jesus, that we should just go straight to him. St. John Paul II responded to this by explaining that in praying the rosary we are taught about Christ from Mary:

Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of “learning him”. In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (cf. Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother.

The first of the “signs” worked by Jesus – the changing of water into wine at the marriage in Cana – clearly presents Mary in the guise of a teacher, as she urges the servants to do what Jesus commands (cf. Jn 2:5). We can imagine that she would have done likewise for the disciples after Jesus' Ascension, when she joined them in awaiting the Holy Spirit and supported them in their first mission. Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to “read” Christ, to discover his secrets and to understand his message.

This school of Mary is all the more effective if we consider that she teaches by obtaining for us in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit, even as she offers us the incomparable example of her own “pilgrimage of faith”.⁽¹⁷⁾ As we contemplate each mystery of her Son's life, she invites us to do as she did at the Annunciation: to ask humbly the questions which open us to the light, in order to end with the obedience of faith: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38).

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.

Thus, the reason for this humble appeal.

There are two ways you can donate:

Transfer funds directly to our Parish Bank Account via your own Bank's On-line-Banking portal

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, www.mqofblacktown.org.au, 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



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You would have heard the good news that churches are open again for Mass, confession, and private prayer. However, there are restrictions still in place which includes having a maximum of 10 people at Mass (not including ministers). We have decided to resume Masses at their normal times beginning from Saturday Vigil 16th May. Parishioners wishing to attend can follow one of the links below or ring the parish office to register. Please note: registration is essential. Parishes must have the name and contact details of all those who attend any service; those who have not registered cannot attend the service.

St. Michael's:

<https://calendly.com/mqofblacktown/mass-at-st-michael-s>

St. Patrick's:

<https://calendly.com/mqofblacktown/mass-1>

We realise that there will be many people wanting to return to Mass but not enough places. We would request, therefore, that at this stage parishioners only register for one Mass per month. This will be reviewed in the coming days and weeks. We wish to make Mass available to as many people as possible, but this will only happen with your cooperation in this matter.

Further information will follow during the week about Adoration and confession. Until then, the churches will only be open for scheduled Masses.

We also wish to remind everyone that the bishop's dispensation from the Sunday obligation remains. So no one is obliged to attend Mass. Furthermore, if anyone is unwell we would ask them to take care of themselves and stay home.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

God bless you all,

The parish team

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