



Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.
ASCENSION OF THE LORD **24 May 2020**



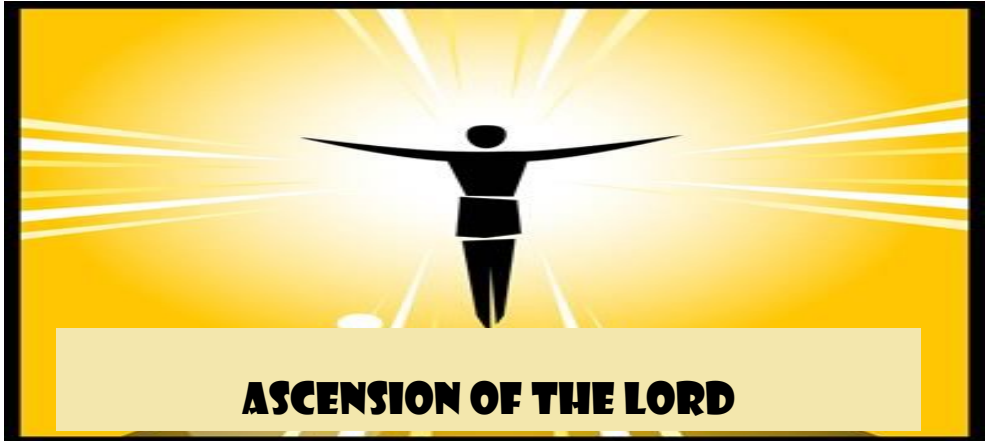
The Parish Office will be open from 9am to 1pm. These hours will operate until further notice.

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 YouTube www.youtube.com/user/

Parramatta Diocese Facebook www.facebook.com/parracatholic



ASCENSION OF THE LORD

DAILY READINGS



- M 25 May:** Sir 4:11;
1 Cor 1:18-25;
Jn 19:25-27
- Tu 26 May:** Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11
- W 27 May:** Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11-19
- Th 28 May:** Acts 22:30, 23:6-11;
Jn 17:20-26
- F 29 May:** Acts 25:13-21; Jn 21:15-19
- Sa 30 May:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31;
Jn 21:20-25
- Su 31 May:** Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7,
12-13; Jn 20:19-23

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.

Oftentimes we wonder what God would say to us in the particular moment we are in. Sometimes we even hope that he would speak out and offer us some special word to help us through the moment, or endure the trial, or guide our confused minds. The good news is that very often (indeed I'm willing to bet always) he already has spoken that word. We just haven't looked for it; or having begun looking, haven't found it yet.

This week gives us a perfect example of this. We have endured many weeks of being locked out of churches, away from Mass and the sacraments as we normal know them and we have all probably wondered: where is Jesus in all this? We haven't been connecting with him in the manner we are used to. So, we wonder whether he is still just as close, whether he is with us as he was before. Well he gave us the answer about 2000 years ago and we hear it in the Gospel this Sunday: 'know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.' Where is Jesus in all this? Right here, with us.

Perhaps this time of being locked out of our churches is teaching us to not lock Jesus in there. And I don't mean that the church shouldn't be a sacred place to be respected and treated with reverence – it most definitely is. I mean we all have the tendency to see our union with Jesus as the thing that happens at church, and leave the rest of our lives without him. We fulfil our Sunday obligation but then live the rest of the week without him. Perhaps this time is a reminder to us from Jesus that he ascended into heaven not to escape from us and leave us stranded, but in order to make his home in all of us. He ascended so that his home would not just be in Jerusalem or Galilee but in the hearts and homes of Christians throughout the world and throughout time.

Jesus wants a deep and personal union with each of us. A union that is not limited to coming to the church on Sunday, but a union that permeates everything in our lives. As we contemplate his ascension this week, let us invite him to make his home in our hearts and our homes.

Fr Jack

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Acts 1:11

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. V.6

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord .

SECOND READING: Eph 1:17-23

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mt 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Mt 28:20

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

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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.



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

Visit: www.aidtochurch.org/covid-19 to read messages from bishops, priests, brothers and religious sisters serving in some of the most remote and dangerous countries in the world.

DUE TO COVID-19 ONLY 10 PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND PUBLIC MASSES AND CHURCH BUILDING AT ANY ONE TIME.

UPDATE ON THE RE-OPENING OF CHURCH

As mandated by NSW Government, those who enter the church must complete the sign-in form available in the church foyer. Physical distancing must be strictly observed at all time.

• St Patricks and St Michael Churches are open for **private prayer and devotions**, Mon-Fri 9am to 4pm. Please see Parish Office Staff to open the church door.

• **Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession** . Regular schedule. If you wish to come on weekdays, contact the Parish Office.

• **Weekday Masses.** Regular Weekday Masses has resumed last Monday, 18 May. If you wish to come to Mass, call 02 9622 1125 between 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday to book or book via our website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au. Booking is necessary.

• **Sunday Masses.** Sunday Masses has commenced last 16/17th of May at normal hours. If you wish to come to Mass, call 02 9622 1125, between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday to book; or book via our website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au . Booking is necessary.

• **Baptisms.** One family is allowed to have their child baptised with only 10 attendees. Contact the Parish Office for details.

• **Anointing of the Sick.** Contact the Parish Office.

• **Weddings.** Up to 10 persons plus the couple, the celebrant and assisting ministers are permitted. Contact the Parish Office for details.

• **Funerals.** 20 mourners indoors or 30 mourners outdoors are permitted for funerals, in addition to clergy and funeral directors.

• **The elderly, those with health conditions and low immune system are still advised to stay at home.**

• Sanitiser dispensers are available at the church foyer.

• Please disinfect the chair you used before leaving the church with the disinfecting wipes provided at the church foyer.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Evelyn Marca

SICK

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Rosaline McGettigan, Joseph Belonio

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Josephine Benedek, Mark Uvero, Isidro Villaester, Probo Canete
Names submitted to Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time.



CATECHESIS

“He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father”

659 "So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God."⁵³² Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys.⁵³³ But during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity.⁵³⁴ Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand.⁵³⁵ Only in a wholly exceptional and unique way would Jesus show himself to Paul "as to one untimely born", in a last apparition that established him as an apostle.⁵³⁶

660 The veiled character of the glory of the Risen One during this time is intimated in his mysterious words to Mary Magdalene: "I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."⁵³⁷ This indicates a difference in manifestation between the glory of the risen Christ and that of the Christ exalted to the Father's right hand, a transition marked by the historical and transcendent event of the Ascension.

661 This final stage stays closely linked to the first, that is, to his descent from heaven in the Incarnation. Only the one who "came from the Father" can return to the Father: Christ Jesus.⁵³⁸ "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man."⁵³⁹ Left to its own natural powers humanity does not have access to the "Father's house", to God's life and happiness.⁵⁴⁰ Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us.⁵⁴¹

662 "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself."⁵⁴² The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven, and indeed begins it. Jesus Christ, the one priest of the new and eternal Covenant, "entered, not into a sanctuary made by human hands. . . but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."⁵⁴³ There Christ permanently exercises his priesthood, for he "always lives to make intercession" for "those who draw near to God through him".⁵⁴⁴ As "high priest of the good things to come" he is the center and the principal actor of the liturgy that honours the Father in heaven.⁵⁴⁵

663 Henceforth Christ is *seated at the right hand of the Father*: "By 'the Father's right hand' we understand the glory and honour of divinity, where he who exists as Son of God before all ages, indeed as God, of one being with the Father, is seated bodily after he became incarnate and his flesh was glorified."⁵⁴⁶

664 Being seated at the Father's right hand signifies the inauguration of the Messiah's kingdom, the fulfilment of the prophet Daniel's vision concerning the Son of man: "To him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."⁵⁴⁷ After this event the apostles became witnesses of the "kingdom [that] will have no end".⁵⁴⁸

Source: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p1s2c2a6.htm)

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 three 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: 00000677

Remitter Name: Your Surname and Initials

By physical direct deposit in the bank—you need to request a copy of a deposit slip from the parish office before going to your bank.

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





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 to 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.

NEW CATHOLIC TV Channel: Shalom World

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More details: <https://www.shalomworldtv.org/about>

Shalom World Australia was launched on 26th January 2018, the Australia Day. Find the launch PROMO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

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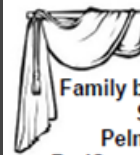
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