

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT -YEAR B 13 DECEMBER 2020

LITURGY TIMES

Weekday Masses

St Michael's: 8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri Wednesday 7.30pm

St Patrick's: 9am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat and 7.30pm Friday only.

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 Patrick's) 5.30pm Sunday (St Patrick's) 6.00pm Sunday (St Michael's)

Reconciliation:

St Michael's: Wednesday 6:45pm-7:25pm **St Patrick's**: Friday 6:45pm-7:25pm & Saturday 9:30am-10:25am

Holy Hour: St Michael's: Wednesday 6:30pm—7:30pm St Patrick's: Friday 6:30pm—7:30pm

Baptisms, Marriages & Funerals by appointment.

DAILY READINGS

- M 14 Dec: Num 24:2-7,15-17; Mt 21:23-27
- **Tu 15 Dec:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
- W 16 Dec: Is 45:6-8,18,21-25; Lk 7:19-23
- **Th 17 Dec:** Gen 49:2,8-10; Mt 1:1-17
- **F 18 Dec:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24
- Sa 19 Dec: Jud 13:2-7,24-25; Lk 1:5-25
- Su 20 Dec: 2 Sam 7:1-5,8-12,14-16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

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.



Rejoice Always!

On this Third Sunday of Advent, St Paul has invited us to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks to our God who sent His Son Jesus Christ to save us." We also sing the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice." In the history of salvation, when we speak of the coming of Jesus Christ, we speak joyfully of the celebration of His birthday for many reasons. Yet undeniably many experience prolonged pain of poverty in life. Perhaps children, relatives and friends moved away from them and they become isolated and lonely. Maybe they are affected by current situation of pandemic. Their hearts are broken with sadness and sorrows. They are doing tough. They may find happiness elusive especially during this Christmas season. What is our response?

St Paul calls us to share our joyous celebration with them by offering Christian duty of care through prayer, if we cannot offer practical and material help. We need to discover once again the reason for "Christmas" God coming to us in the flesh. This is the reason for our celebration.

We rejoice in the coming of Jesus that fits this Sunday's Gospel when John says, "There is one among you, unknown to you, not recognised and that one is the Messiah, the Anointed One." The Messiah's coming is to establish the Kingdom of God, the kingdom of joy, peace and love for one family under God. He brings Good News to the poor, healing to the sad and grieving, freedom to the imprisoned and enslaved.

We rejoice the coming of Jesus because he brings abundantly happiness and justice that flourish among people. The joy should not just be things that we feel great about, but to remember those suffering and help them even if with a small gift because it is where we find the joy of Christmas.

We celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ as St Paul encourages us that the cause of our joy must be moved by the Spirit. That the Spirit teaches us to realise what is truly good and evil.

Deacon John

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: Is 61:1-2, 10-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54. R. Is 61:10

My soul rejoices in my God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thes 5:16-24

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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We are a welcoming parish... you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected by the Catholic Community of Mary, Queen of the Family. If you are not an active member of this Community, consider partaking in what we have to offer. We serve the Community through outreach, education, social activities, sacramental preparation, youth and comfort to the sick and mourning. In addition to our spiritual and outreach organisations, perchance you have an interest in joining one of our many liturgical ministries such as: Minister of Holy Communion, Reader/Commentator, Welcomer, Minister of DVP/Power Point, etc. Volunteers are formally registered by filling out a *Join a Ministry* form that is then entered into the parish data system *(information supplied remains confidential)*. These forms are available from the parish office or in the church foyer.

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 Simone & Paolini Families, Deceased Members of the Meilak Family, Anthony Coutinho, Buddy Hassarati, Deceased members of the Tanti Family, The Charalambous Family,

SICK

Pat Burns, Eric Fortaleza, Roger Fortaleza, Maryanne Vaz, Melissa Sahin, Tyler Kennedy, Pat Regan, Jim & Mary Ryan, Marlene McCarthy, Selim Stamati, John & Norma McGettigan

> **DEATH ANNIVERSARIES** Felicula Purisima Perez, Gonzlao Sitjar

RECENTLY DECEASED

Rosa Meliak, Felisa Cadelina, Bob Renfrew, Bienvenida Almario, Ricardo Santillan, Basilisa Carano-o Names submitted to Parish for the sick list will show for 4 weeks at a time.

Frankly Speaking...

"The season of Advent...restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word." ...Pope Francis



Catechism of the Catholic Church

THE FORMATION OF CONSCIENCE

1783 Conscience must be informed and moral judgment enlightened. A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. The education of conscience is indispensable for human beings who are subjected to negative influences and tempted by sin to prefer their own judgment and to reject authoritative teachings.

1784 The education of the conscience is a lifelong task. From the earliest years, it awakens the child to the knowledge and practice of the interior law recognized by conscience. Prudent education teaches virtue; it prevents or cures fear, selfishness and pride, resentment arising from guilt, and feelings of complacency, born of human weakness and faults. The education of the conscience guarantees freedom and engenders peace of heart.

<u>1785</u> In the formation of conscience the Word of God is the light for our path,⁵⁴ we must assimilate it in faith and prayer and put it into practice. We must also examine our conscience before the Lord's Cross. We are assisted by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, aided by the witness or advice of others and guided by the authoritative teaching of the Church.55

TO CHOOSE IN ACCORD WITH CONSCIENCE

1786 Faced with a moral choice, conscience can make either a right judgment in accordance with reason and the divine law or, on the contrary, an erroneous judgment that departs from them.

1787 Man is sometimes confronted by situations that make moral judgments less assured and decision difficult. But he must always seriously seek what is right and good and discern the will of God expressed in divine law.

1788 To this purpose, man strives to interpret the data of experience and the signs of the times assisted by the virtue of prudence, by the advice of competent people, and by the help of the Holy Spirit and his gifts.

1789 Some rules apply in every case:

- One may never do evil so that good may result from it;

- the Golden Rule: "Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them."56

- charity always proceeds by way of respect for one's neighbour and his conscience: "Thus sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience . . . you sin against Christ."⁵⁷ Therefore "it is right not to . . . do anything that makes your brother stumble."⁵

PARISH GROUPS

HOLY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP

LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS

Contact: Charles Hyson, 0412 631 602, www.holyfamilyfellowship.com

Meeting Time and Venue : Every Friday,

Contact: Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943

Church.

Church

Meeting Time and Venue : Every 2nd Saturday 6:30pm-9:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

Contact: Max Rosario 0490 137 533 (for statue bookings)

5:30pm – 7:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's

Meeting Time and Venue : Every 3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 am at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP

Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566

Meeting Time and Venue: 3:00pm every 2nd Saturday at St Michael's Church.

LEGION OF MARY ST PATRICK'S

Contact: Maurice Bru 0419 626 583 (for statue bookings)

Meeting Time and Venue : Every Monday, 7:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church. Juniors meet every Friday at 4:30pm.



TEHILLAH PRAYER GROUP

Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando, 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916

Meeting Time and Venue : Every 2nd & 4th Saturday (school term) between 2pm & 4pm at the MPA, St Patrick's Church.

ROSARY GROUP

Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566

Meeting Time and Venue : Every Tuesday after the 8am Mass, at St Michael's church.

YOUTH GROUP

Franchesca Tenedora, ftenedora@gmail.com

Meeting Time and Venue : Every 2nd Sunday at 7:00 pm (after the

5:30pm Mass) at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.





MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

Contact: Kathie Collins, 0414 194 052

Meeting Time and Venue : Every 2nd Sunday, 12pm-2pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Contact: Tony Fernando, 0434 828 297

Meeting Time and Venue : Mondays & Tuesdays, 7:00pm-8:00pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patricks Church







MQOF COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN KEY POINTS Commencing 7th December 2020

- With the announcement of new easing of restrictions commencing Monday, 7th December, we are limited by the 2 square meter rule. However, the 1.5-meter social distancing per household still applies. We are allowed to have 500 at St Patrick's Church and 180 for St Michael's Church at any one time, excluding the clergy and those involved in the liturgy.
- For contact tracing, we still need to register via online or by contacting the Parish Office during office hours or complete a Mass Attendance Slip, which are available in the foyer. Feel free to take home a few slips so you can complete them before going to church to avoid delay. Drop the completed slip on the day you are attending in the designated box provided in the foyer.
- Congregational singing is now permitted, but 12 years or older are **advised to wear a mask**
- On arrival at the church, please **sanitize your hands** using the sanitizer supplied in the foyer.
- Please sit on the seats that are marked. However, if you are from the same family group, you are allowed to sit together.
- During Communion, please form one line and you are required to **maintain physical distancing at all times.**
- At the conclusion of Mass, please disinfect the chair you used before leaving with the disinfecting wipes provided at the church foyer.
- You are requested not to socialize inside or outside the church but leave as soon as possible after Mass.
- You are not allowed to enter the church if you are experiencing cold or flu-like symptoms, have a temperature, been in contact with anyone that is either a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 even if you have made a Mass booking. Catholics from Parramatta Diocese are still dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until further notice.

We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.

Office Hours for Christmas/New Year

Please be advised that the parish office will be closed for 2 weeks from 12pm Thursday 24 December 2020 until Friday 8 January 2021.

The office will reopen on Monday 11 January 2021 to Friday 29 January 2021 from 9am to 12pm.

Normal operating hours will commence on Monday 1 February 2021

Christmas

is Sharing please consider Giving to your parish!



Our main source of income is greatly depleted with the restrictions in attending Masses. Please consider how you can still support our Mary Queen of the Family Parish by signing up to contribute online.

Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to: <u>www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations</u>.

You can also send your offerings/donations thru bank transfer:

FIRST COLLECTION: For the Diocesan Clergy

Account Name: Diocesan Clergy Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 0000 4265 Reference: Parish Name

SECOND COLLECTION: For the Parish Account Name: Blacktown Catholic Church Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 0000 0677 Reference: Donor's name

If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Sarah at *accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au*.

Audio and Visual Project Update-donation received as at 30th November 2020, \$17,308.25.

Thank you to all the donors. Donations are still welcome.

Thank you so much for your support of our parish. We are grateful!



TAP & GO MACHINE

The passing of collection plates by parishioners along the pews is now a thing of the past as most dioceses and churches have already decided to stop using it to help stop the spread of the virus.

The machine is set at \$10, to donate more than \$10 simply tap your credit card as many times as you like. It also accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay and Pay Wave. All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.

Planned Giving (Direct Debit) is also an option if you wish to do cashless donation to the parish, forms are available in the foyer and on our parish website. Collection buckets are still also available in the church and foyer.

St Vincent de Paul Request for volunteers

Thank you to everyone who supported this appeal.

St Vincent de Paul is requesting parishioners to help distribute the Christmas Hampers on Sunday 20 December between 9am and 1pm.

The hampers are in Sid Mosley Centre at St Michael's church.





Come celebrate the Reason for the Season with your Parish Family All are Welcome!

CHRISTMAS EVE Thursday 24th December

5.30pm - Children's Mass (St Patrick's Church)

6.00pm - Children's Mass (St Michael's Church)

8.30pm - Youth Mass (St Patrick's Church) **CHRISTMAS DAY** Friday 25th December

12.00am - Midnight Mass (St Patrick's Church)

7.00am (St Patrick's Church)

8.00am (St Michael's Church)

9.30am (St Michael's Church

10.00am (St Patrick's Church)

<u>Registration is necessary</u>

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We would like to say THANK YOU to CHRISTINA RODRICKS from the bottom of our hearts. Christina has been an invaluable member of the MQOF Parish Leadership Team as a Sacramental Coordinator. We truly appreciate her dedication and strong support to the leadership team. We would like to acknowledge her deep faith in God, her fidelity to the Catholic Church and her ability to share it with others. We are sad that she is leaving the team for family reasons. Rest assured Christina that we will keep you in our prayers. God bless you!

MQOF Parish invites you to be FORMED

FORMED is a new app to help you deepen your understanding of the Catholic Faith, and its free. Just follow the instructions below to get started.

Get the NETFLIX of the Catholic Faith - FORMED



Now free for our Parishioners

Follow the steps below to get access

- Scan the QR code to go to the FORMED website;
 In the Parish search field type "2148" to find our Parish name:
- Select "Mary Queen of the Family" and press "Next";
- 4. Enter your Name and your Email address to register a
- new account and press "Sign Up";5. Download the FORMED app on your phone and "Sign In" using your email address in step 4;
- Browse, Watch, Listen, Read, and Study to form your catholic conscience.



Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for 2021

If you would like to enrol for a Liturgical Ministry Formation Course enrolment forms are available in the Church foyers or at the Parish Office.

The form needs to be returned before Saturday 30 January 2021.



Sacramental Process 2021

Please note that the dates for the Sacramental Process 2021 will be published on the Parish website in the first week of February 2021.

Enrolment/Re-enrolment forms are to be sent in only after the dates are published.

The Sacramental Team wishes you a Christ centered Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!

The Piety Store

These books are now available in our Piety Store.

Adore-Advent Reflections Cost \$4.95

God's Word-Daily Reflections Cost \$18.95

Break Open the Word Cost \$22.00

We now have Christmas Cards and 2021 Columbian Calendars for sale. Please come in and have a look at the many gifts we have in our Piety Store.





The Filipino Chaplaincy, Diocese of Parramatta Invites you to the following Christmas activities:

- Misa de Gallo (Dawn Mass) 16 to 24 December 2020 4:30 AM at St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown
- Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 31 December 2020, 9:00 PM at St Michael's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, 58 Orwell St, Blacktown

Note: Registration at the Church entrance of all attending the mass is required. Singing is now allowed provided all those 12 years old and above wear a mask to join the singing.

THE SUNDAY FLOCK



"He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted..."

Sheepish Question:

What worldly concerns hold me back from the freedom Christ offers?

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Decipher the message that John the Baptist gave to the priests and temple helpers



St Michaels Church:	58 Orwell Street Blacktown.
St Patrick's Church:	51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown. Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm
Telephone:	02 9622 1125; A/H 02 9621 3146
Email:	admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
BPoint payment system Follow the links www.mqofblacktown.org.au on our website.	
Parish Staff	Parish Moderator: Fr Regie Lavilla, MSP
	Priest: Fr John Paul Escarlan
	Priest: Fr Jack Green
	Deacon: Rev. John Cinya
	Finance Officer: Sarah Damole E: accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au
	Secretary: Ann Hart E: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
	Sacramental Coordinator: Christina Rodricks E: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au
	Parish Assistant: Kaitlyn Vergano E: admin@mqogblacktown.org.au
	Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker
	Youth Ministry Leaders: Franchecsa Tenadora & Frank Mangion
Parish Council	Chair: Cecil Fernandes ; Asst Chair: Ruth Miranda ; Secretary: Eva Cheetley ; Members: Nathan Fernandez, Sidney Lazum, Phi Nguyen, Jude Miranda, Joseph Azzi, Ashley Azzi, Harlane Petersen, Fr. Regie Lavilla, Fr John Paul Escarlan, Fr Jack Green, Deacon John Cinya
Parish School	St Michael's Primary: P: 8869 6200 https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au St Patrick's Primary: P: 8869 6000 https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au Nagle College: P: 8887 4507 https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au Patrician Brothers College: P: 8811 0300 https://www.patsblacktown.catholic.edu.au Catholic Early Learning Centre (St Michael's) : P: 8814 8406 https://www.celcblacktownsth.catholic.edu.au Institute for Mission: P: 9296 6369 https://www.Blacktown@ccss.org.au
Nursing Home	Opal Nursing Home (37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 9852 9600 Mulluana Retirement Village (61 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 8822 2100 St Hedwig Village (140 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown 2148) P: 8822 9920

Position Vacant - Sacramental Coordinator, Part Time

The parish of Mary Queen of the Family Blacktown invites applications for the position of Sacramental Coordinator.

The role of Sacramental Coordinator will entail the organisation of the Sacramental Program, primarily the preparation of children for the Sacraments of First Holy Communication, First Reconciliation and Confirmation, and associated duties in accordance with Diocesan policy on Sacraments of Initiation.

The successful applicant **must** need to:

- have the ability to facilitate the sacramental related programs;
- have practical and theological knowledge of Catholic rituals and practices;
- have a strong commitment to the Catholic faith;
- have a professional manner and excellent people skills;
- have sound computer skills, attention to detail and a well ordered approach to work; demonstrate organisational, managerial and problem solving skills.

To apply or to receive a copy of the complete role description please email *reginaldo.lavilla@parracatholic.org*

Applications must include a cover letter, resume, and names and contact details of at least two referees, one of whom includes your parish priest. Applicants may be required to have the right to work within Australia and undertake a national police or working with children check.

Closing date for applications is: Monday, 21 December 2020

AVAILABLE SPACE



ABLE CHOICE PTY LTD NDIS Registered Provider PO Box 8071 ARNDELL PARK NSW 2148

Are you between 7 and 65 YO with a disability? Are you struggling with accessing Services? Did you need help with managing your **NDIS** funding? We can help! Call Erica 0410 372 076;



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