



Weekly Bulletin

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown. & St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B & FATHER'S DAY

5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Mary Queen of the Family (MQOF) parish strives to live as a faithful and committed Catholic community, continuing to deepen in understanding the Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture of the Catholic Church and to grow as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, evangelising and responding to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

LITURGY TIMES DURING LOCKDOWN VIA LIVE STREAM

Sunday Mass ~ 10.00am

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 6.30pm - Holy Hour with the Saints, followed by Mass.

Friday 9.00am ~ Mass

Connect & Join Mass via the LIVE stream services below:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/blacktowncatholics>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCADZ045DKz06ENW1Qurs2G3Q>

Twitch.tv: <https://www.twitch.tv/MQOFBlacktown>

4th Sunday of the month - Filipino Mass—LIVE streamed. 11.15am. For more information: www.filipinochaplaincy.org

RECONCILIATION

By request & appointment please call parish office.

Funerals & Anointing of the Sick by appointment.

Baptisms & Marriages

Postponed until further notice.

Lockdown Journey

I hope and pray that you and your family are well.

Our parish has never been the same without your physical presence when we celebrate the Sacraments in particular the Holy Mass. Thanks be to God for the technology as we can still get connected through online Masses. However, it will never be the same.

I am personally looking forward for that day when we can physically gather to worship God in the Eucharistic celebrations. We have been surely suffering and struggling during this lockdown that has been extended and it may be likely extended beyond September 30. But let us hope and pray that the lockdown will end soon. As community of believers in the healing power of God, we continue to pray for the end of this pandemic. We pray for those who are heavily affected by this pandemic.

Now whether we like it or not, we are in this reality of lockdown especially we are in the LGA of concerns due to the rising positive cases in our area. Let us not waste this opportunity to get the best out of this lockdown. I have been in contact with some of our parishioners who are trying to make the best out of the current lockdown. It may be gardening, cleaning and catching up with their work at home and spending quality time with their family. But the most important of all is that we never take for granted our spiritual life. The best thing that we can get out of this lockdown is to have a deeper relationship with God and with our loved ones.

Like the deaf man in the Gospel this Sunday, we may continue to encounter our Lord Jesus Christ who alone can spiritually heal us. Jesus tells the deaf man to 'be opened' and he immediately experienced the healing power and love of Jesus Christ. May we be open to God's graces so that we can learn some valuable lessons during this pandemic.

You are all in my prayers and thoughts as we continue our lockdown journey.

May God bless you and your family always!

Fr. John Paul Escarlan.

Parish Directory

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown & St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown.

Parish Office: At St. Patrick's Church. Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm
Telephone: 02 9622 1125 A/H: 02 8705 0830.
Website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Regie Lavilla, MSP.

Assistant Priests: Fr. John Paul Escarlan & Fr. Chadi Ibrahim, SDB.

Deacon: John Cina

Finance Officer: Sarah Damole Email: accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au

Secretaries: Ann Hart (Wed-Fri) & Gerald "Ged" Oblea (Mon & Tues)

Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Gerald "Ged" Oblea. Mobile: 0422 724 008

Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Assistant: Kaitlyn Vergano Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

Youth Minister & Liturgy Coordinator: Blake Bano

Parish Pastoral Council: Chair: Cecil Fernandes; Asst Chair: Ruth Miranda; Secretary: Eva Cheetley
Members: Nathan Fernandes, Sidney Lazum, Phi Nguyen, Jude Miranda, Joseph Azzi, Ashley Azzi, Harlane Petersen, Fr. Regie Lavilla, Fr. John Paul Escarlan, Fr. Chadi Ibrahim, Deacon John Cina.

Parish Schools:

St Michael's Primary:
P : 8869 6200 <https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

St Patrick's Primary:
P : 8869 6000 <https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

Nagle College:
P : 8887 4507 <https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

Patrician Brothers College:
P : 8811 0300 <https://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au>

Catholic Early Learning Centre (St Michael's) :
P : 8814 8406 <https://www.celcblacktownsth.catholic.edu.au>

Nursing Homes:

Opal Nursing Home (37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 9852 9600

Mulluana Retirement Village (61 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 8822 2100

Catholic Healthcare St Hedwig Village Blacktown (140 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown 2148) P: 8822 9920

THE LITURGY TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YR~B

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING: IS 35:4-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 145:7-10. R. V.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING: JAS 2:1-5

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: cf. Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mk 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God. great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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DAILY READINGS

Monday 6th September: Col 1:24 – 2:3; Lk 6:6-11.
Tuesday 7th September: Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19.
Wednesday 8th September: Mi 5:1-4; Mt 1:1-16.18-23 or Mt 1:18-23.
Thursday 9th September: Col 3:12-17 ; Lk 6:27-38.
Friday 10th September: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 ; Lk 6:39-42.
Saturday 11th September: Tm 1:15-17 ; Lk 6:43-49.
Sunday 12th September: Is 50:5-9 ; Jas 2:14-18 ; Mk 8:27-35.

FEAST DAYS

THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ~ 8th September
SAINT PETER CLAVER, PRIEST ~ 9th September

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.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

SECTION TWO I. THE CREEDS

CHAPTER TWO I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY SON OF GOD

Article 4 "JESUS CHRIST SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED AND WAS BURIED"

Paragraph 1. JESUS AND ISRAEL

II. JESUS AND THE TEMPLE

583 Like the prophets before him Jesus expressed the deepest respect for the Temple in Jerusalem. It was in the Temple that Joseph and Mary presented him forty days after his birth.³⁴⁹ At the age of twelve he decided to remain in the Temple to remind his parents that he must be about his Father's business.³⁵⁰ He went there each year during his hidden life at least for Passover.³⁵¹ His public ministry itself was patterned by his pilgrimages to Jerusalem for the great Jewish feasts.³⁵²

584 Jesus went up to the Temple as the privileged place of encounter with God. For him, the Temple was the dwelling of his Father, a house of prayer, and he was angered that its outer court had become a place of commerce.³⁵³ He drove merchants out of it because of jealous love for his Father: "You shall not make my Father's house a house of trade. His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'"³⁵⁴ After his Resurrection his apostles retained their reverence for the Temple.³⁵⁵

585 On the threshold of his Passion Jesus announced the coming destruction of this splendid building, of which there would not remain "one stone upon another".³⁵⁶ By doing so, he announced a sign of the last days, which were to begin with his own Passover.³⁵⁷ But this prophecy would be distorted in its telling by false witnesses during his interrogation at the high priest's house, and would be thrown back at him as an insult when he was nailed to the cross.³⁵⁸

586 Far from having been hostile to the Temple, where he gave the essential part of his teaching, Jesus was willing to pay the Temple-tax, associating with him Peter, whom he had just made the foundation of his future Church.³⁵⁹ He even identified himself with the Temple by presenting himself as God's definitive dwelling-place among men.³⁶⁰ Therefore his being put to bodily death³⁶¹ presaged the destruction of the Temple, which would manifest the dawning of a new age in the history of salvation: "The hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."³⁶²

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

Loving God, You have given us life and cared for us through our fathers. We thank you for their lives, their care and the wisdom they have taught us. Fill them today, and all days, with your Holy Spirit of wisdom and love. Help them hear your voice, follow you and teach their children to do the same. God our Father, bless all the fathers in the world. Guide them to be good role models and loving to all their children. Help them to be a father like you are. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way. May we honour them with profound respect and by living your Gospel. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Fiona D'Souza & Family.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Maria Psaida

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

John Wilson, Marie Rebeiro, Phoebe & Peter D'Souza, Eufemina Cañete, Victor Miranda, Patrick Reegan, Joseph "Joe" Azzopardi, Norm & Colleen Hutchinson, Janice Mossfield, William D'Lima, Edward Xavier

SICK

Lourdes Domingo; Robert Vesey, Joan Clout, Laurie Grima, D.J. Nelson, Angela Mikhael, Ike Lutaos

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



Welcome to the Family...



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, Collectors, Minister of DVP/Power Point, Catechists 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.

PARISH GROUPS

BIBLE STUDY GROUP



Contact: Richard Desa, richarddesa@bigpond.com
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Thursday, 7:30pm to 9:00 pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

HOLY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Charles Hyson, 0412 631 602, www.holyfamilyfellowship.com
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd Saturday 6:30pm-9:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael'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 Patrick's Church

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS



Contact: Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 am at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S



Contact: Max Rosario 0490 137 533 (for statue bookings)
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Friday, 5:30pm – 7:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, 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.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS



Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533
Meeting Time and Venue: Monday 9:30am-10:30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church. All are welcome!

MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP



Contact: Jude Besterwitch, 0435 588 309
Meeting Time and Venue: 2nd Sunday of every month, 12pm—2pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

ROSARY GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday after the 8am Mass, at St Michael's church.

TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



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.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: 3:00pm every second Saturday of the month at St Michael's Church

YOUTH MINISTRY



Contact: Blake Bano
Blake@mqofblacktown.org.au
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Sunday from 4pm & 6:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

IMPORTANT COVID~19 UPDATE



As announced by the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Central Coast will extend its lockdown at least until midnight on Thursday 30th September 2021.

In light of this announcement public Masses, Church buildings are closed and other parish activities / meetings are postponed until further notice.

Dispensation from Mass

The dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation remains in place (Canon 1247, Canons 85 and 87, and Catechism of the Catholic Church 2180-2188). Once the dispensation is lifted it will be communicated to our parishes, agencies and ministries.

**DUE TO COVID-19,
PUBLIC MASSES AND CHURCH
BUILDINGS ARE CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**CHURCHES ARE NOT BEING CLOSED.
BUILDINGS ARE BEING CLOSED.
YOU ARE THE CHURCH!
YOU ARE TO REMAIN OPEN.**



DIocese of
PARRAMATTA

PLEASE CHECK IN BEFORE ENTERING OUR PREMISES



We're helping keep our community COVID safe by recording contact details. It's easy to check in:

- 1 Scan QR Code with your smartphone camera or QR reader.
- 2 Follow the prompts on the Service NSW app or on the Service NSW webform.
- 3 Show a volunteer that you've signed in. We respect your privacy.



This QR Code is for Mary Queen of the Family Blacktown, located at 51- 59 Allawah Street, Blacktown

THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Parents wishing to have their children baptised are to contact the parish office prior to attending a Baptism workshop.

The next workshop will be announced.

For more information please logon to our website:

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS 2021

POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In light of the extended lockdown due to COVID19, the decision has been made to postpone all sacramental programs until further notice.

Once restrictions have eased and things have settled down, we will plan some new dates. This will be communicated to you once this happens.

We apologies for any convenience this may cause.

If you have any questions, please call Gerald "Ged" Oblea, (Sacramental Coordinator) at the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or 0422 724 008 or email : sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au

PARISH ONLINE MINISTRY DURING COVID-19

There are an extraordinary amount of initiatives taking place online across the Diocese in a number of parishes. These include games nights, trivia competitions, formation, scripture studies and wellbeing check-ins. If your community is willing to share these opportunities beyond your own Parish, the Mission Enhancement Team (MET Parramatta) would love to hear from you and help connect others who are struggling at this time. Email met@parracatholic.org

THE WELL

Need some inspiration and spiritual encouragement during lockdown? Why not check out The Well? The Diocese's 'on demand' streaming site has a tonne of video and prayer resources for you to explore and engage with during this difficult time. Check it out on www.thewell.org.au

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

BE PART OF THE SACRAMENTAL TEAM

The Parish is looking for volunteers to be part of our sacramental team to assist in the planning and facilitating of our parish sacramental process.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Gerald "Ged" Oblea

(Parish Sacramental Coordinator)

0422 724 008 or ged@mqofblacktown.org.au



Sacramental Process for High School Students 2021

Due to the current public health orders we have decided to postpone the sacramental process for High School students until further notice.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

We are still taking expressions of interest for the sacramental process for high school students who wish to receive any of the following sacraments:

Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation.

For more information contact our sacramental coordinator: Gerald "Ged" Oblea - sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au or 0422 724 008

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

YOUTH CORNER

MQOF YOUTH MINISTRY



Lockdown Events



Wednesday:

Holy Hour with the Saints
6:30pm - 7:30pm
Led by Fr. Regie MSP PP

Friday:

Rosary to Recovery
7pm - 7:45pm
Led by MQOF Youth

Sunday: 1st & 3rd

Social & Games Night
6:30pm - 7:30pm
MQOF on CYP Discord

Sunday: 2nd & 4th

Youth Bible Study
6:30pm - 7:30pm
Led by MQOF Youth



@mqofyouth



@mqof_youth



MQOF Youth

PARISH SCHOOLS ENROLMENTS



PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE, BLACKTOWN



ENROL NOW

YEAR 7 2022/2023

Enquiries on 8811 0300

100 FLUSHCOMBE ROAD, BLACKTOWN

Fine young men striving for personal excellence centred in faith

GET INVOLVED WITH

MQOF YOUTH



BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER

All who have made their 1st Eucharist

Altar serving is a great way to put your faith into action during the Mass. Share your time and talents with the parish community and make some great friends! Training sessions run regularly throughout the year.



HELP OUT AT CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Word of God at your level

Breathe life into the weekly Gospel, through prayer, songs and other activities. Have fun and teach other young people about the Word of God with your family and friends.



JOIN THE YOUTH BAND

Musicians and Singers wanted

Your talent in music helps transform the Mass into a welcoming and inviting space. If you play an instrument or sing, come and join the Youth Band and use your talents to jam for Jesus.



VOLUNTEER AT A PARISH EVENT

All hands on deck

All year round the parish organises events not only to celebrate our faith but also to perform acts of service in our community. Generously offer your time and efforts towards one of these events and give our faith a face. All parish events are published in our weekly bulletin.



GIVE MINISTRY A GO

Offer your gifts and talents in service

Our parish ministries are always looking to grow. We can help to link you up with a ministry to use your gifts and talents. Together, we can live life to the full.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT THE
YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM AT MQOFOYOUTH@GMAIL.COM OR ON 9622 1125.



St Patrick's Primary School

Are you looking for a primary school to enrol your child?

We are now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2022. We would love to meet you and take you for a virtual tour of our beautiful school.



DON'T MISS OUT!

Enrolling Now
for
Kindergarten
2022

Download an enrolment application form from our school website
<https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/How-to-enrol>

Follow us on
<https://www.facebook.com/stpatsprimaryblacktown>



St Patrick's Primary School
51-59 Allawah Street
Phone: 02 8869 6000
Email: stpatsblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au



ENROLMENTS ARE BEING TAKEN

FOR KINDERGARTEN 2022 AT

ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ring 8869 6200 for information.

Download an enrolment package from our webpage

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

SRE LEARNING FROM HOME

Here is a direct link to our "Catholic SRE Learning from Home" materials for parish families:



<https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>

New Learning from Home lessons have been uploaded and are available for parents to access across NSW. These include user-friendly Click & Learn PowerPoints and home activity sheets.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

A NOTE OF THANKS!

The organizing committee of Mary, Queen of the Family Parish Feast Day 2021, would like to thank all our parishioners, sponsors, donors, souvenir book advertisers, clergy and parish supporters for their support which has contributed to the success of this religious event.

Michael Vassili Barristers & Solicitors; Borrower First; Lourdes Medical Centre, Blacktown; Filipino Chaplaincy, Diocese of Parramatta; Sudanese Chaplaincy, Diocese of Parramatta; Syro-Malabar Chaplaincy, Diocese of Parramatta; The Tehillah Community; The Legion of Mary; Candida Irugalbandara & Family; Living Word Servants Community; The Risen Lord Servants Community, Australia; Cofradia Del Sto Nino of Sydney Inc.; Invocare Memorial Park & Gardens, Sydney; Sullivan's Church Store; Mama Lor Restaurant & Bakery; Sant's Business & Management Assistance; Mix N' Match Bakehouse; BAC Systems; Wright & Sons Tiling Pty Ltd. Australian Healing & Balance Centre; Norwest Select Property Group; i-Travel with Susan Clark; Glen Murray Plumbing; PrintXPress Plus; Craig's Handyman & Garden Solutions; Link2Community; MQOF Intercessory Group; MQOF Flower Ministry; St. Joseph's Men's Group; TomKat Roofing; Michael Zerafa; The Petersen Family; Len Cruz & Family; Kate Destura & Family; Ruth Lee & Family; Imelda Valve & Family; Evelyn Balagtas & Family; Cecille Ducut & Family; Hosanna Apparel; Kathie Collins OAM; The Lions Group.

Thank You

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

Our Parish Feast Day souvenir program is still available to be purchased via our parish office or website:

<https://www.mqofblacktown.org/shop>

Hard copy version \$10.00 & Digital Copy \$7.50.
Thank you for your on going prayers and support.



MASS INTENTIONS DURING HOLY HOUR

Father Regie will be leading Holy Hour with the Saints from 6.30pm on Wednesday evening.

Parishioners will also be giving the opportunity to send in Mass intention requested that will mentioned during the holy hour.

Mass intentions can either be email to the parish office or register via our website. Once you reach our main page select the "Connect with Us" button, followed by Mass Intentions. Simply fill in the online form.

Mass will also be celebrated and LIVE streamed on Friday mornings at 9.00am

We look forward to you joining and connecting with us.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP



JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP VIA ZOOM

You are invited to join our parish Bible study group. We meet every Thursday between 7.30pm-9.00 pm and reflect on the readings for the Sunday Mass. Please contact the parish office to obtain the details on how you can join. Ph: 9622 1125
Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

THE SUNDAY FLOCK



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

"Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not! Here is your God...
he comes to save you."

Sheepish Question:

What is my part in the work of God's grace?

NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The birthday of Mary is a joyful day and not least because it highlights the good news of the closeness of God. God is uniquely close to Mary, but God is close to Joseph, and God is close to you and to me. When God sends us he does not usher us out of his presence. As we do God's word we come closer to him. We do not move further away. However busy we become we remain in relationship with God our creator. We'll need to cultivate our awareness of the presence of God -- there are various methods to do this but they will have one thing in common -- God is already present and we are trying to become more aware of his presence. We should acknowledge God and his presence. We should be grateful for his gifts to us and his offer of friendship. We should be grateful for the gift of Mary. Mary is one of God's special gifts to us. Please join us for the LIVE Streamed holy hour, followed by Mass on the 8th September from 6.30pm to celebrate this feast day.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Get the NETFLIX of the Catholic Faith - FORMED



Now free for our Parishioners

Follow the steps below to get access



1. Scan the QR code - to go to the FORMED website;
2. In the Parish search field - type "2148" - to find our Parish name;
3. 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;
6. Browse, Watch, Listen, Read, and Study - to form your catholic conscience.

BISHOP'S FATHERS DAY APPEAL



CLERGY SUPPORT FOUNDATION

Caring for retired clergy



Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal for Retired and Sick Clergy

DONATE NOW

Caring for the health and wellbeing of our retired priests

The Bishop's Father's Day Appeal, traditionally held on Father's Day, raises much needed funds for the Clergy Support Foundation to continue its work supporting retired clergy and those in ill health. Due to the current lockdown, the Appeal will be held via mail and online. Your thoughtful donation will mean so much to those who have put the care of others before themselves. Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM

FOR REGULAR DONORS

We thank you for your financial support to our Parish, your regular and frequent contributions support us in our mission and nourish the parishioners.

New Set of Planned Giving Envelopes are now available for collection in the foyers of both churches. If your envelopes are not in the box please let us know by placing your name, address and envelope number on the registration form provided and we will get them to you as soon as possible.

Receipts for the PLANNED GIVING ONLY – if you need receipts, please write your name down on the clipboards which are in the foyers of our Churches. Receipts will be available on the second weekend of July. It will be kept in the foyers up until the first weekend in August. Please note that Planned Giving IS **NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE**.

Caritas and Catholic Foundation - receipts will automatically be issued to you (if you have indicated to do so). Otherwise, please register your name on the form provided at the foyer if you need one.

FOR NEW DONORS

If you would like to participate in the Regular Planned Giving Program, please complete your details on the form supplied at the back of the church and return it to the Parish Office or put in the collection bucket or email the completed form to accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au.

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to: www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations. 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: 6004 - Donor's Name

SECOND COLLECTION: For the Parish

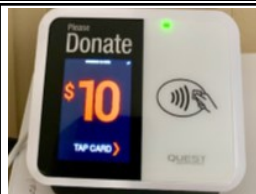
Account Name: Blacktown Catholic Church
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If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Sarah at accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our parish.
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Pastoral letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on our response to the situation in Afghanistan

Dear brothers and sisters,

Many of you will be shocked, as I am, by how quickly and easily the Taliban has seized control of Afghanistan. The daily scenes from Kabul airport that we have seen over the past weeks have been heartbreaking. How much more shocked and scared must the Afghan population be, as well as their relatives and friends who are now living here in Australia.

I ask you all to keep the Afghan people in your prayers, especially now as international forces have withdrawn from the country. Please include those in our community who have come from Afghanistan. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace has published a resource for communal prayer in your households: [Prayer of Solidarity for the People of Afghanistan](#).

Many Afghans are still trying to flee from the Taliban. Especially ethnic and religious minorities, including Christians, and those who worked together with the Australian and international military forces are at risk of targeted persecution. Women fear losing their human rights. The Australian Federal Government has so far committed to allocating 3,000 places within the existing refugee program for people fleeing Afghanistan.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge of Brisbane, the President of our Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, recently [wrote to the Prime Minister](#). Based on estimates from key humanitarian organisations and pledges from other countries, Archbishop Coleridge proposed that the Federal Government should make at least another 17,000 places available.

This proposal is being supported by many humanitarian and community organisations, including Catholic organisations, and by a broad ecumenical alliance of Christian churches in Australia.

I invite and encourage you all to add your voice to this important call. Under the theme "Christians United for Afghanistan" you can do this by signing the call at unitedforafghanistan.com/?partner=dioceseparramatta.

I have already added my signature on behalf of the Diocese of Parramatta. Parishes can sign within the category "Church". Catholic schools, agencies and our Diocesan councils are invited to sign as an "Organisation", and every faithful can sign as an "Individual".

Beyond a special intake of refugees from Afghanistan and Afghan refugee camps in neighbouring countries, “Christians United for Afghanistan” calls on the Federal Government to “Welcome. Protect. Reunite. Support.”

This includes granting permanent protection to all people from Afghanistan who are already in Australia on temporary protection visas or are currently awaiting application outcomes. It also includes enabling these refugees to bring their families from Afghanistan to Australia and reunite in safety, as well as additional emergency and long-term support for humanitarian aid through reputable organisations working in the region.

Our partners at Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia and the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) are supporting this ecumenical initiative and will help to engage the Catholic community across Australia.

As Christians, we believe that God bestows an indestructible dignity on every human being. However, we know that humans can erode this dignity. That is what I fear the Taliban are doing when they persecute those who do not share their beliefs and oppress the women and minorities they live alongside.

So, when it is within our national power to protect dignity, we are prompted by our faith to speak out. As Pope Francis said in 2017 when speaking of people seeking asylum: “Defending their inalienable rights, ensuring their fundamental freedoms and respecting their dignity are duties from which no one can be exempted.”

It is our collective duty as a society to foster and uphold the unity of the family, and in the context of Afghanistan this includes enabling access to family reunion for refugees and members of the diaspora.

Australia has a long tradition of generously resettling refugees and displaced persons who flee their home countries due to war, conflict and violence. We need to honour this legacy by showing the Afghan people fleeing oppression and violence our compassion and solidarity. I believe that this is the true identity of the country I have made my home.

I was a refugee once and fled by boat in the wake of the end of a protracted war in which Australia had been involved. I hope to see the same level of bipartisan support for Afghan refugees now as there was for Vietnamese refugees then.

While the Government has a critical role to play in supporting Afghans in Australia and in their homeland, faith-based and community groups declaring they are ready to help people relocating to Australia is a big piece of the puzzle.

If you have friends, colleagues or neighbours with an Afghan background, please be there for them in this traumatic time. I ask you to open your hearts to newly arriving refugees, and to support our Catholic agencies in providing support to them as well as humanitarian aid in the region.

Also include the members of our Australian Defence Force in your prayers who served in Afghanistan in the past 20 years.

Thank you for your prayer and solidarity with our Afghan sisters and brothers in this difficult time.

In Christ,



**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta**

Given at Parramatta on 1 September 2021



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA

**Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia
Diocese of Parramatta**

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PO Box 3066, North Parramatta NSW 1750, Australia

T: 02 8838 3400 F: 02 9630 4813
E: peter.williams@parracatholic.org
W: parracatholic.org

3 September 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Re: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

Given the current debate on COVID-19 vaccines, the Diocese of Parramatta will be sharing information from the Catholic Church on this topic.

We have made available in 12 foreign languages the position of the Catholic Church – from the Holy Father to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith – on COVID-19 vaccines. This information has been supplied via social media tiles you can share with your faith communities and for those whom English is a second language.

These tiles can be downloaded here: parracatholic.org/covid19/#vaccine

We know that some Catholics have might have legitimate concerns about the ethical origins of some vaccines. The Catholic Church, through the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, has declared that the use of such vaccines *does not constitute formal cooperation with abortion*. Therefore, all vaccines which are recognised as clinically safe and effective may be taken by Catholics in good conscience.

See: vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Vincent, and several other bishops have also been vaccinated.

Of course, any decision regarding vaccines is to be left to the individual and should only be made in consultation with their doctor and health professional.

I encourage you to share these social media tiles with your parishioners, staff, and volunteers.

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev Peter G. Williams
Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia