



# 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*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

4 DECEMBER 2022

### 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

#### Weekday Masses

**St Michael's:** 8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri  
7.30pm Wed only

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

#### Sunday Masses

5.30pm Sat Vigil (St Patrick's)  
6.00pm 2nd Sat Vigil - Filipino Mass (St Michael's)  
7.00am Sun (St Patrick's)  
8.00am Sun (St Michael's)  
9.30am Sun (St Michael's)  
10.00am Sun (St Patrick's)  
11.00am 4th Sun - Filipino Mass (St Michael's)  
2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)  
1.00pm - Syro-Malabar Mass (St Michael's)  
5.30pm Sun (St Patrick's)  
6.00pm Sun (St Michael's)

### RECONCILIATION

**St Michael's:** Wed 6:30pm-7:20pm

**St Patrick's:** Fri 6:30pm-7:20pm &  
Sat 9:30am-10:30am

### HOLY HOUR

**St Michael's:** Wed 6:30pm-7:30pm

**St Patrick's:** Fri 6:30pm-7:30pm

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Anointing of the Sick  
by appointment.

## Sunday Connection

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

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### 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](http://www.mqofblacktown.org.au) **Email:** [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au)

#### Parish Team:

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Regie Lavilla, MSP.  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Chadi Ibrahim, SDB. Fr. Ever Bernaldez, MSP.  
**Deacon:** Rev. John Cinya **Seminarian:** Tom Green  
**Finance Officer:** Sarah Damole **Email:** [accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au)  
**Secretaries:** Ann Hart (Wed-Fri) & Gerald "Ged" Oblea (Mon & Tues)  
**Email:** [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au)  
**Sacramental Coordinator:** Gerald "Ged" Oblea. **Mobile:** 0422 724 008  
**Email:** [sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au)  
**Catechist Coordinator:** Sandra Baker  
**Youth Minister & Liturgy Coordinator:** Blake Bano

**Parish Pastoral Council:** **Chair:** Cecil Fernandes; **Asst Chair:** Joshua Carr **Secretary:** Savita Surendra  
**Members:** Beato Pudadera, Ekhlas Ambili, Erica Luiz, Harlane Petersen, Helena Vea, Tony Fernando, Sidney Lazum, Fr. Regie Lavilla, Fr. Chadi Ibrahim, Fr. Ever Bernaldez, Rev. John Cinya, & Blake Bano.

#### 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.celcblacktownstn.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



# 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, or for further information call the Parish Office on 9622 1125. ~ *The Parish Team*

## MARY QUEEN OF THE FAMILY ~ PARISH MISSION



- \* Grow as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ
- \* Deepen our understanding of the Sacred Tradition & Scriptures of the Catholic Church
- \* Strive to live as a faithful & committed Catholic community
- \* Evangelise and respond to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond



### OBJECTIVES TO MEET OUR MISSION AT MARY QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH.

**WORSHIP** ~ Practice the right forms of Worship. **WORD** ~ Increase the Biblical literacy in the Parish. **WALL** ~ Building our community.

### FORMED



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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.

### SUNDAY FLOCK



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"He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted."

### Sheepish Question:

How can I enhance my feelings of compassion with a deeper sense of justice?

# THE LITURGY SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

## FIRST READING: IS 11:1-10

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. CF. V.7.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

## SECOND READING: ROM 15:4-9

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: Mt 3:1-12

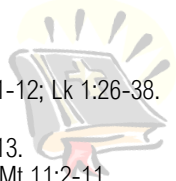
In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

## Daily Readings

Monday 5th December: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday 6th December: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14.  
Wednesday 7th December: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30.  
Thursday 8th December: Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6,11-12; Lk 1:26-38.  
Friday 9th December: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19.  
Saturday 10th December: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:10-13.  
Sunday 11th December: Is 35:1-6,10; James 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11.



## FEAST DAYS

Tuesday 6th December: SAINT NICHOLAS, BISHOP  
Wednesday 7th December: SAINT SAINT AMBROSE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH.  
Thursday 8th December: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
Friday 9th December: THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

# CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY  
SECTION TWO THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH  
CHAPTER ONE THE SACRAMENTS OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

## Article 3 THE SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

VII. The Eucharist - "Pledge of the Glory To Come" The Paschal Banquet

### IN BRIEF

**1415** Anyone who desires to receive Christ in Eucharistic communion must be in the state of grace. Anyone aware of having sinned mortally must not receive communion without having received absolution in the sacrament of penance.

**1416** Communion with the Body and Blood of Christ increases the communicant's union with the Lord, forgives his venial sins, and preserves him from grave sins. Since receiving this sacrament strengthens the bonds of charity between the communicant and Christ, it also reinforces the unity of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ.

**1417** The Church warmly recommends that the faithful receive Holy Communion when they participate in the celebration of the Eucharist; she obliges them to do so at least once a year.

**1418** Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honoured with the worship of adoration. "To visit the Blessed Sacrament is . . . a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord" (Paul VI, MF 66).

**1419** Having passed from this world to the Father, Christ gives us in the Eucharist the pledge of glory with him. Participation in the Holy Sacrifice identifies us with his Heart, sustains our strength along the pilgrimage of this life, makes us long for eternal life, and unites us even now to the Church in heaven, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints.

## ADVENT PRAYERS

Consider these brief prayers this Advent season:

Dear Lord, please allow me to embrace Advent in the way the Church intends: as a way to prepare for Your arrival. May everything I do—every gift I send, every party I attend, every meal I share—remind me to prepare space in my heart for You. Amen.

Heavenly Father, heal my heart during this season of Advent. Help me to love more fully. To forgive more generously. To wait more patiently for Christmas, embracing each day and hour knowing the joy that awaits. In Your name I pray. Amen.

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Sam Bugeja

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Patricia Byrne, Joaquim (Jack) Baeta,  
Mrs. Victoria Flores Ducut

### SICK

Teresita Alston, Edna Canete, Phoebe Ann Canete; Angela Michael, Maria Ceclia Rodrigo Salvador, Trevor Anthony, Joan Clout.

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



## THE SACRAMENTS & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

# Baptism



Parents wishing to have their children baptised are to contact the parish office prior to attending a Baptism workshop. The next workshop will on Saturday 14th January 2023. - St. Patrick's Church.

For more information please logon to our website:  
<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>

With joyful hearts, we welcome our newly Baptised to our parish community:  
 Aldrine Bautista, Joshua Lavemai & Caleb Pascual

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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  
 Ph: 9622 1125 (option 4)  
 Mobile: 0422 724 008  
 Email: [sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au)  
[ged@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:ged@mqofblacktown.org.au)

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE 2022



Marriage Preparation

Getting married in 2022? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) to view weekend course dates, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website.

For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

## THANKSGIVING MASS

There will be a Thanksgiving Mass for all our Ministers and volunteers who generously give their time to serve God through the various Ministries.

Friday 9th December 7:30pm at St Patrick's Church.



## 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 or after office hours number 02 8705 0830.



## PARISH GROUPS

### BIBLE STUDY GROUP



**Contact:** Richard Desa, [richarddesa@bigpond.com](mailto:richarddesa@bigpond.com)  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every Thursday, 7:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre St. Michael's Church.

### HOLY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP



**Contact:** Charles Hyson, 0412 631 602, [www.holyfamilyfellowship.com](http://www.holyfamilyfellowship.com)  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every 2nd Saturday 6:30pm-9:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael'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:** Noemi Romero, 0475 798 770 (for statue bookings)  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every Thursday, 5:00pm – 6:30pm 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 Cardinal Clancy Room, St Patrick's Church.

### TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYFR 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](mailto:Blake@mqofblacktown.org.au)  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Every Sunday from 4pm – 6:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Saturday - 24th December 2022**  
**Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

- 5.30pm (Children's Mass) at St. Patrick's Church
- 6.00pm (Children's Mass) at St. Michael's Church
- 8.30pm (Youth Mass) at St. Patrick's Church

**Sunday - 25th December 2022**  
**Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

- 12.00am (Midnight Mass) at St. Patrick's Church
- 7.00am at St. Patrick's Church
- 8.00am at St. Michael's Church
- 9.30am at St. Michael's Church
- 10.00am at St. Patrick's Church
- 5.30pm at St. Patrick's Church
- 6.00pm at St. Patrick's Church



## PARISH OFFICE ~ CHRISTMAS BREAK

Please note that the parish office will be closed from the 24th December 2022 until 2nd January 2023 for it's Christmas break.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ~ CHRISTMAS APPEAL

### Christmas Giving Tree

St Vincent de Paul Society invites parishioners to take a tag from the Christmas Tree in the church to meet the needs of the disadvantaged in our local community, with gifts and non-perishable food.

It would be appreciated if all gifts could be returned by **Sunday 11th December.**

If you are donating a present, please do not wrap it, instead leave it in a bag with the gift tag from the tree.

**Please note the annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will take place on Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th December 2022**

God bless, and thank you for your help.  
 SVDP Blacktown Conference

## MARY'S CAFE

Please join us for morning tea every Wednesday after the 9am Mass in the Cardinal Clancy Room.  
**All are welcome!!**



## SAVE THE DATE ~ CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

MQOF YOUTH PRESENTS

# CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

**SATURDAY 17TH DEC**

**6PM - 10 PM**

NAGLE HALL  
 58A ORWELL STREET, BLACKTOWN

We **invite** you and your families to join us for a celebration of Christmas with stalls, carolling and the annual Christmas play to fundraise for our **'World Youth Day 2023'** pilgrims

<b>\$5</b> CHILDREN	<b>UNDER 12</b> YEARS OLD	<b>TICKET INFORMATION:</b>  All tickets include Entry and Food 1x Sausage Sizzle 1x Bottled Water
<b>\$10</b> ADULTS	<b>12 YEARS OLD AND ABOVE</b>	

PLEASE SCAN OR VISIT FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKET PURCHASES  
[www.mqofblacktown.org/mqofchristmasspectacular](http://www.mqofblacktown.org/mqofchristmasspectacular)

Tickets also available from the Parish Office and Piety Store!

## A REMINDER ~ FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

A gentle reminder from the social justice group who are requesting Parishioners to please continue to bring in cans and bottles for recycling. **ONLY CANS AND BOTTLES THAT HAVE 10 cents printed on them.** Please place these in containers in the foyer of the church.

Thank you for your support.  
 The money collected is for social justice issues.

## MARY'S PANTRY

**Make a difference this Christmas!**  
**Help families doing it tough.**



Your donation of Christmas goodies, or if you prefer a gift card of \$25 from Coles or Woolworths will help.

- Christmas goodies could include:
- Christmas pudding
  - Fruit mince pies
  - Juice and Colas
  - Tinned meat
  - Chocolates and treats

Food donations can be placed in the baskets in the church foyer and Gift cards can be handed in to the Parish Office or a Mary's Pantry Volunteer.

Thank you for your generosity.

### DAILY ADVENT REFLECTION BOOK



As we journey through the seasons of Advent and Christmas this year, we invite you to join us as we reflect daily on the wonder of the incarnation of Jesus Christ, where, as St Augustine of Hippo reflects: "Man's maker was made man that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that Truth might be accused of false witnesses, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die." Available from the Piety store for \$5.00 each.

### ADVENT REFLECTION

We invite you to our next parish formation program. Join us for our Advent Reflection. This is a 3 part series, the third and final part continues on Tuesday 6th December, if you missed coming for the first two sessions you can still come on 6th December from 7pm—9pm at St Patrick's Church facilitated by Richard & Marina DeSa.

### ARTS & CRAFT MOVEMENT

**ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT**

Join us every Friday of the week, starting 20th January 2023 from 10am till 12:00pm at Cardinal Clancy room (MQOF). Our first session on Arts & Crafts activities will include: Learning sewing embroidery stitches, Show & Tell of works, Sewing, Crocheting, Knitting and Embroidery.

Please, note all sessions are free. Materials for the lessons is provided or Bring your own materials.

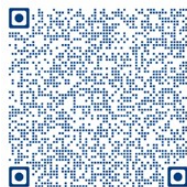
For any inquiries please contact: Noemi Romero  
Mobile: 0475 798 770

MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY

### PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL & ROME

**"QUO VADIS?" PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME: 5 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023**

At the request of many of his previous pilgrims, Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year. Our pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter.



Details can be found at [www.olivetreetravel.com.au](http://www.olivetreetravel.com.au) under Upcoming Tours, via the QR code or please contact Fr Wim on 0409908361 or email [wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org](mailto:wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org) [wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org](mailto:wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org)

### POSITION VACANT

Parish Office Coordinator – St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong – Applications close 10pm Sunday 4 December 2022 More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)

### LITURGICAL MINISTRY

#### Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2023

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or [mary.gale@parracatholic.org](mailto:mary.gale@parracatholic.org) or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

### WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

**SAVE THE DATE – Diocesan World Day of the Sick Mass: 11 February 2023**

A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held on Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church.

All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. More information to come.

### PATRICIAN BROTHERS

**PATRICIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE, BLACKTOWN**

**ENROL NOW**

The College has a small number of vacancies for Year 7, 2023 and is accepting early applications for 2024.

Contact our College Enrolments Department for more information.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

P: 8811 0300 W: [www.patsblacktown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.patsblacktown.catholic.edu.au)  
E: [patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:patricianbros@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**100 FLUSHCOMBE ROAD, BLACKTOWN**

Fine young men striving for personal excellence centred in faith

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



## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### RAISE THE ROOF APPEAL - NEW ROOF FOR ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

#### UPDATE ON "ST. PATRICK'S RAISE THE ROOF" PROJECT

We are grateful to all our parishioners and friends who shared their treasures to our church. As of 1st December 2022, we have received the sum of **\$66,296.90** in donations. We are also thankful to those who are still considering... **only your continued support can make the roof of the House of our God rebuild!**

The investigation and brainstorming part of the preparation stage of our project is now shaping. We have met with the head of the Asset and Property Office of the Diocese of Parramatta, we have been instructed to do further investigations before a final solution can be drawn. We will keep you posted. In the meantime, we ask for your generosity and prayers and, thank you for your ongoing support. It is much appreciated.

#### HOW TO DONATE:

1. Scan the QR code to donate or logon to the following link (<https://www.mqofblacktown.org/make-a-donation-or-payment>) Please type 'Raise the Roof' or just 'Roof' in the description field when making the donation.
2. Fill in the red 'Raise the Roof' donation form we have placed at the doors of each church authorising us to debit your Credit card or bank account and then, drop this into the collection bags or to the parish office; or
3. Simply place your cash donation in an envelope marked 'Raise the Roof' together with your name and contact details and drop this into collection bags or to the parish office.
4. Set up a new Planned Giving or increase your current one via Credit Card or Direct Debit from bank account (this form is available in the foyer)



If you have any questions or, if you can assist or support us in any way, due to your expertise or background, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125.

### PIETY STORE RAFFLE & ITEMS

#### SUPPORT OUR MONTHLY RAFFLES

an Initiative of our MQOF Piety Shop Ministry for the Altar upkeep expenses of St Michael's & St Patrick's Churches

Tickets are now on sale for our Christmas raffle to be drawn the week before Christmas. Prizes will be for 1st, 2nd and 3rd drawn tickets which will be announced shortly. Thanking you all in anticipation of your participation and help with meeting the running cost of our parish. Wishing you all a very Happy blessed and safe Christmas.

You can also purchase tickets online by logging onto the following website: <https://www.mqofblacktown.org/pietystoreraffle>

NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE PIETY STORE, CHRISTMAS CARDS AND RELIGIOUS CALENDARS FOR 2023. STOCK'S ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE SEE OUR PIETY STORE FOR THESE ITEMS!

### BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

#### Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care's Assistance with Care and Housing Service

No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home.



Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal envelopes, at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you for your prayers, heart-felt compassion, and help to end homelessness.

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

#### UPDATE ON ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH MAINTENANCE WORKS

The Parish Finance Committee, in its recent meeting, decided to release the following updates on the status of the hereunder works to be done on St Michael church:

**Roof maintenance**  
**Gutters Replacement**  
**Painting works for doors and handrails**  
**Repair of the rusted fencing of the Remembrance Garden**  
**Carpark repairs and resurfacing**

We have received the quotes on all proposed works and applied for a Government Grant to fund the projects. The grant application will be decided at the end of December 2022. If we will be successful on our application, we can have the abovementioned projects done simultaneously, otherwise, if we will be unsuccessful, we will use our meagre resources to fix the necessary maintenance works by stages. We assure our parishioners that we are working to carry out all these important maintenance works.

We need funding to all the works to be done and we thank our parishioners who donated some monies and talents, your gifts to our appeal will make the completion of the works possible and enjoy God's house in a joyful way.

For those who want to donate to fund the above works, please feel free to call the parish office on 9622 1125 or email [accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au). Thank you. God bless us.

## Please support the advertisers that support us. Thank You!

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Just go to: [www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations](http://www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations).

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**SECOND COLLECTION:** For the Parish

Account Name: Blacktown Catholic Church

Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 0000 0677

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You can also support the parish by using our **Tap & Go Machine**. 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 or Credit Card)** 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 or contact the parish office on 9622 1125.