

eekly 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

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD ~ YEAR B

25TH DECEMBER 2023

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)

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

Darkness and Light

The prophet Isaiah (9:1-6) prophesied a liberation of the people of God during the time of great distress, when the Southern Kingdom of Judah was exiled in Babylon. People were confused, lost and most of all suffering from oppression. The message is about HOPE. The prophecy anticipates the day when "the people who walked in darkness have seen the great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." For those who truly longed for salvation from God, this message was a great consolation and encouragement, while patiently waiting for the Messiah to come and save them. We know that this is being fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. He said in John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

The Gospel (Luke 2:1-14) tells us the history, written through the eyes of faith, of what God has revealed. It is the fulfilment of God's promise that through the line of David a king would be born, and his "kingdom will have no end." This is what the angel Gabriel told Mary in the annunciation (Luke 1:31-33). But this king whose name is Jesus (Yahweh saves) fulfils God's promise in a radical way, because his throne is the cross and he saves his people by the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 1:21). Christmas tells us this story of the Good News of the birth of Jesus Christ that hopefully brings joy to one's heart and gives us hope for our salvation.

Let us turn to our Blessed Mother who has seen and pondered the great mystery of God coming to us in the flesh and has "kept all these things in her heart." May we not lose our sense of awe and wonder of this mystery, for a God who is almighty truly became like us except sin, walking with us until we reach our true homeland. John testified, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten Son from the Father" (John 1:14).

Brothers and sisters may this Christmas bring hope, peace, and joy in each one of you and your families. May the Word of God inspire and encourage you to continue to trust in Him, who is truly with us in Jesus Christ. I pray for you all, and may the Lord bless you in every way. From all of us in the parish team, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

~ Fr. Regie Lavilla MST

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.

Parish Priest: Fr. Regle Lavinia, MSP.
Assistant Priests: Fr. Ever Bernaldez, MSP & Fr. Andrew Rooney
Deacon: Rev. John Cinya.
Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole Email: accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au
Secretaries: Ann Hart (Wed-Fri) & Gerald "Ged" Oblea (Mon & Tues)

Email: admin@mgofblacktown.org.au Sacramental Coordinator: Gerald "Ged" Oblea. Mobile: 0422 724 008

Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

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. Andrew Rooney, Fr. Ever Bernaldez, Rev. John Cinya.

Parish Schools: St Michael's Primary:

: 8869 6200 https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

St Patrick's Primary: 8869 6000

https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Nagle College:

https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au

P: 8887 4507

Patrician Brothers College:

D: 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

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



WELCOME

TO

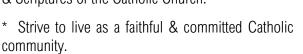
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown

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.



* 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.

 $\label{eq:WALL} \textbf{WALL} \sim \text{Building our community}.$



PARISH OFFICE ~ CHRISTMAS BREAK

Our Parish Office is closed for the Christmas Break and will re open on the 8th January 2024. For any urgent issues or emergency request please call our after hours number on 02 8705 0830 or email: admin@mgofblacktown.org.au



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CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

SUNDAY - 24TH DECEMBER 2023 VIGIL OF THE SOLEMINITY 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

MONDAY - 25TH DECEMBER 2023 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



MONDAY - 1ST JANUARY 2023 SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

12.00am at St. Patrick's Church 8.00am at St. Michael's Church 9.00am at St. Patrick's Church

10.00am at St. Patrick's Church



THE LITURGY THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) VIGIL

THE LITURGY THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DAY

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Ex 16:6-7

Today you will know that the Lord will come, and he will save us, and in the morning you will see his glory.

FIRST READING: IS 62:1-5

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 88:4-5. 16-17. 27. 29 R. SEE V.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. .

SECOND READING: ACTS 13:16-17. 22-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mt 1:18-25 (Shorter form)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The Virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord told him to do: he took his wife to his home and, though he had not had intercourse with .

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 40:5

The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 9:5

A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel.

FIRST READING: IS 52:7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 97:1-6. R. V.3.

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.

SECOND READING: HEB 1:1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us. Come you nations and adore the Lord. Today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Jn 1:1-5. 9-14 (Shorter form)

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower. The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him.

He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us.

And we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 97:3

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

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DAILY READINGS

Monday 25th Dec: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.

Tuesday 26th Dec: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22.

Wednesday 27th Dec: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8.

Thursday 28th Dec: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matthew 2:13-18.

Friday 29th Dec: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35.

Saturday 30th Dec: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40.

Sunday 31st Dec: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19; Luke 2:22-40 or Luke 2:22. 39-40.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

IN MEMORIUM

Biagina Boccanfuso

SICK

Peter Delange, Natalia De Jesus Dionisio, Manolito Aguilar; Christel Gonzalez, Faustina Sandot, Teresita Alston, Cristina King, Edna Canete, Jonathan Nucup, Barbara Greany, Meghan De Vos, Mila Alforque, Vinnie Zahra.

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

Mass intentions can be requested online by following the link below: https://www.mgofblacktown.org/mass-intention-or-offering-request

THE SACRAMENTS & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

SACRAMENT OF INITIATION



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 20th January 2024 - St. Patrick's Church.

With joyful hearts, we welcome our newly Baptised to our parish community:

Lauryn Dela Rosa & Levinson Naidoo

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

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS AT THE PARISH

The sacramental program dates for 2024 are available on our parish website https://mgofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/

SACRAMENTAL PROCESS REGISTRATION CLOSURE DATES:

Reconciliation process for Year 3 - 6: 30th September 2024.

First Eucharist Process Yr 4 - 6: 15th April 2024. Confirmation Process Yr 4 - 6: 8th July 2024.

High School Process Yr 7 to 12: 1st April 2024.



If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our sacramental coordinator on the details below:

VOLUNTEERS

Gerald "Ged" Oblea (Sacramental Coordinator) Mary Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown. **Email:** sacraments@mgofblacktown.org.au

Ph: 02 9622 1125 – option 4 **Mobile:** 0422 724 008

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 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

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

LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S



Meeting Time and Venue: Every Thursday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's

Contact: Noemi Romero, 0475 798 770 (for statue

LEGION OF MARY ST PATRICK'S



Contact: Doris Zammit, 0419 274 002(for statue bookings) Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, 6:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

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

CATECHIST MINISTRY

Contact: Sandra Baker

admin@mgofblacktown.org.au For More Information please contact our the parish office. Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando, 0416 861 976 or

TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



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 PRAYER GROUP

Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566

through the parish office.

Meeting Time and Venue: 3.00pm every second Saturday of the month at Sid Mosley Centre St Michael's Church

YOUTH MINISTRY



Contact: Parish Office admin@mqofblacktown.org.au For More Information please contact our Youth Minister

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.

NEEDE

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 ged@mgofblacktown.org.au

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



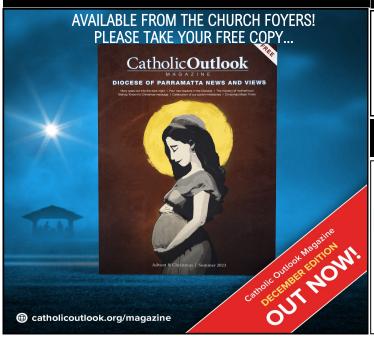
BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



We invite parishioners to view Bishop Vincent's Christmas message on the below link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7Rn2GyHVis

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK



THANK YOU FROM THE PARISH TEAM

Thank You

A sincere thanks to the many parishioners for their lovely Christmas wishes & gifts. We are deeply indebted to Senior Servers, Special



Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, Junior Servers, Choirs, Musicians, Ushers, Flower Arrangers, Teachers/Catechists, Social justice groups/committees, Liturgy Group Members, including those who decorated our Church, Counters & all Parish Groups for their respective contributions to the quality of the Christmas Celebrations & throughout the year. Thanks also to you for your participation during the celebrations at Christmas.

MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

Thank you for continuing to support the MQOF Social Justice Group 10 cents bottle collection.



This year we used the funds to help three refugees obtain Forklift licenses. Two of them were women. We collaborated with Catholic care with this.

As we get ready to party this Christmas, can we request you to please bring in your used bottles so that we can continue to help those in need next year.

Merry Christmas and Thank you for your generosity.

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

The Diocesan Synod Report is now available for download. The newly released Diocesan Synod Report offers a summary of our first Diocesan Synod assembly, held from October 13-15, 2023, its preparatory stages, in-depth details of the proceedings, and insights from delegates. Download your copy from the Parramatta Synod website now: www.parracatholic.org/synod/resources

NEW DIOCESAN WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The new <u>parracatholic.org</u> website is now here with exciting new features and functionality including a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE 2024



Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called DSmartLoving Dcan

For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

also be booked via the website.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY



Christmas Offertory - Online Christmas is a joyous time when we come together as a parish family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Our parish relies on the generosity of our faith community to sustain our liturgical, sacramental, pastoral, and charitable ministries and we are ever grateful for your support.

Please consider giving a Christmas Offertory gift via parracatholic.org/christmas-offertory (or https://www.mqofblacktown.org/make-a-donation-or-payment) or scan this QR code.



Your gift will nurture the spiritual vitality of our parish and will ensure that we can continue to provide Christian pastoral care that brings hope and joy to our community.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

St Patrick's Church – Raise the Roof Project

We have received the required quotes from roofers recommended by the Diocese, and is under review by the Property section of the



Diocese to finalise the Scope of Work for the roof and ceiling refurbishment of our St Patrick's church. Our roof and ceiling repair funding, (inclusive of donations), and funds raised has gone up to \$198,585.00.

We are grateful to our donors and fundraiser volunteers to those who are still considering...only your continued support can make the roof of the House of God refurbished!

St Michael's Church - Maintenance Projects

We are waiting from a volunteer architect the design and costing of our Sanctuary lightings. Once available we will post it here — if you are in the position to help financially, please talk to one of our priests or call the office on 02 9622 1125. All donations are welcome!

HOW TO DONATE: Scan the QR code to donate or logon to the following link (https://www.mqofblacktown.org/make-a-donation-or-payment)
Please type in the description field what you are making the donation towards. E.g. Roof

If you wish to make a donation through another method of giving please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125.



2024 ENROLMENTS ~ ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY

St Patrick's Primary School







Call to book a tour of our beautiful school PH: 8869 6000

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

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.

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

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

Reference: 6004 ~ Donor's name

If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Sarah at accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au. Thank you so much for your continued support our parish. We are grateful!

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal



Please support the advertisers that support us. Thank You!

If you wish to advertise your business, call the Parish Office on 02 9622 1125. Please understand that Mary Queen of the Family Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.



· Payroll Processing

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Holy Family Services provide care, education and retirement living choice to many families. Our Residential Aged Care facility, Early Learning Centre and Retirement Village provide care with hospitality, love and acceptance, supporting and enriching the lives of those who use our services

If you want a supportive close-knit community for your family contact us.

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The first ever non-profit Filipino professionals community in Australia, founded on 1 June 2019.

Enquiry: Kerwin Abinoja (Director & Founder)

kerwin.abinoja@gmail.com | 0468355399

https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/filipinoprofessionals-in-sydney-and-canberra-australia/



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lourdesfertilitycare@gmail.com
www.fccau.org



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LICENSED PLUMBER

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e.magriplumbing@bigpond.com Ph/Fax:(02) 9625 3353



SCOTT GLEESON FUNERALS

Phone: 9896 3299 info@scottgleesonfunerals.com.au www.scottgleesonfunerals.com.au 2 Fennell St. Parramatta 2150