



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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

1ST DECEMBER 2024

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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

LITURGY TIMES

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 - Filio 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)

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.

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.

First Sunday of Advent

"It will seem as though all hell has broken loose - sun, moon stars, earth, sea, all in an uproar, and everyone all over the world in a panic at what is coming...When these things start to happen, stand tall, for your deliverance is near at hand." Luke 21, 28-28; 34-36

Getting towards the end of Luke's Gospel, the writer ventures into an imaginative and hypothetical description of Christ's Second Coming. Since he has no inside knowledge of what that will look like, he relies on the kind of language we associate with poetry - metaphor, symbolism and hyperbole. Because his topic is the end of the world as we know it, we call it apocalyptic writing. It is closer in style to poetry than to prose.

Poetry is destroyed when we undertake a word by word or line by line analysis of the text. We get a better appreciation by allowing the words to wash over us. In that way we get a feel for what the author is describing. In today's gospel-reading Luke offers a poetic description of how the world and, indeed, the universe will be disjointed at the time of the Second Coming of Jesus.

We are used to dealing with signs and symptoms which are pointers to various aspects of our daily living. A flashing red or blue light frequently points to a hazard ahead on a road or a police operation in progress. When we present ourselves to a doctor for examination, we describe the signs that something is amiss in our bodily functions. We can even begin to panic as we await the doctor's interpretation and assessment of those signs in the light of his or her professional experience. The signs of the end times that Luke names are frightening. Paradoxically, however, they are the signs of the arrival of the fullness of love in the person of Jesus, who knows fully the human condition and the ups and downs that are part of it. But, if we are going to be able to stand secure in the presence of the Son of Man when he returns, we must surely be alert to the signs of chaos, destruction, injustice and inequity present in our contemporary world, and take responsible, gospel action.

Today's gospel-reading parallels our recent Sunday readings from Mark. Following Mark, Luke's description of the upheaval and chaos in the natural world, comes immediately after the story of the widow's mite. In explaining the action of the widow giving her all, Jesus describes the inequality and disparity of a religious system which forces people like the widow into penury. He then moves the focus onto the Temple practices that cause the disparity and points out that, in time, the Temple and the system that supports it will be destroyed totally. The magnificent Temple edifice will prove to be as ephemeral as the new leaves, flowers and fruit on the fig tree.

Cont'd.....

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. Wim Hoekstra.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Ever Bernaldez, MSP & Fr. Andrew Rooney

Deacon: Rev. John Cinya.

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

Parish Assistant: Ann Hart (Wed-Fri)

Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Gerald "Ged" Oblea. (Mon to Wed) 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, Sidney Lazum, Fr. Wim Hoekstra, Fr. Andrew Rooney, Fr. Ever Bernaldez, Rev. John Cinya.

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 4500 <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>

Aged Care Facilities:

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

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

The relevance of all this for us in the here and now is that the upheaval Jesus describes as a prelude to the coming of the Son of Man is really an invitation for us to look at our world and notice the signs of upheaval that leave us less than comfortable. The world of commerce is intent on lulling us into a sense of false security. The shopping malls are decorated already with tinsel and gaudy adverts for bargain-priced presents. And have carols echoing through all the shops, forcing us to think that Christmas has arrived already. Yet there are still vast gaps between the poor and the rich; the homeless seek shelter for the night on the doorsteps of the shopping malls; migrant families are locked away in detention centres because they lack the right documentation; the Covid pandemic is still causing havoc around the globe; refugees are pleading for welcome at the borders of wealthy countries, whose citizens are deaf to cries for assistance. We live in a world that is seriously disjointed and on a planet that has been desecrated because of human selfishness and neglect. Yet the retail industry tries to massage our senses and our minds into believing that our world is full of peace and good-will.

But over the next few weeks, Advent intervenes to shake us out of the lethargy that has numbed us into insensitivity. Hidden in the signs of disintegration, upheaval and chaos are signs of God's ever-present love. To see them, however, we have to make time to look, to discover and to ponder. This first Sunday of Advent is an invitation to us to stop and take in the many signs of God's love hidden in the ordinary upsets of our lives, in the babbling and disagreements of our political leaders, in the Covid pandemic that has blown away our notions of normality and distanced us from those we love.

Traditionally, we take the Advent season as a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus into our lives. If we are to allow Jesus to be born in our hearts, we can expect that he will nudge us to involve ourselves in changing what is crying out for change and conversion, not just in ourselves, but in our world. He is calling us to set to work to establish the kingdom of God where we live and work and socialise. That involves treating one another, especially those who are so often overlooked, with justice, respect, care and compassion. In a very real sense, Advent telescopes our lives into four weeks of searching, noticing, reflecting, and taking constructive Gospel action. And isn't that the purpose of our lives? Are we not on a life's journey to come into the presence of the one who loves us endlessly. His love is so boundless that the prospect of coming before him when our earthly lives come to an end must fill us with hope. For then our pretences and self-justification will evaporate, and we will rest secure with the one who loved us into life and who loves us in our strength and weakness, in our failures and our triumphs.

© Br. Julian McDonald cfc

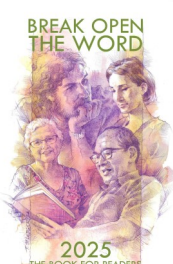
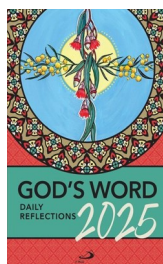
From Our Piety Stores

Now available to purchase:

God's Word 2025 \$22.00

Break Open the Word 2025
\$30.00

Advent Reflections \$5.00



Liturgical Ministry Course

Dates for 2025

This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

To register or find out more contact
lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795



MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP



We encourage you to continue to support and donate non perishable items for Mary's Pantry. These are some suggestions: Cereal, Pasta, Instant Noodles, Rice, Biscuits, Milk, Tinned Soup, Tinned Fruit, Tinned, Fish,

Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Meat, Tinned Chickpeas, Tinned Lentils, Pasta Sauce, Baked Beans. Your donations will go to help those who are doing it tough in our community and beyond. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Please come and join us for a cuppa and a chat at Mary's Café. We are open every Wednesday after the 9am Mass in the Cardinal Clancy Room.

All are welcome!!



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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.



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** PS 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14. R.V.1

R ~ To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12- 4:2**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

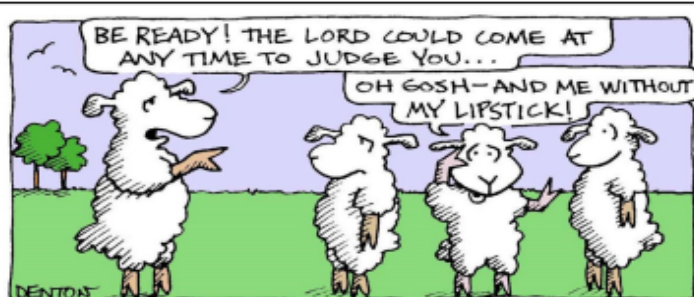
Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Psalm 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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"Would that you might meet us doing right."

Sheepish Question:

How will I present myself when Jesus comes to me this Advent?

PARISH PLANNING DAY FOR 2025

About 32 members of the MQOF parish community, including members of the Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Committee and Frs Wim, Andrew, Ever and Deacon John, gathered on Saturday 16 November in the St Pat's MPA for the Parish Planning Day for 2025.

The day started with the 9am Mass and after a presentation by Fr Wim on the theme "Go make disciples", Fr Rooney led the group in discernment about mission. We were reminded that "We are mission, we are the hands and feet of Jesus, called to build up the Kingdom of God".

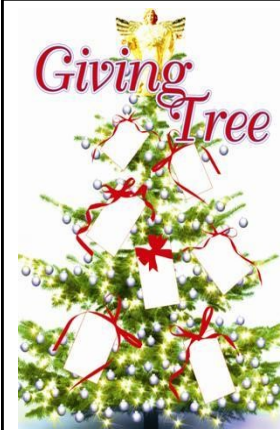
There was sharing about how each saw their mission: the need to know the people in the parish was noted by many, to bring people into the Church, building up relationships and meeting people where they are at; say hallo to people, and reaching out and reaching in.

The afternoon session focused on feedback on what was happening and a wish list, amongst which were: children's liturgy in both communities; need a welcome pack; reply to enquiries, promote the programs *symbolon* and **FORMED**; review how collections are taken up; how do we bring people, especially young people, back into the community; ALPHA program; opportunities to connect with parents during the sacramental programs; build up community by holding community events; how can we build up our current groups e.g. Legion of Mary, and how can we get those who are attending Mass already actively involved in liturgical and outreach ministries.

Lots to think about...and you can help.

**BISHOPS CHRISTMAS APPEAL THIS WEEKEND**

Support mothers and children in crisis
PLEASE HELP PROVIDE A SAFE HOME
AND HOPE FOR A NEW BEGINNING



Mary's Pantry volunteers would like to thank the Parish Community and Uniting Church Blacktown for being so generous to our Christmas Giving Tree appeal.

Food that was donated will go towards making Christmas hampers for those doing it tough during this season.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Christine Zammit, Edward Sanoyan, Winifred Prendergast, Nathan Mondon

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Ceferina Velasquez, Radul Jumeau, Roland Bouquet, Mary Apap.

IN MEMORIAM

Paul John Sheehan, Lorna & Rex Scott

SICK

Cristeta, Ingrid Piu, Fr. Noel Bianco, Alejandra Montero, Katrina Jukic, Angela Mikhael, Michael Flanjak.

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.mqofblacktown.org/mass-intention-or-offering-request>

THE SACRAMENTS / MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

HOLY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Charles Hyson, 0412 631 602, www.holyfamilyfellowship.com
Meeting Time and Venue: Saturday 14 December 6:30pm-9:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS



Contact: Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943
Meeting Time and Venue: Monday 17th February, 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 Thursday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

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: Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877
Meeting Time and Venue: 9th February 2025, 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.

CATECHIST MINISTRY



Contact: Sandra Baker
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
For More Information please contact our the parish office.

TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando , 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916
Meeting Time and Venue: Saturday 14 December 2pm - 4pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St Patrick's Church.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Saturday 14 December 3.00pm 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 through the parish office.

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 7th December 2024 - St. Patrick's Church.

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

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Tuesday 24 December	Wednesday 25 December	Wednesday 1 January
5:30pm (Children's Mass) at St Patrick's Church	12:00am at St Patrick's Church	
	7:00am at St Patrick's Church	8:00am at St Michael's Church
6:00pm (Children's Mass) at St Michael's Church	8:00am at St Michael's Church	9:00am at St Patrick's Church
8:30pm (Youth Mass) at St Patrick's Church	9:30am at St Michael's Church	
	10:00am at St Patrick's Church	
	There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day at either Church	

Parish Team Employment 2025 – Greystanes – Faith Enrichment Role

For a suitably qualified and experienced person 16 hrs/wk onsite in faith enrichment:

- Facilitating/resourcing parents as they guide their children in sacraments faith
- Liaising with key faith enrichment ministries
- Assisting opportunities for faith inquiry and for parishioners' enrichment
- Sharing in relevant admin and tech tasks with the team

For more information about the role and details for making application, please contact: parishoffice@olqp.org.au



Join us every Wednesday from 10:00am until 12:00pm at Sid Moseley St. Michael's Church and every Friday from 10:00am till 12:00pm at Cardinal Clancy room at St. Patrick's Church, for our Arts and Crafts activities will include: Embroidery and Embellishment, Crocheting, Knitting, Arts and Crafts (Painting) & Sewing.

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

For any inquiries please contact:



SCAN ME 

MARY QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH BLACKTOWN

Please join us for the annual

Christmas Gala

Carols - Food & Drinks and Lucky Door Prizes

14th DECEMBER 2024

Saturday | from 6.00 pm
Nagle College School Grounds & Hall
58A Orwell Street Blacktown

FOR FOOD/ DRINK VOUCHERS
PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE
PH: 02 9622 1125 OR
EMAIL: ADMIN@MQOFBLACKTOWN.ORG.AU

Food / Drink Vouchers - \$5.00ea - (Single Ticket)
\$20.00 - FAMILY TICKET - (2x Adults) & (All Children)
Food Voucher includes sausage sizzle & drink
FREE GIFTS FOR CHILDREN 12 YEARS & BELOW
PLEASE REGISTER YOUR CHILD'S NAME & AGE
<https://www.mqofblacktown.org/christmas-gala-2024>

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MASS & FELLOWSHIP

Friday 6 December 2024, Mass at 6:30pm at St Patrick's Church

Fellowship after Mass in the Cardinal Clancy Room.

Celebrating another year of serving in Ministry together.

RSVP

2 December 2024

Ph: 9622 1125

Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Charles Hyson: 7 December

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta invites you to the Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate of Mr Charles Philip Hyson on Saturday 7 December at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral on the Memorial of Saint Ambrose. Please RSVP to Hannah Portelli at Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org if you wish to attend.

Catholic Care Mamre Supported Playgroup

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering a free supported playgroup which operates on Thursdays from 10am to 12pm during school terms at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Supported Playgroup on (02) 8843 2506.

CHURCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

St Patrick's Church – Roof Project Update

Recently we received notification from the Bishop's Office, that our application to spend \$600K and borrow \$500K needs to be considered by the Diocesan Property Council, the Diocesan Finance Committee and the College of Consultors. Owing to the Christmas holidays and the timing of their various meetings it may be early February before we receive approval for the Roof Project. I'm afraid we can't do anything until the approval is given.

All donations to the parish, using the various TAP'N'GO machines around the Churches will now go to meet the development and maintenance needs of the parish which will of course, include repayments to the Diocese for our loan.

To assist our parish needs, can you consider donating regularly online, either via EFT, credit/debit cards or even envelopes. This will help us plan for the future of Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

Thank you for your continued generosity

Fr Wim

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 8th December**.

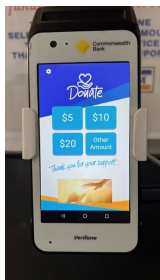
If you are donating a present, please do not wrap it, instead leave it in a bag with the gift tag from the tree.

Please note the annual St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will take place on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th December 2023

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

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

You can also support the parish by using our **Tap & Go Machine**. The machine amount is variable, please use the screen to donate the amount you wish to give. 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 to our parish. We are grateful!

Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown (MQOF) Finance Report for the Financial Year 2023 - 2024

INCOME / EXPENDITURE

	2023-2024 F/YR	2022-2023 F/YR	CHANGE
Income	\$702,117.77	\$ 587,541.79	19.5% (Increase)
Expenditure	\$584,219.85	\$ 594,207.47	(1.7%) (Decrease)

OUR COLLECTIONS

	2023-2024 F/YR	2022-2023 F/YR	CHANGE
First Collection (to the Diocese)	\$118,762	\$ 62,689	89.4% (Increase)
Second Collection (to the parish)	\$ 302,860	\$ 354,772	(14.6%) (Decrease)
Average First Collection	\$ 2,284 per week	\$ 1,206 per week	89.4% (Increase)
Average Second Collection	\$ 5,824 per week	\$ 6,823 per week	(14.6%) (Decrease)

Our parish needs to generate \$50k per month of income, to meet our obligations and expenses. At present we generate an average of \$59k per month, a surplus of \$9k per month. Our yearly insurance premium alone was \$75k as of February 2024.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS – TOP 4

FUNDRAISING EVENTS – Amounts raised

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal	\$ 3,655	Parish Feast Day - August 2023	\$ 12,800
Bishop's Christmas Appeal	\$ 3,433	Parish Golf Day - September 2023	\$ 5,800
Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal	\$ 3,314	Parish Hoyts Movie Nights x3	\$ 10,946
Caritas / Project Compassion	\$ 5,385	Christmas Gala - December 2023	\$ 4,580

TOP MAINTENANCE WORKS that were carried out in both churches during the financial year

St Patrick's Church (SPC)		St Michael's Church (SMC)	
Admin toilets refurbishment	\$ 7,900	New Guttering	\$ 14,000
Office, Presbytery and Garage - New Locks and Controls	\$ 5,900	Installation of New Doors	\$ 6,000
Presbytery 2 new split Air Conditioners	\$ 4,600	Painting of Doors and Sanctuary Ceiling	\$ 5,000

PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2024 (as compared to 30 June 2023)

	30 June 2024	30 June 2023
Our bank account balance was	\$ 242,423 (CR)	\$ 205,226 (CR)
Our outstanding loan balance was	\$ 172,876 (DR)	\$ 203,731 (DR)
Our debt to the PCF* was	\$ 10,100 (DR)	\$ 71,216 (DR)

* Parramatta Catholic Foundation (PCF) – The Diocese reduced this debt for all parishes during this year by changing the way the quota is calculated, both now and going forward. Candle money from both our churches is used by us to reduce this debt, so thank you to everyone who purchases these.

MQOF INVESTMENT PROPERTIES – 9 properties owned in total

- Net rental income generated for the 2023 / 2024 F/YR was \$197,776 as compared to \$129,688 in the 2022 / 2023 F/YR.
- All our investment properties were leased as of the close of business on 30 June 2024.
- The Syro-Malabar community are paying \$1,200 per month to use SMC and a further \$200 a month for use of the garage.
- The cost of maintaining these properties continues to be an issue for us due to the age of the buildings. A total of \$35K was outlaid on maintenance works on our properties over the year, including \$6k on the property at 151 Reservoir Rd.

UPDATE ON THE ST PATRICK'S CHURCH (SPC) ROOF ISSUE and our 'Raise the Roof Appeal' (RRA)

- Resolving the SPC roof issue has taken us much longer than we would have hoped, due to several issues and delays that have arisen along the way. But we are now pleased to announce that the tender to fix the roof has recently been awarded to GS Design + Construct at a cost of \$506,605*. To this end, we have applied to the Diocese to spend up to \$600,000, if needed, and to borrow \$500,000 over the maximum repayment term available to us. Our application to spend needs to be considered by the Diocesan Property Council, the Diocesan Finance Committee and the College of Consultants. Owing to the Christmas holidays and the timing of the various meetings it may be early February before we receive approval to proceed. Accordingly, we can't do anything until the approval is given but, we plan to get things moving as soon as that is sought.

* This amount is subject to change due to the delay in locking in a start date in late 2024.

- Funds raised through the 'Raise the Roof Appeal' amounted to \$211,153 as of 30 June 2024 (which includes \$85k from an insurance claim). This appeal has now been withdrawn and all donations made to the parish by means of the Second Collection and Planned Giving etc will now go to meet the development and maintenance needs of the parish, which will of course, include repayments to the Diocese for our loan in the future.
- Thanks go to Ray Francica and Charbelle Aboumelhem for their continued assistance on the Roof Sub-Committee and to Bruce Moa, a Quakers Hill parishioner, who is providing us with extensive assistance and expert advice.

- And, given the issues we've encountered with the SPC roof, the Finance Committee have elected to have the SMC roof inspected and for any necessary repairs/improvement works to be carried out. The roof will also be thoroughly cleaned.
- Please refer to the 'Church Maintenance Update' section of the bulletin each week for the latest news on this and any other maintenance matters affecting our parish.

OUR TOP 3 PRESSING NEEDS / FINANCIAL ISSUES

- Whilst the resolution to the SPC roof issue is almost at hand, our biggest financial issue is now the sizeable debt that we will carry over the next few decades. Whilst we have taken the maximum loan term available to us (to minimise our monthly repayments) we will endeavor to reduce this debt through ongoing fund-raising events and requests for donations.
- Our church car parks continue to be things that we need to keep an eye on, with regards to their upkeep and safety. We will be working closer with both schools in sharing this responsibility and cost going forward given their substantial use of both facilities. Resolving the SPC roof issue has meant that we haven't been able to undertake other much needed works around the parish such as, for the installation of both fencing and CCTV (with the aim of reducing the incidences of vandalism) and to substantial improvements to our car parks, for example.
- A change of insurer by the Diocese meant that our yearly premium of \$75k due as of 1 February 2024 could no longer be paid monthly by us, but rather, had to be paid in full within 30 days of receipt of the bill. We chose to pay this year's bill using funds from our Term Deposit, as against borrowing the amount and paying interest on top. The need to pay the insurance bill within 90 days of receiving the bill going forward will be an ongoing thing, as will the likelihood of the premium amount increasing each year.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2023 / 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Collections / Planned Giving Appeal' made by Michael Zerafa at all Masses over the weekend of 29-30 June 2024 saw a modest increase in the amounts being given to both collections as well as a small uptake in Planned Giving contributors.
- We received a total of \$7,500 Government Volunteers Grants which were used to purchase laptops and a TV screen for the Parish Meeting Room.
- Sales through our Piety Stores have contributed \$19k net to our parish. Thank you to anyone who purchased something and to those who are involved in this Ministry.
- The Parish Audit for 2024 was completed and gave our financial administration a tick of approval.
- We held 3 different Parish Movie Nights at Hoyts Blacktown. They were well-supported, and we were able to raise \$10,946.
- We donated \$5k to our sister Parish – St Anthony de Padua, Nissan Island, Bougainville, PNG but have decided to now cease this relationship given that they've repaired their roof, and that Fr Regie, who established the relationship, has left our parish.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY!

- Thank you to everyone who supports our parish through the loose collections, Planned Giving and Fund-Raising Events.
- We appreciate that there are many costs of living pressures and that it's become increasingly difficult to make ends meet.
- All we can ask is that you support your parish, to the best of your ability, based on your situation at the time, knowing that the parish too has obligations and commitments that it must meet each month, for us to remain operating and serving you.
- If you do have the capacity to increase what you give each week, even modestly, then please consider doing so.
- Thank you also to **Father Wim and our Clergy Team** (including Fr Kevin Redmond, who administered our parish for part of this year), **to Sarah, our Business Manager** for her prudent management of the parish's finances and assets, **to our Admin Team, to our Collectors** at all of our Masses for your service to this ministry each week, and, to all those who have assisted with, or sponsored, our Fundraising Events, such as the Parish Golf Day, our Feast Day, Christmas Gala and the Hoyts Movie Nights. It's all very much appreciated!
- A big thank you also to our generous **Parish Bulletin Advertisers. Please support these businesses that support us.**
- And, finally, thank you to all currently serving members of the **Parish Finance Committee** for your continued efforts and support. A big thank you to Col Morris, John Kurmann, Bill Callaghan and Jojo Stamati who have stepped down this year and to Kiran Saldanha, Raphael Saccasan, Glenda Sergio and Angelica Green who have now joined the committee since. Welcome!

If you have any questions with regards to any of the information within this report, please feel free to contact Sarah at the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or via email at accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au.

Thank you.

Fr Wim Hoekstra, Parish Priest

Michael Zerafa - Chairperson, MQOF Parish Finance Committee (November 2024)

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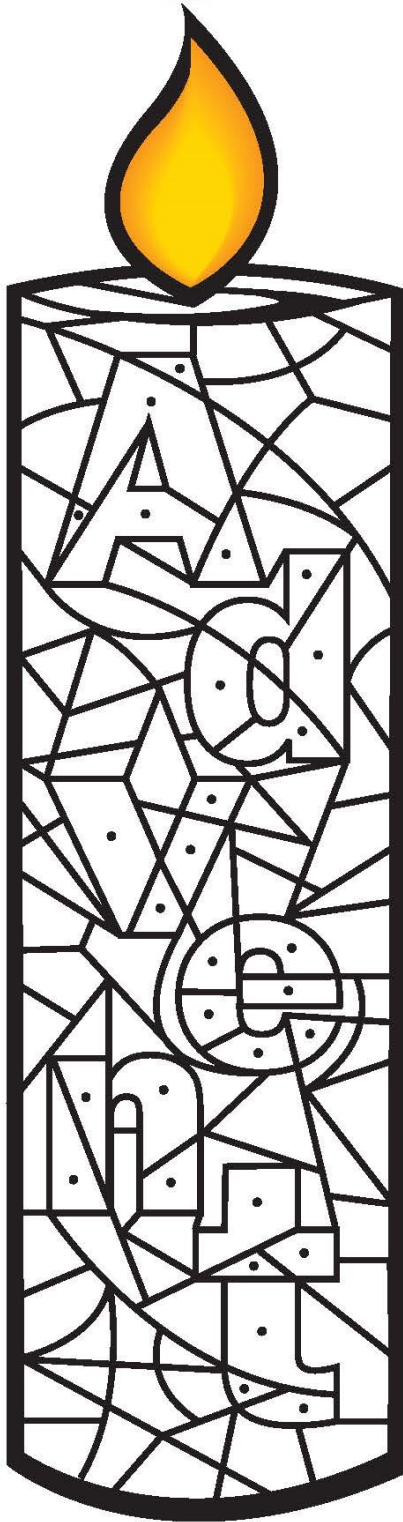
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Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

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