



Christmas 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

25TH DECEMBER 2024



*Fr Wim,
Fr Ever,
Fr Rooney,
Fr Andrewes,
Deacon John
and the
MQOF Parish
Staff wish all
our parish
community
members
and visitors
a happy and
holy
Christmas.*

*May Christ's peace be with you and your families
throughout this time and for 2025*

If you are a recent arrival in the area, welcome to our parish family. Perhaps this is your occasional visit, and if so, why not drop in more often?

Perhaps you have drifted away from the practice of your faith. There are many reasons, why some people drift away from the Church

- for some it is the pain of divorce or a feeling of being judged
- for others it is a bad experience at the hands of a priest or parishioner
- for some it is the bad publicity as a result of sexual abuse by clergy
- for some life's difficulties have led to a feeling of having been let down by God or they feel the Church to be irrelevant in a fast changing world
- others can't explain why they've drifted, they just have
- others feel guilty about drifting away and just don't know how to come back to the practice of the faith

If so, no matter what your reason or how long you have been away, we are always happy to say

You are Welcome!



**MARY,
QUEEN
OF THE
FAMILY**
PARISH, BLACKTOWN

Our Parish is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Secretary to join the parish team on a part time basis, working from the Parish Office at St Patrick's Church. This position is for 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday, from 9am to 4pm. This role offers a unique opportunity to support the mission of the Church in Western Sydney.

For job description and details, search SEEK or please email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au



Parents wishing to have their children baptised are to contact the parish office prior to attending a Baptism workshop, usually held on the first Saturday of the month. However because of the Christmas break, the next workshop will on Saturday 18th January 2025 - St. Patrick's Church at 2pm. Bookings are essential.

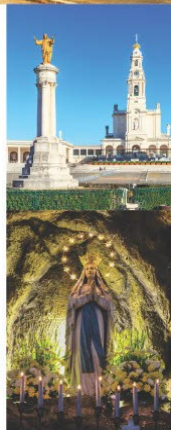
For more information please logon to our website:
<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>



**FATIMA - AVILA - BARCELONA -
LOURDES - PARIS - MILAN -
FLORENCE - CASCIA - ASSISI - ROME**



WITH
Fr Percival Severe, OSA



**FULLY
INCLUSIVE
\$9590**
(30+ PILGRIMS)
**EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT OF
\$400**
BOOK BEFORE
15th FEB 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Visit the Little Chapel of Apparitions
- ▶ Visit the home of St Theresa of Avila
- ▶ Pray at the sepulcher of St John of the Cross
- ▶ Visit the Benedictine monastery, Montserrat
- ▶ Pray at the Lourdes Grotto
- ▶ Visit the Basilica of St Ambrose
- ▶ Pray at the tomb of St Augustine
- ▶ Visit the Basilica of St Rita
- ▶ See the incorrupt body of St Rita
- ▶ Visit Lialux, home of St Therese
- ▶ See the tomb of St Francis of Assisi
- ▶ Pray at the tomb of St Padre Pio
- ▶ Visit the Vatican Museum and St Peters Basilica

INCLUSIONS

- ▶ Return Economy Class Airfare
- ▶ Accommodation in Premium Hotels
- ▶ Breakfast and Dinner
- ▶ Transfers on Deluxe A/C Coach
- ▶ Entrance Fees
- ▶ Services of Professional Guides

For details contact
Fr Percival Severe, OSA
Email: percivalsevere@gmail.com
Phone: 0439 111 932

For details contact
Sarah Damole
Email: scanetedamole@gmail.com
Phone: 0479 042 633

For Bookings contact
1300 721 561
pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au



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.



CHURCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

St Patrick's Church – Roof Project Update

As you are aware we have made application to spend \$600K and borrow \$500K for the Roof Project. As this needs to be considered by the Diocesan Property Council, the Diocesan Finance Committee and the College of Consultors, and owing to the Christmas holidays and the timing of their various meetings it will 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.

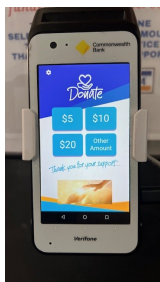
To assist our parish needs, can you consider donating regularly online, either via EFT, credit/debit cards or even envelopes. This will help us plan for the future of Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

Thank you for your continued generosity

Fr Wim

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

You n 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!



Bishop Vincent's 2024 Christmas Message

Dear sisters and brothers,

St John, the evangelist, in one simple sentence describes the deepest meaning of Christmas: **"God so loved the world that God gave his only Son."**

That catches the heart of the story. It is because God loves the world, and loves human beings, that God did this. If we think about that over and over, then we discover something about God, and a great deal about this world and about human beings. Imagine. Christmas expresses how much God loves the world!

It's not God loving us "from a distance." It's God loving us and becoming part of this whole cosmos, and because of that, everything is different.

Not only did God visit us. God became part of the human family, and God is still part of the human family, and God will be part of the human family forever.

At the birth of Christ, the manger was full – he was lying in a manger as a baby boy. At the resurrection of Christ, the tomb was empty. It's not as though human nature was a costume God wore, and when he was finished with it, he left it behind and went back to being God. Christ became

one of us, and when he rose from the dead his human body was still with him. That's why the tomb was empty. He still stayed one of us and is still part of our family today. The child who was in that manger lives on as a human being, one of us, today. That's what we celebrate at Christmas.

Yet, very often in these tumultuous and violent times – with war and chaos breaking out everywhere - from the horrors and destruction in the Middle East and Ukraine to the floods and frightening climate change events – it can be tempting for us to become despondent.

But take heart from the words of the angel to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."

There is a movement within us all, within the human race, toward goodness, toward fulfillment. And it can't be taken away, for the Word became flesh and dwells among us. This is what we celebrate on this holy night.

God's greatest revelation is not through power, majesty, wealth and splendour. Rather, he made himself the poorest, the most vulnerable and despised of all. The birth of Jesus signals God's alignment with those who are at the edges of society. This Christmas, as we contemplate the Christ child in the manger, let us commit ourselves to pray and work for justice in all its manifestations so that God's reign will come in our world.

May the Christ child bless you and your families with a peaceful and holy Christmas!

Yours fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen
OFM Conv STL DD
Bishop of Parramatta

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.celcblacktownst.catholic.edu.au>

Aged Care Facilities:

Opal Nursing Home (37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 9852 9600
Mullauna Retirement Village (61 Bungarabee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 8822 2100



USUAL 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 - 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)

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.

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.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

RECENTLY DECEASED
 Mark Sitaramayya, John O'Grady, Powly Scherri, Fr Lawrence D'Souza, Giovanna Portelli

DEATH ANNIVERSARY
 Emmanuel Canonizado, Maria Gunawan, Margaret Apap

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

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

Pope Francis will inaugurate the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope on Christmas Eve in Rome. The Jubilee aims to foster a greater sense of global brotherhood, solidarity with the poor and care for the environment.

**Masses on January 1, 2025—
 Mary, the Mother of God (New Year's Day)**
 8.00am St Michael's
 9.00am St Patrick's
 There is NO Evening Mass or Holy Hour at St Michael's

The Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday 25th December 2024 and will reopen on Monday 6th January 2025