



# 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.*

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

22ND 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 - Filo 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.

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

***"This is what Christ said on coming into the world: 'You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book: God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' "*** ***Hebrews 10: 5-10***

The Scriptures we hear and read everyday are so rich that, every now and then, something jumps off the page and catches us by surprise. I had that kind of experience earlier this week when I was reflecting on today's second reading from Hebrews. The words that the writer of Hebrews put into the mouth of Jesus Christ: "God, here I am! I am coming to do your will" echo very closely Mary's response to Gabriel when she was invited to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah, the Christ of God: "I am the handmaid of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38) Surely, that's more than coincidental.

What's more, the writer of Hebrews borrowed from Psalm 40 the words he attributed to Jesus: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire ..." (Psalm 40:6-8). A fascinating characteristic of human behaviour over thousands of humanity's early years is that people had tried to win the favour of the gods in whom they believed with every manner of sacrifice. Incalculable numbers of birds and animals, at times even young women, were slaughtered and burned in attempts to keep the gods on side. The first sacrifice we read about in the Bible was that offered by Abel. And he ended up dead, killed out of jealousy by his brother Cain! We know how Abraham was convinced that God expected him to sacrifice his dear son, Isaac. The assertion made by Jesus Christ that Temple sacrifice was not approved by the God of Israel, supported by the words of Psalm 40, would have been something of a bombshell. For starters, if taken seriously, it would have undermined the whole economy of the Temple in Jerusalem. Profit from the sale of birds and animals would have evaporated. The sacrifices of pagans to their gods was paralleled by devout Jews offering sacrifices to the one, true God of Israel.

Logically, that leads us into an exploration of what we understand by the expression we use in various ways for referring to "doing God's will". Sometimes we are urged by the homilist in our Sunday liturgy "to do God's will", "to listen for the will of God". It would be well for us, at the outset, to acknowledge that we do not believe in a God whose will is imposed on us.

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

Parish Assistant: Ann Hart (Wed-Fri)

Email: [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au)

Sacramental Coordinator: Gerald "Ged" Oblea. (Mon to Wed) Mobile: 0422 724 008

Email: [sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto: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

That would be a denial of our God-given freedom. Neither does our God subscribe to the belief that life's pains, sufferings and tragedies are God's will for us.

Subscribing to the belief that it was God's will for Jesus to have been executed on the Cross at Golgotha is like confirmation of God's acceptance of human barbarity. Expressions like "It's the will of God" are sometimes bandied about by adherents to various religions in the wake of natural disasters like tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Such events are even labelled by some as punishment from God for human sinfulness. It's that kind of thinking that was used to justify corporal punishment meted out to children by parents or teachers. Underneath that is the view that God wants to treat us as children. I have no doubt that God is intent on relating to me as an adult instead of treating me as a dependent infant. We can be sure that God wants only what is good for us, wants us to use our God-given gifts to grow into wise, loving and generous human beings who will make valuable contributions to the good of others and to our world. God does not have a grand plan tucked away somewhere for us to search for. That kind of thinking and searching does no more than raise anxiety levels in us.

As Jesus, born of Mary, grew and developed, he came to see that God's love for humanity and for our world was boundless. He discerned that his vocation in life was to collaborate with God in realising his Father's dream for humankind and our earthly home. Accordingly, Jesus invested himself doing the kind of thing that glorified God: healing the sick and infirm, treating the poor and overlooked with dignity and compassion, challenging those who exploited their sisters and brothers, and urging us all to relate to others in ways that mirrored his way of relating. The way in which Jesus challenged injustice and inequity and those who perpetrated them got him executed. Many of the disciples who imitated him suffered a similar fate for living with his kind of integrity. Jesus did not get involved in chasing after some divine, prearranged plan invented by God.

It would be remiss of us if we were to be silent on Mary's visit to Elizabeth that is the centrepiece of this Sunday's gospel-reading from Luke.

Mary's outburst of exuberance on her meeting with Elizabeth is a verbal celebration of her pregnancy. We now call it the *Magnificat*, and those of us who pray the Evening Prayer of the Church, pray it every day. I like the translation of the opening lines that appears in the Common English Bible: "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am, I rejoice in God my saviour." That prompts me to ask myself: "Have I yet discovered the depths of who I am? Do I thank God each day for all I am, have and have become?"

Her song indicates that Mary was also very much aware of the fact that, in the world of her day, she was a nonentity from a shanty town of no significance, a tiny village in which tongues would have been wagging when the locals saw that she was obviously pregnant after three months away. Her song resonated with Micah's view of Nazareth, a place and a community of people of whom she is certainly not ashamed. Moreover, what she has to say of God's preference for her over and above the rich and powerful demonstrates not only her self-confidence but the fact that all she is and has are gifts from God. There's something there for all of us to imitate.

© Br. Julian McDonald cfc

*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

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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.

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**RECENTLY DECEASED**  
Mark Sitaramayya

**DEATH ANNIVERSARY**  
Roland Bouquet, Rosario P. De Jesus

**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>

**FUNERAL NOTICE**

The funeral for Mark will be on  
Monday 23 December at 10:30am ~ St.Patrick's Church.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Isaiah 45:8

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:1-4

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 79:2-3,15-16,18-19 R. V.4.

R ~ Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Isaiah 7:14

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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



Catholic Mission 2025 Diary is available in the church foyers free for our parishioners.

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 9:30am at St Michael's Church	9:00am at St Patrick's Church
8:30pm (Youth Mass) at St Patrick's Church	10:00am at St Patrick's Church 12:00pm at St Patrick's Church (Sudanese)	There will be no evening Mass on New Year's Day at St Michael's Church

There will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day at either Church



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"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Sheepish Question:

As I await Christ's coming, when do I recall God blessing me beyond what I wanted?



MARY,  
QUEEN  
OF THE  
FAMILY  
PARISH, BLACKTOWN

# Christmas Gala 2024



# Thank You

On behalf our parish community we would like to thank all those who were involved in organizing our Parish Christmas Gala.

Especially the generosity of the following who sponsored the event.

iTravel (c/o—Susan Clark) for TV, \$500.00 from an anonymous donor and the Blacktown Ponds Lions Club for all the gifts that were distributed to the children.




**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, please email [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au)



**Baptism**

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

**Calix Gutierrez**

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 18th January 2025 - St. Patrick's Church.

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



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**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 Lisieux, 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](mailto:percivalsevere@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0439 111 932

For details contact  
Sarah Damole  
Email: [scanetedamole@gmail.com](mailto:scanetedamole@gmail.com)  
Phone: 0479 042 633

For Bookings contact  
1300 721 561  
Email: [pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au](mailto: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.



**PASTORAL CARE**

**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.

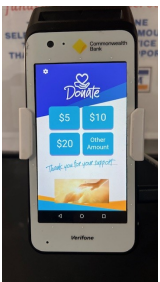
To assist our parish needs, can you consider donating regularly online, either via EFT, credit/debit cards or even envelopes. This will help us plan for the future of Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

Thank you for your continued generosity

Fr Wim

**PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING**

You 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](http://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](mailto:accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au). Thank you so much for your continued support to our parish. We are grateful!

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For further information contact:  
Mark @ 0417 181 228.

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

Or

During weekdays on 8869 6000 between 8:30am and 3:30pm



## St Michael's Primary School Blacktown South

155 Reservoir Road Blacktown South

<https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/>

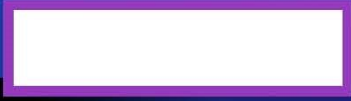


### Enrolling now for 2025

Contact the school office on 8869 6200 or download an enrolment pack from our website.

# The Lord will keep his promise

4th Sunday of Advent, Year C



When Mary heard that her much older cousin Elizabeth was with child, she hurried to Elizabeth and Zechariah's house in the hills of Judea. Can you help Mary find the correct path to her cousin Elizabeth?



At Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by doing special things. Write down why you think it's important to do each of the following things as well as adding one of your own.

I celebrate Christmas by giving gifts to others.

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I celebrate Christmas with a family meal.

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I celebrate Christmas by going to Mass.

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I celebrate Christmas by...

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## DE-CODE ELIZABETH'S MESSAGE

Use the key below to find out what Elizabeth said to Mary.

- |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A - 20 | F - 25 | K - 19 | P - 17 | U - 5  |
| B - 12 | G - 1  | L - 22 | Q - 26 | V - 4  |
| C - 6  | H - 3  | M - 14 | R - 2  | W - 13 |
| D - 10 | I - 9  | N - 11 | S - 15 | X - 21 |
| E - 18 | J - 24 | O - 7  | T - 8  | Y - 23 |
|        |        |        | Z - 16 |        |

20 15 15 7 7 11 20 15 9 3 18 20 2 10

23 7 5 2 1 2 18 18 8 9 11 1

14 23 12 20 12 23 12 18 6 20 14 18

3 20 17 17 20 20 11 10 14 7 4 18 10

18 9 8 3 9 11 14 18