



Weekly Bulletin

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, Blacktown. & St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

29TH DECEMBER 2024

**OPENING OF THE HOLY DOOR AND MIDNIGHT MASS
BEGINNING OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE
SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
HOMILY OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS
Saint Peter's Basilica
Tuesday, 24 December 2024**



An angel of the Lord, bathed in light, illumines the night and brings glad tidings to the shepherds: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). Heaven breaks forth upon earth amid the wonder of the poor and the singing of angels. God has become one of us to make us like himself; he has come down to us to lift us up and restore us to the embrace of the Father.

Sisters and brothers, this is our hope. God is Emmanuel, God-with-us. The infinitely great has made himself tiny;

divine light has shone amid the darkness of our world; the glory of heaven has appeared on earth. And how? As a little child. If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a lowly manger, we can truly say: Hope is not dead; hope is alive and it embraces our lives forever. Hope does not disappoint!

Brothers and sisters, with the opening of the Holy Door we have inaugurated a new Jubilee, and each of us can enter into the mystery of this extraordinary event. Tonight, the door of hope has opened wide to the world. Tonight, God speaks to each of us and says: there is hope also for you! There is hope for each of us. And do not forget, sisters and brothers, that God forgives everything, God always forgives. Do not forget this, which is a way of understanding hope in the Lord.

To receive this gift, we are called to set out with the marvel of the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem. The Gospel tells us that, having heard the message of the angel, they "went with haste" (Lk 2:16). In this same way, "with haste", we too are called to recover lost hope, to renew that hope in our hearts, and to sow seeds of hope amid the bleakness of our time and our world. And there is so much desolation at this time. We think of wars, of children being shot at, bombs on schools and hospitals. Do not delay, do not hesitate, but allow yourselves to be drawn along by the Good News.

With haste, then, let us set out to behold the Lord who is born for us, our hearts joyful and attentive, ready to meet him and then to bring hope to the way we live our daily lives. And this is our task: to bring hope into the different situations of life. For Christian hope is not a cinematic "happy ending" which we passively await, but rather, a promise, the Lord's prom-

ise, to be welcomed here and now in our world of suffering and sighs. It is a summons not to tarry, to be kept back by our old habits, or to wallow in mediocrity or laziness. Hope calls us – as Saint Augustine would say – to be upset with things that are wrong and to find the courage to change them. Hope calls us to become pilgrims in search of truth, dreamers who never tire, women and men open to being challenged by God's dream, which is of a new world where peace and justice reign.

Let us learn a lesson from the shepherds. The hope born this night does not tolerate the indifference of the complacent or the lethargy of those content with their own comforts – and so many of us are in danger of becoming too comfortable; hope does not accept the faux prudence of those who refuse to get involved for fear of making mistakes, or of those who think only of themselves. Hope is incompatible with the detachment of those who refuse to speak out against evil and the injustices perpetrated at the expense of the poor. Christian hope, on the other hand, while inviting us to wait patiently for the Kingdom to grow and spread, also requires of us, even now, to be bold, responsible, and not only that but also compassionate, in our anticipation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promise.

And here perhaps it will do us good to ask ourselves about compassion: do I have compassion? Am I able to suffer-with? Let us reflect on this.

On reflecting on how often we accommodate ourselves to the world and conform to its way of thinking, a fine priest and writer prayed for a Blessed Christmas in these words: "Lord, I ask you for a little annoyance, a touch of restlessness, a twinge of regret. At Christmas, I would like to find myself dissatisfied. Happy, but not satisfied. Happy because of what you do, dissatisfied by my lack of response. Please, take away our complacency and hide a few thorns beneath the hay of our all-too-full 'manger'. Fill us with the desire for something greater" (a. pronzato, *La novena di Natale*). The desire for something greater. Do not stand still. Let us not forget that still water is the first to become stagnant. Christian hope is precisely this "something greater", which should spur us to set out "with haste". As disciples of the Lord, we are called to find our greater hope in him, and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light amid the darkness of this world.

Sisters and brothers, this is the Jubilee. This is the season of hope in which we are invited to rediscover the joy of meeting the Lord. The Jubilee calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation. A jubilee for our mother Earth, disfigured by profiteering; a time of jubilee for the poorer countries burdened beneath unfair debts; a time of jubilee for all those who are in bondage to forms of slavery old and new.

All of us have received the gift and task of bringing hope wherever hope has been lost, lives broken, promises unkept, dreams shattered and hearts overwhelmed by adversity. We are called to bring hope to the weary who have no strength to carry on, the lonely oppressed by the bitterness of failure, and all those who are broken-hearted.

(Continued p 3)



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>

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 0460037 795




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.



2025 MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE **SAINTLY TRAVEL PILGRIMAGES**

Join David and Angeline Wilkes from St Aidan's Parish on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje from April 1st to 9th, 2025. Fr Neil Bulathsinghale is the chaplain. Places are limited, so if you feel called to experience the peace of Medjugorje, please contact Angeline Wilkes at 0410 665 306 or visit saintlytravel.com.au for more details.

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.

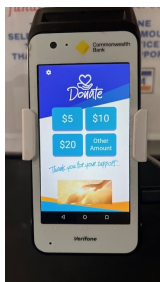
To assist our parish needs, can you consider donating regularly online, either via EFT, credit/debit cards or even envelopes. This will help us plan for the future of Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

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!

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY AND JOSEPH YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Luke 2.16

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 1.20-22, 24-28

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 83:2-3. 5-6. 9-10. R. V.5
R ~ How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

SECOND Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Acts 16.14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 2.41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere.

Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant.

He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Baruch 3.38

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

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Parish Directory

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown &
St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown.

Parish Office: At St. Patrick's Church. **Office Hours:** Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm

Telephone: 02 9622 1125 **A/H:** 02 8705 0830.

Website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au **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

Pope Francis—Opening "Holy Door" (con'd)

To bring hope to the interminable, dreary days of prisoners, to the cold and dismal lodgings of the poor, and to all those places desecrated by war and violence. To bring hope there, to sow hope there.

The Jubilee has now opened so that all people may receive hope, the hope of the Gospel, the hope of love and hope of forgiveness.

As we contemplate the manger, as we gaze upon it and see God's tender love in the face of the Child Jesus, let us ask ourselves: "Are our hearts full of expectation? Does this hope find a place there? ... As we contemplate the loving kindness of God who overcomes our doubts and fears, let us also contemplate the grandeur of the hope that awaits us. ... May this vision of hope illumine our path each day" (c. m. martini, *Christmas Homily*, 1980).

Dear sister, dear brother, on this night the "holy door" of God's heart lies open before you. Jesus, God-with-us, is born for you, for me, for us, for every man and woman. And remember that with him, joy flourishes; with him, life changes; with him, hope does not disappoint.

Franciscus



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!!

**Mary's Pantry is open from 10am to 1pm Monday to Friday.
Opens again on 6th January**

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; 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

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



Where Was Jesus? Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

- SOVPASER □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ □
- MELASUREJ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
- RAMY □ □ □ □
- EPHJOS □ ○ □ □ □ □
- CHERTEAS □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □
- SNIOSEUQ □ □ □ □ ○ □ □ □ □ □
- VALFESIT □ ○ □ □ □ □ □ □
- MPLATE □ ○ □ □ □ □

Jesus said "Didn't you know that I had to be
----- '----- ?"



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.

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:

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

Thu 2 Jan—
St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen,
bishops, doctors

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

Happy New Year
The clergy and Parish staff
thank you for your gifts and
generous donations this time.
We wish you a Happy New Year
and God's blessings for 2025.