



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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR C

23 FEBRUARY 2025

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.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly...and lend without any hope of return...You will have a great reward.
Luke 6: 27-38

"God of mercy, may we not hesitate to forgive and seek forgiveness from one another. May we not allow hatred, distrust or hurt to keep us locked behind walls of anger or self-righteousness. Help us to be your ministers of reconciliation and peace of mind and heart." (A prayer for this coming week)

In today's gospel-reading, we are presented with a programme of action that follows from the list of beatitudes and woes enumerated by Jesus in the gospel of last Sunday. Of note today are the opening words that Luke attributed to Jesus as he addressed his disciples: "To those who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly" (Luke 6:27). This is not a set of instructions about how to formulate a plan for action. It is a code of conduct to follow in relating to those who get under our skin, upset us, do us violence in word and action.

To listen to anyone or anything is to pay close attention to whatever impacts on our auditory nervous system. We hear a multitude of things in the course of a day. We screen out much of what we hear and listen closely to what we choose and what captures our attention. In today's gospel we hear Jesus calling his disciples, us among them, to pay close attention to what is expected of us in dealing with those we are quick to label as repugnant, obnoxious, intent on doing us harm.

While today's first reading from the Book of Samuel gives us a graphic illustration of how to treat enemies, in David's heroic act of sparing the life of the king who was intent on killing him there is nothing to suggest that all of David's enemies received the same kind of mercy and compassion. Was the way in which David spared the life of his king a one-off inspired act of heroism, motivated by the conviction that Saul was God's anointed representative?

To come to terms with the imperatives that Jesus has put to us about dealing with our enemies, it is important to stop to consider the feelings we have towards those who treat us badly in word or action. More often than not, our first impulse is to label ourselves as victims and then to give our attention to how to pursue revenge and even the score. (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: Jill Franco (Tue to 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, Christe Degollacion, Ekhlas Ambili, Erica Luiz, Helena Vea, Harlane Petersen, 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

While these are understandable reactions, Jesus is telling those of us who are serious about sharing his mission that we are all sinners in need of God's mercy, and that doing good to those who harm us is the only authentic way of identifying with him.

All this stops me in my tracks. It impels me to ask myself: "When was the last time I actually stopped and reminded myself that God actually loves those I believe have mistreated me? When did I last pray for those whom I have been quick to categorise as enemies? When have I stopped and reminded myself that, by labelling anyone as enemy, I have ventured into judging my brother or sister and have put myself on a pedestal, implying that I am better. Instead of pursuing others, I would surely be doing something more constructive by praying: "Oh, God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

We know that Jesus found himself frustrated by religious figures who were intent on dismissing what he taught and labelling his compassion as breaches of the Sabbath observance. But this same Jesus prayed for them as he hung on the cross, a victim of their plotting and manipulation: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Luke 23: 34).

If there has been anyone in our lifetime who had listened intently to today's gospel-reading, it was Martin Luther King Jr. In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. In his acceptance speech, he quoted from the First Letter of John:

"Let us love one another since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love does not know the first thing about God, because God is love. So, you can't know God if you don't love...If we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and God's love becomes complete in us" (1 John 4: 7-12) King went on to say: "We can no longer afford to worship the God of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that/ who have pursued this self-defeating path of hate. Love is the key to the solution of the problems of the world...I still have a personal faith that humankind will rise to the occasion and give new direction to an age drifting rapidly to its doom...In a dark, confused world, the kingdom of God may yet reign in the hearts of humankind." These words are as relevant to us and our world now as they were in 1964.

However, we cannot afford to forget that, if new life is to be born, something in us must die. Today's gospel-reading suggests that something has to die for the reign of God to become a reality. We will have to let go of our insistence on holding tightly to some of the attitudes and actions society has taught us.

We have to learn to hold our lives and attitudes with a light grasp. We need to release the tight hold we have on our own space in our world, to let go of our reluctance to form new ways of relating to others, especially to those whom we are inclined to dismiss and even hate.

We need to trust that newer and fuller life for us all is to be found beyond what we can comprehend and imagine. That explains why we have difficulty in trusting Jesus' assertion that we will have to lose our lives in order to find them. And, doesn't that explain why Jesus' Gospel is so revolutionary?

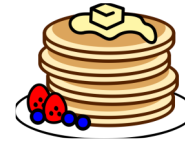
© Br Julian McDonald cfc

VICTUS Youth Group Pancake Fundraiser Sale

In preparation for Lent, the VICTUS youth will be selling pancakes next Sunday 2nd March at the following times:

- St. Michael's—8am and 9.30am
- St. Patrick's—10am

Come support our youth and have some wonderful pancakes too!



Please bring in your old palms for us to use on Ash Wednesday. You can leave them at the sacristy or parish office at St. Patrick's or St. Michael's church. Thank you!



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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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.



SEVENTH SUNDAY IIN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 12:6
O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23
The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. V.8
R ~ The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49
Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!
I give you a new commandment;
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38
Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

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PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Lavinia and Santano Sequeira, Joseph Anthony Dias, Remigio Gubiani, Lina Asin Uy, Elmer Jaen, Deacon Rodrigo Rupac, Illuminada Lavilla (Fr Regie's mother)
John Woodward, Eduardo Canete, Carmela Saliba, Rex Scott, Amelia Rodriguez, Robert Rodriguez, Jess and Patricia Calvo, Narciso Ignacio

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Victoria Caruana, Elsie Lobo, Stella Buttigieg, Maria Aquilina, Nina Gatt

SICK

Joe Borg

Please pray for those who are sick..

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

OUR LITURGY THIS WEEK

Thurs 27 Feb—St Gregory of Narek, *abbot, doctor*

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Ash Wednesday masses on the 5th of March are as follows:

- 7.30am - St. Michael's
- 9am - St. Patrick's
- 12pm - St. Patrick's
- 7.30pm - St. Michael's



METANOIA LENTEN PROGRAM



As preparation for easter, the parish is offering a Lenten discussion program *Metanoia* from the Diocese of Wollongong. If you would like to form a group, or be involved in a group, please use the QR code above to register your interest. Personal books are also available for individual use.



A teddy bear is working on a building site. He goes for a tea break and when he returns he notices his pick has been stolen. The bear is angry and reports the theft to the foreman. The foreman grins at the bear and says "Oh , I forgot to tell you , today's the day the teddy bears have their pick nicked."

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: Please contact Charles for more information.

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 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: 18th May 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 the parish office.

TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando, 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday (during school term only), 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: Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 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 1st March 2025 @ 2pm - St. Patrick's Church.

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2025

The sacramental program dates and online registration forms for 2025 are now available on our parish website.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Candidates aged 7 or 8 who have been baptised (Catholic) are invited to prepare for the Sacrament of Penance and the celebration of the First Confession.

This will be celebrated in November.

SACRAMENT OF THE EUCHARIST

Candidates aged 8 or 9 who have received the Sacrament of Penance are invited to be prepared for the Sacrament of the Eucharist and to receive First Holy Communion.

This will be celebrated in June.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Candidates aged 10 or 11 who have received the Sacrament of First Eucharist are invited to prepare for the reception of Confirmation.

This will be celebrated in August.

Note—you can register for any Sacrament at this time.

Follow the link below for more information and to register for the process.

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/> or you can collect a registration form from the parish office.

If you have any further questions, contact our sacramental coordinator on the details below:

Gerald "Ged" Oblea –Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au
Ph: 02 9622 1125 press option 3 or Mobile: 0422 724 008



Join us every Tuesday from 10:30am 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:
Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.



Where are you?

We STILL need you!!!!

Thank you to the 12 who have replied so far, but we'd like more. If you are being called to serve at any of our 7 masses on the weekends as a

- Altar Server
- Lector or Reader
- Welcome minister
- Minister of Communion
- Acolyte



SCAN ME

Or if you would like to assist in our:

- Children's Liturgy

Training will be provided, remember as St Paul said you are a *vital part of the body of Christ* in our MQOF parish.

Thank you !!

CHURCH MAINTENANCE & FINANCE UPDATE

Hooray!!!!

On Thursday we finally received approval from the Bishop to repair the roof at St Patrick's. In anticipation of a cost close to \$600,000, this will involve taking out a loan of up to \$400,000 as well as using \$230,000 of our own funds. Thank you for your patience.

All donations to the parish, using the various TAP'N'GO machines around the Churches 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 Wlm

FaithLIFE Lenten Scripture night with Dr. Michele Connolly

Are you looking to read the Bible during Lent but don't know where to start? Consider the FREE Diocesan Lenten Scripture Night guided by Scripture scholar, Dr Michele Connolly RSJ. Monday, 3 March. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown NSW 2148 – Mary Queen of the Family parish. RSVP via <https://parracatholic.org/events/lenten-scripture-night/> OR email met@parracatholic.org

For this night only the Legion of Mary will meet in the Board Room in the parish Office.

LIFTED LAUNCH: 27 FEBRUARY

Join us for LIFTED Launch on Thursday, February 27th, from 6:45 PM to 9:30 PM at West HQ, Rooty Hill! Get a sneak peek at exciting events we have planned for young Catholics, including the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage and Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Enjoy a night of prayer, formation, and fun with fellow young Catholics.

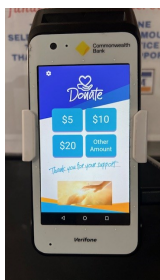
Register now: parracatholic.org/events/liftedlaunch/

Young Adult Faith Formation on St Therese of Lisieux: 2 March

Young Adult Faith Formation sessions recommence on Sunday 2 March at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, South Mt. Druitt (9 Ropes Creek Rd, Mt. Druitt) at 7pm. The speaker is Simon Carrington who will talk about and lead discussion on St Therese of Lisieux. All adults 18-35 are encouraged to come along and enjoy some faith formation, pizza, and fellowship! If you have any questions, please call [Mark on 0477 004 678](tel:0477004678)

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 or use the QR code. You can also send your offerings/donations thru bank transfer:

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Account Name: Diocesan Clergy
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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!

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ABN 28 618 689 339
PO Box 8071
ARNDELL PARK NSW 2148

Are you a person with a disability between 7 and 65 YOA?
Are you struggling with accessing Services? Did you need help with managing your funding? We can help you meet your NDIA and/or Aged Care goals!

Are you a person who enjoys helping others?
Are you seeking paid flexible, casual/part time employment – we can link you with rewarding work to help people who need local home & garden services AND home & community care*.

We'd love to hear from you!
business.ablechoice@gmail.com

Contact : 0288097084**



*We can help you with information to meet NDIA, Aged Care, ATO and our Company Policy standards. **Monday and Wednesday ONLY.



NAGLE COLLEGE OPEN DAY

Where Dreams Take Flight

4 March 2025

9:30AM-2:00PM

Families interested in enrolling in our College will have the opportunity to explore our school grounds and facilities, meet our staff and ask any questions you may have about the enrolment process. The College is located at 58A Orwell St, Blacktown South NSW 2148

For more information, contact Nagle College on 8887 4500 or visit their website:
www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au

Advertise
Here

St Patrick's Primary Blacktown

Is your child ready to start Kindy?

Call now for a School Tour!

02 8869 6000



Enrolment Packs Available Now!

Please call the school office to organize your enrolment pack or download an enrolment form from our school website.

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

Or

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



ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

155 Reservoir Road Blacktown South

2026

**KINDERGARTEN
ENROLMENTS**

Now Open



SCHOOL TOURS

Tues 4th March 3:45pm-4:45pm

Fri 7th March 9:30am-10:30am

Tues 1st April 3:45-4:45pm

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

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

Lk 6:27-37

My name is

[Red rectangular box for writing a name]

Love your enemies

Jesus wants us to show love and forgiveness towards others who do wrong things against us. Draw a picture of yourself showing forgiveness towards someone who has done wrong by you.



[Large red-bordered box for drawing a picture of forgiveness]



Find your way through the maze to make peace with your enemy.

