



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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

23 MARCH 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.

Third Sunday of Lent

"At that time, some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God." Luke 13: 1-9

Is God's way of expressing dissatisfaction with people to have them executed, be struck down with terminal disease or met with a fatal accident? Grotesque as it might seem, that's one of the inferences of the question put to Jesus in the opening verses of today's gospel-reading. It seems as though Jesus had detected a note of hostility in his interrogators, who had drawn his attention to the murder of some of his fellow Galileans. Had he read them as saying: "With a bit of luck, Jesus, you might have been another victim of the bloodthirsty Pilate, and that would have done us all a favour!" However he read the motive behind their question, Jesus responded forcefully, asking them without hesitation if they thought the murdered Galileans were worse sinners than their fellow citizens. Even in the time of Jesus, there was a prevailing view that illness, disability and death were punishments for serious sin. Jesus proceeded to make the point that the God in whom he believed and placed his trust was compassionate rather than vindictive and called everyone to conversion and change of heart.

A contemporary parallel to the tragedy brought to Jesus' notice by his interrogators might be for one of us to ask: "Were the 59 victims of the fire that ripped through a crowded and unlicensed nightclub in Macedonia last Sunday morning all worse sinners than those who survived the tragedy?"

This prompts all of us who engage with today's gospel-reading to stop and ask ourselves what our picture of God might be. We might get a glimpse of it from calling to mind the comments we and others make on being apprised of tragedies and illnesses that have touched the lives of people we know and love. I'm sure we have all made or heard comments like: "Andrew or Elizabeth have been lifelong, daily Mass-goers. He/she didn't deserve to be stricken with a brain tumour!" Comments such as this are very likely shaped by how we project onto God the way in which we would act if we were God. We might get another insight into what we expect of God if we were to stop and attend to some of the suggestions we make about how best to deal with some of the world leaders whose words and actions feature in our daily news bulletins. We have surely heard ourselves making ill-considered prognostications about how people like Donald Trump, Elon Musk, Benjamin Netanyahu and Marie Le Pen might be put in their rightful place. And, for the most part, the recommended treatment would not be gentle!

The God of Jesus is surely not interested in applying forceful, controlling or power-based methods to control the lives, operations or political policies of world leaders or of anyone else, for that matter. (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 Secretary: 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 Bungarrabee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 8822 2100



God will not support the injustices they perpetrate or any violence they initiate but will neither descend on them to obliterate them. Our God is a God of patience, compassion, forgiveness and respect. We have to trust in a God who will teach us to be likewise.

Consequently, we may not be entirely comfortable with Paul's words in today's second reading from Corinthians where it would seem that he is ready to apply a bit of moral pressure to goad some of his community in Corinth to compliant behaviour. Paul points to a God who used threats to keep people in line and refers to methods used to keep reins on their ancestors. "I want you to be quite certain that our ancestors all had the cloud over them and all passed through the sea. In the cloud and in the sea, they were all baptised into Moses; all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they drank from the spiritual rock which followed them, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, God was not pleased with most of them, and their corpses were scattered over the desert...Never complain; some of them complained, and they were destroyed by the Angel of Death." (1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12)

Fear rarely succeeds in promoting compliance, and the God of Jesus is not a God of whom to be afraid!

While God does not use fear as a weapon, we do know that God does disturb our comfort by challenging us with agenda that extend us and engage the use of our gifts and talents. God often does this by introducing leaders who attract our attention and inspire us to take creative, live-giving action. In today's first reading, we hear how God caught Moses' interest and, after waiting patiently for him to provide a little opening, eventually introduced some social justice agenda: "I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow." (Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15)

To follow authentically in the footsteps of Jesus, we have to get to know and develop a relationship with the God of Jesus. The face of Jesus' God is both benevolent and challenging. It is turned towards the needy of our world and appeals to us to address the causes of their needs. We know that God's face is not a face of violence but one of welcome and compassion. The face of violence belongs to our fellow humans who are bent on exploiting and manipulating our sisters and brothers in need. Whenever God calls us to action it is with sensitivity, patience and compassion. They're the signs that the call is genuine.

© Br Julian McDonald cfc

LENTEN MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY 28TH MARCH
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST



8:30PM START | MPA ROOM, ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BLACKTOWN | FREE @mqofyouth

Join us every Tuesday from 10am 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. All sessions are free. Materials for the lessons is provided or bring your own materials.
Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.



Legion of Mary
Blacktown Comitium
Acies Invitation 2025
All Spiritual Directors, Active & Auxiliary Members
You are invited!
Venue: St Patrick's Church
51-59 Allawah St
Blacktown
When: Saturday 29th March 2025
1:30pm Opening Prayers & Rosary
Followed by Acies Ceremony
Closing with Benediction
Light refreshments afterwards
Please bring a plate & drinks to share

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING: Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. V.8

R ~ The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

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New Release

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PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Guy Cassar, Colin Newell, Agnes Prsa

DECEASED

Joselito Gomez, Joe Rodrigues

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Bortolo Rubbo, Maggie Fernandes,
Celia Blanca Moscaso Corneja,
Santia Anthonipillai

SICK

Allan McKay

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

Tues 25 Mar —The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity
Frid 28 Mar— 6.30pm Stations of the Cross, Confessions & Mass

YOUTH-LED
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Rehearsals begin from
Friday 28th March
4:30pm
St. Patrick's Church,
Blacktown

DM or email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au to get involved!

A group of hunters in the depths of an African forest decided to split up and meet back in the clearing three hours later. It was agreed that if any of them got lost, he would shoot into the air three times to alert the others. After about two hours one member of the party found himself hopelessly lost, so as arranged he shot three times into the air. Nothing happened, so he shot three times more. Nobody came. "I hope somebody comes soon" he muttered to himself, "I've nearly run out of arrows."

Church Bloopers

- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered..
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment and gracious hostility.
- Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 pm . Please use the back door.

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

Baptism

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 5th April 2025 @ 2pm - St. Patrick's Church.

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025



Registrations for Sacramental processes are **NOW OPEN!**

Sacramental program dates and registration forms are available online on our parish website:

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/>

For more information, please contact our

Sacramental Coordinator, Gerald "Ged" Oblea at sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au or on (02) 9622 1125 (option 3) /

Join Mary, Queen of the Family Parish for

Holy Week

Palm Sunday - 12th & 13th April 2025
 Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Church - Saturday Vigil: 5.30pm
 Sunday: 7am, 10am & 5:30pm
 Holy Mass at St. Michael's Church - 8am, 9:30am & 6pm

Holy Thursday - 17th April 2025
 Lauds (Morning Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 9am
 Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Patrick's Church - 7:30pm
 Compline (Night Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 10pm

Good Friday - 18th April 2025
 Youth Passion Re-enactment at School Grounds - 10am
 Passion of the Lord at St. Patrick's Church - 3pm
 Passion of the Lord at St. Michael's Church - 3pm

Holy Saturday - 19th April 2025
 Lauds (Morning Prayer) at St. Patrick's Church - 9am
 followed by Confessions - 9.30am-10.30am
 Easter Vigil Mass at St. Patrick's Church - 6.30pm

Easter Sunday - 20th April 2025
 Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Church - 7am, 10am & 5.30pm
 Holy Mass at St. Michael's Church - 8am & 9:30am

For more information, be sure to check our website or contact the Parish Office
www.mqofblacktown.org.au or (02) 9622 1125



Third Sunday of Lent 22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



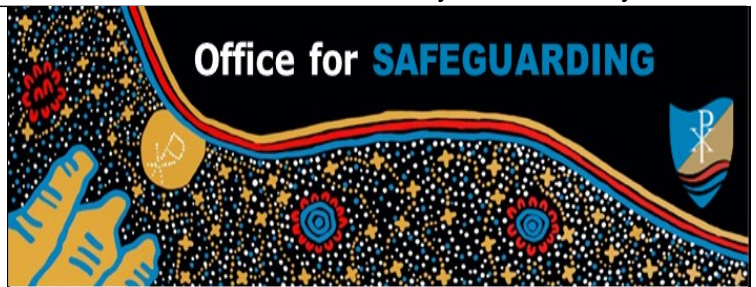
Photo credit: Caritas Australia

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Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413 413.



Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 3 April

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Renewal Training will be held on Thursday 3 April at St Aidan's Parish Centre, Rooty Hill for Cycle 2 (Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org



Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal BE A PILGRIM OF HOPE FOR PEOPLE SUFFERING IN OUR PRISONS AND HOSPITALS

Donate at parracatholic.org/appeal



CHURCH MAINTENANCE UPDATE

We recently received news that the State Government had given us a grant of just over \$36,000 as part of the *Safe Places for Faith Communities Grants 2024-2025* programme—providing security cameras etc for both St Patrick's and St Michael's. We thank the Government for this grant and members of the Parish Finance Committee and the Diocesan Chancery for helping in this matter.. We hope to move on this around end May.

In the meantime, the roof repairs will commence on Tuesday, and continue till around the end of May (weather permitting). Every effort will be made to keep the liturgy roster schedule, but at time parts of the St Patrick's Church might be roped off to allow for internal work. No work will take place in Holy week.

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

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's chaplaincy services.

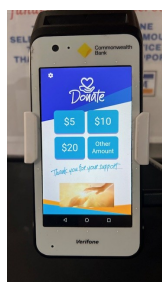
APPEAL—NEXT WEEKEND

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



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:

FIRST COLLECTION: For the Diocesan Clergy

Account Name: Diocesan Clergy
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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!



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<https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/filipino-professionals-in-sydney-and-canberra-australia/>

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NAGLE COLLEGE SCHOOL TOURS:

27 MARCH 2025—9AM –10.30AM

1 APRIL 2025—9AM-10.30AM

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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

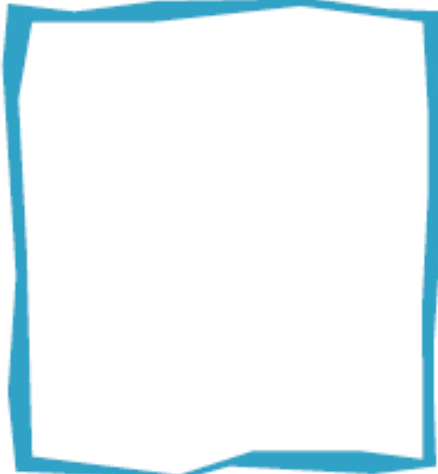
Contact the school office on 8869 6200 or download an enrolment pack from our website



Jesus told his followers the story of a fig tree that would not bear fruit. The gardener said he would try hard for one more year to help it grow. God wants us to try hard so that we too can grow, and 'bear fruit'. What are four things you can do during Lent that help you be a better Christian and bring you closer to Jesus?



Jesus told parables to help his followers understand his teachings more clearly. Can you draw pictures from three different parables?



Can you spot the eight differences between these two pictures?

