



# 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.*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

30 NOVEMBER 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 - Filio 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;  
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.

### First Sunday of Advent

**"Stay awake! For you do not know when your Lord will come."** *Matthew 24: 37-44*  
Advent was included in the Church's calendar as a period of reflection intended to engage the Christian in giving attention to the significance of the fact that, in the person of Jesus, God demonstrated unequivocal solidarity and identification with all of humanity. Two words which occur again and again in the prayers and readings of Advent are "Emmanuel" and "incarnation". Emmanuel is one of the names attributed to Jesus and literally means "God with us". It first appears in the Bible in the prophesy of Isaiah, who proclaimed how Jesus would be born as a child and take a place in human history. In a prophesy to Ahaz, Isaiah declared: "Watch for this: A girl who is a virgin will become pregnant. She'll bear a son and name him Immanuel (God-With-Us)" (Isaiah 7:14). We will have to wait till the Fourth Sunday of Advent to hear that reading.

"Incarnation" is a word that is rarely used outside the context of religion. It is derived from the past participle of the Latin verb *incarnare*, which means "to make/become flesh". From about the year 1300, the noun incarnation was used quite specifically to mean "the embodiment of God in the person of Jesus Christ" (Chambers, *Dictionary of Etymology*, p. 517, Harrap Publishers, N.Y. 1988). The word also appears in the flower name carnation, flesh colour. Advent invites us to reflect on the enormity of how God touched humanity in the person of Jesus and how, as a consequence, we are able to encounter Jesus in and through our human experiences. The prominent Catholic theologian and Bishop of Alexandria, Athanasius (c.295-375) wrote a treatise on the Incarnation entitled *De Incarnatione*, in which he stated: "God became like us so that we might become like him." (*sic*). The implication of this is that Jesus grew and developed through childhood, adolescence and adulthood like every other male. He asked the kind of questions about his origins and development as everyone one of us has asked. He had to learn how to befriend his body and make his way through the challenges and traumas of adolescence as every other adolescent has. He had to deal with the whole gamut of human emotions within himself and in everyone he encountered. He experienced grief and rejection, loss and acceptance, illness, suffering and the depravity of humiliation, torture and execution of the kind experienced only by a minority. And he died as we all must.

Regrettably, Advent in the world we know has almost become a non-event. The world of retail commerce has already begun selling for Christmas, and Christmas carols can be heard already in shopping malls the world over. For any of us to set aside time for Advent prayer and reflection requires special effort and discipline.

There is an additional irony in some of the readings set down for this (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    Emergencies only: 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 Andrew Rooney, Fr Stephen Onyekwere  
Deacon: Rev. John Cinya  
Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole Email: [accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au)  
Parish Secretary: Jill Franco Email: [jfranco@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:jfranco@mqofblacktown.org.au)  
Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team  
Email: [sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au)  
Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

### Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Daniel Mangabat, Don DeMello, Erica Luiz, Eva Cheetley, Helena Vea, Josh Carr, Marian Asiegbu, Mary Mondeddu, Savita Surendra, Trevor Brewty, Vince Tabone, Fr Wim Hoekstra, Fr Tom Green, Fr Stephen Onyekwere & Deacon John Cinya.

### Parish Schools:

St Michael's Primary: Phone 8869 6200  
St Patrick's Primary: Phone: 8869 6000  
Nagle College: Phone: 8887 4500  
Patrician Brothers College: Phone: 8811 0300  
Ambrose Early Learning Centre (St Michael's) : Phone 0458 508 444

### 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  
St Hedwig Village Blacktown (140 Reservoir Rd, Blacktown 2148)  
P: 8822 9920

(Cont'd...)

God's incarnation in human flesh in the person of Jesus not only points to the value and dignity of human flesh and blood - the fact that Jesus adopted our human flesh and blood implies that - but it suggests that this is worth celebrating. In today's reading from *Romans*, however, the human body seems to be the object of some severe criticism. The problem we face here is that the Greek word for flesh used in *Romans* can have two meanings. Sometimes flesh is equated with our *sinful nature*, while at other times it is used to refer to our human condition, worthy of our reverence and admiration, despite its fragility. The fact that God, in the person of Jesus, has identified in the incarnation with our flesh, in the sense of something to be revered, gives us every reason to celebrate. At the same time, we all know the guilt and disappointment we experience when we let bodily urges and desires get out of control, when we fail to treat our bodies with reverence, respect and self-control. But that does not mean that there is something about our bodies of which we should be ashamed or embarrassed. We, with our bodies, talents and emotional life, are gifts from God. It's important that we stop from time to time to remind ourselves that all of God's gifts are good, and, as such, worthy of respect and reverence. We also know that gifts can be misused, and today's reading from *Romans* is simply a reminder to us to use our gifts for the purpose for which they are intended.

Today's first reading from *Isaiah* holds up to us a vision of peace and co-operation among peoples. It's more than a vision for a hope-filled future; it's a vision for a future to the building of which we can contribute by being peace-makers among those beside whom we live, work and minister. While Advent is a time in our Church calendar during which we prepare to celebrate, yet again, the birth of the Christ Child into our midst, we also take time to recall that he had come to usher in an era of peace and a new way of living with one another, a way of living which he called the Kingdom of God.

Isn't that something of which our world is in desperate need? We all long and hope for warring parties in the Sudan and in Ukraine to settle their differences. We pray for a cessation of the barbarity in Nigeria where innocent girls are being kidnapped and used as bargaining chips. And in Australia we stand horrified at attempts to revive the evils of Nazism and at the violence to which migrants and refugees are being subjected. Happenings like these might lead us to wonder if the Second Coming of Christ is just around the corner.

However, the vision proposed by *Isaiah*, together with the gospel-reading from *Matthew* assures us that God has a future in store for us but that it will come in unexpected ways. The event of the birth of Jesus which we are preparing in Advent to celebrate is an assurance that Jesus, the greatest personification we have of God's love, is already dwelling among us and that we need to keep ourselves awake to that reality. Only our alertness to that reality will help us to realise that every day of our lives provides us with opportunity to participate in making our part of the world all that it can be. - a place where we and our sisters and brothers can live in peace, free from fear and buoyed by hope, confident that Christ will come again to transform all of creation to what it is meant to be.

© Br Julian McDonald cfc

*An American tourist in Dublin asks a local citizen: "Is Irish whiskey REALLY strong?"*

*The Irishman answered him: "Aye, it's very strong; last Saturday night after only 2 Irish whiskies, I went to 7am Mass."*

*"What's so unique about that," the American inquired.*

*The Irishman replied: "I'm Jewish!"*



Welcome back,

Fr Tom!

We welcome Fr Tom Green  
back to our  
MQOF Community!



Grace Notes  
with Fr Stephen

### Is the Church a Chat Room?

The church is not an ordinary hall but a sacred space where heaven touches earth. When we enter, we step into the house of God, like Moses before the burning bush, who was told to remove his sandals for the ground was holy (Exodus 3:5). The Lord truly dwells among us in the Blessed Sacrament; thus, our hearts and tongues must show reverence.

Saint John Chrysostom reminds us that to pray well is to stand with awe before the Majesty of God. Likewise, Saint Teresa of Ávila says, "There is no need for loud talking in prayer; God hears even the very movement of our lips." When idle chatter fills the church, reverence fades, distractions multiply, and others are hindered from entering personal prayer or quiet preparation for Mass.

The Catechism teaches that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of our Christian life," and such a mystery calls for interior silence and holy attention. Conversation and greetings have their rightful place, our foyers, morning tea rooms, and parish gatherings are perfect settings for that joyful exchange.

In church, let our words be few and our focus on Christ present in the tabernacle. Silence becomes our offering; reverence becomes our witness



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR A

**ENTRANCE ANTIphon:** Cf Psalm 24:1-3  
 To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
 In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
 Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
 and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 2:1-5  
*The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9.  
**R ~ Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

**SECOND READING:** Romans 13:11-14  
*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Mark 11:9. 10

Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
 and grant us your salvation.  
 Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

**COMMUNION ANTIphon:** Psalm 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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### Bishop Vincent's Visit To MQOF Blacktown



On Sunday 7 December, Bishop Vincent will celebrate the 5.30pm mass at St. Patrick's. We invite all parishioners from our MQOF community to join us in this celebration.

He will also make important announcement.

Refreshments and a community gathering will follow Mass at St Patrick's. All are warmly invited to attend this special celebration.

The Sunday 6pm mass on that day at St Michael's will be cancelled.

## PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

*In this month of November, please pray for those whose names are in our Book of Remembrance*

RECENTLY DECEASED

Alfred Vella, George Kopacz, Lawrence Deng, Mercy Arulraj, Patricia Angelica Valdebenilo

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Nathan Mondon, Edward Sanoyan, Alla & Val Schbinsky

DECEASED

Antonia Cassar, Dora Larive

SICK

Iona Keti

THANKSGIVING

Trish Pereira, Cecielle

Mass intentions can be requested online at:  
<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/mass-intentions/>



There will be no Exposition on Friday 5th December, 6.30pm at St. Patrick's due to the Volunteers' Thanksgiving Mass.

Thank you

*Advent Reflection with Fr. Stephen*

Looking for a meaningful way to spiritually prepare for Christmas? Join Fr Stephen for an Advent Reflection on **Tuesday 16 December** 10am - 11am in the morning or 7pm - 8pm in the evening at St. Patrick's Church. No registration needed.

# The Witness

## MUSICAL

THE STORY OF JESUS AND THE EARLY CHURCH  
 TOLD THROUGH THE EYES OF ST PETER

## Journey With Us

Scan & register



## 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

#### CHRIST'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GROUP



**Contact:** Jane Cauchi, 0433 173 177  
**Meeting Time and Venue:** Fridays, 9.30am  
 Sid Moseley Centre, St. Michael's Church  
 All are welcome!



Love arts and crafts? Join us on every Tuesday, 10am -1pm in the Sid Moseley Room, St. Michael's and Fridays from 10am-12pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St. Patrick's Church. Activities include embroidery, crocheting, knitting, painting and sewing.  
**Contact:** Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.



**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, 9am-10.30am 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— MARYs PANTRY

#### 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.

### SACRAMENTS

*Congratulations*

Congratulations to  
**Therese Lapsuks** who was  
 baptised at St Michael's last  
 weekend.



If this is your first child, you will need to attend a Baptism workshop.

The next face to face baptism preparation workshop is **Thursday 4 December, 2025**.

There will be no meeting in January. After 4th December, the next meeting is scheduled for **5th February, 2026**.

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

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE 2025



Congratulations to those children who made their first reconciliation last week.  
 Details regarding the first communion program will be sent out in the next few weeks.

SHORE FINANCIAL

Need help with your mortgage?

Tamara Luijz  
Mortgage Broker

M: +614 67 826 272  
E: tamaraluijz@shorefinancial.com.au

## THIS WEEKEND—29 & 30 November 2026

### Bishop's Christmas Appeal – supporting Catholic Care Grief and Loss Counselling.



Christmas is drawing near, and with it the promise that God is with us. For many in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, that promise is needed right now. Many individuals and families are carrying grief, stress and uncertainty - wrestling with the rising cost-of-living, unstable work and the heartbreak of losing a loved one. Your generosity is the way to open the doors of hope for the broken-hearted ensuring that no one in our community grieves alone.

### Arts & Crafts Fundraiser This Sunday 30th November & 7th December After the 7am & 10am Masses St. Patrick's Church

The MQOF Arts & Craft group is holding a fundraiser this Sunday 30th November & 7th December after the 7am & 10am masses at St. Patrick's. All funds raised will go towards Church activities and maintenance. Get a free raffle ticket with each purchase for a chance to win a free Christmas Nativity Set! All funds raised will go towards Church activities and maintenance.

*MQOF presents...*

## CHRISTMAS GALA 2025

13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

Saturday | from 5pm.

Nagle College School Grounds & Hall  
58A Orwell Street Blacktown

For further information: PLEASE CONTACT PARISH OFFICE  
PH: 02 9622 1125 OR  
EMAIL: ADMIN@MQOFBLACKTOWN.ORG.AU



Food&Beverage	Tickets:
Carol Singing	Individual - \$10
Musical	Family (5) - \$25
Surprise Guest	

### Volunteers' Thanksgiving Mass

**Friday 5th December**  
6.30pm  
**St. Patrick's Church**

**RSVP:**  
**Parish Office by**  
**Tuesday 2nd**  
**December**

Thank  
you! :)

### PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

You can also support the parish by using the:

**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.

### EVENTS ACROSS THE DIOCESE

#### New 2026 Academic Scholarship Opportunity

Nagle College Blacktown is now offering a limited number of Academic Scholarships for Year 7 students commencing in 2026. These scholarships are intended to recognise exceptional academic promise and help make an excellent Catholic secondary girls' education more accessible to families. Please review the eligibility criteria and application process on the school website as soon as possible. Learn more <https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au/nagle-scholarship>.

#### Baulkham Hills Parish Christmas Carols: 6 December

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with the Parish of Baulkham Hills' fun-filled Christmas Carols event on Saturday 6 December at St Michael's Primary School Hall from 6.30pm (after Mass). Bring a picnic and a comfy chair and enjoy a great night of music, laughter, and friendship. For more information, contact the parish office on (02) 9639 0598 or email [baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org](mailto:baulkhamhills@parracatholic.org).

#### Mt Schoenstatt Advent and Christmas Carols: 13 December

Come and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ at the Advent and Christmas Carols at Mt Schonstatt Family Hall, 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa on Saturday 13 December from 7pm. All children are encouraged to arrive by 6.45pm dressed as angels or shepherds. Contact Sr. M. Rita for more details: 0493 026 628 or email: [srrita@schoenstatt.org.au](mailto:srrita@schoenstatt.org.au)

# Mary Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown (MQOF)

## Finance Report for the Financial Year 2024 - 2025

### INCOME / EXPENDITURE

	2024-2025 F/YR	2023-2024 F/YR	CHANGE
Income	\$ 726,885	\$ 702,118	3.5% (Increase)
Expenditure	\$ 535,452	\$ 584,220	8.3% (Decrease)

### OUR COLLECTIONS

	2024-2025 F/YR	2023-2024 F/YR	CHANGE
First Collection (to support the clergy of the Diocese)	\$ 131,163	\$ 118,762	10.4% (Increase)
Second Collection (to the parish)	\$ 352,343	\$ 302,860	16.3% (Increase)
Average First Collection	\$ 2,522 per week	\$ 2,284 per week	10.4% (Increase)
Average Second Collection	\$ 6,776 per week	\$ 5,824 per week	16.3% (Increase)

Our parish needs to generate \$45k per month of income to meet our obligations and expenses. At present we generate an average of \$61k per month, a surplus of \$16k per month, which is wonderful, so thank you. Our yearly insurance premium alone was \$72,800 as of 1 March 2025.

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS – TOP 4

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS – Amounts raised

Bishop's Father's Day Appeal	\$ 3,091	Parish Feast Day - 18 August 2024	\$ 29,000
Bishop's Christmas Appeal	\$ 4,228	Parish Golf Day – 25 October 2024	\$ 4,530
Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal	\$ 4,231	Christmas Gala – 14 December 2024	\$ 2,455
Caritas / Project Compassion	\$ 5,385		

### TOP MAINTENANCE WORKS that were carried out in both churches during the financial year

St Patrick's Church (SPC)		St Michael's Church (SMC)
Carpet & Floor at New Sacristy	\$ 6,600	
Curtains and Blinds at SPC Presby	\$ 3,300	No major work was carried out at SMC over the course of the 2024-2025 financial year.
Tree Cutting & Trimming	\$ 4,750	
Roof Refurbishment	\$ 325,924	

### PARISH FINANCIAL STATUS AS OF 30 JUNE 2025 (as compared to 30 June 2024)

	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
Our bank account balance was	\$ 108,039 (CR)	\$ 242,423 (CR)
Our outstanding loan balance was	\$ 190,351 (DR)	\$ 172,876 (DR)
Our debt to the PCF* was	\$ 7,722.99 (CR)	\$ 10,100 (DR)

\* Parramatta Catholic Foundation (PCF) – Our PCF quota for 2024/2025 was \$35,477.16 & donations received to 30 June 25 were \$43,200.15, so, we were \$7,722.99 in credit. This amount will go towards our 2025/2026 liability. Candle money from both our churches is used by us to reduce this debt, so thank you to everyone who purchases these.

## **MQOF INVESTMENT PROPERTIES – 9 properties owned in total**

- Net rental income generated for the 2024/2025 F/YR was \$207,883 as compared to \$197,776 in the 2023/2024 F/YR. All rents were increased throughout the financial year.
- All of our investment properties were leased as of the close of business on 30 June 2025.
- The Syro-Malabar community are paying \$1,500 per month to use SMC and a further \$200 a month for use of the garage there.
- The cost of maintaining these properties continues to be an issue for us due to the age of the buildings. A total of \$25k was outlaid on maintenance works on our properties over the year, including \$15k alone on the property at 64 Orwell St.

## **UPDATE ON THE REPAIRS TO THE ST PATRICK'S CHURCH (SPC) ROOF**

- During the year, our application to the Diocese to spend up to \$600,000, if needed, and to borrow \$400,000 over the maximum repayment term available to us, was approved by the Diocesan Property Council, the Diocesan Finance Committee and the College of Consultors. Repair work on the SPC roof commenced on 18 March, and, whilst the repairs (both externally and internally) are now nearing completion, the delays in completing the same, due to the continuous wet weather we encountered (and therefore, falling outside the control of GS Design + Construct who are undertaking the repairs) has meant that, the final cost of the same will now increase, beyond what was originally quoted, being \$506,605. The exact amount of the difference is yet to be advised to us, but we will have no choice but to incur this. As at the date of this report, \$325,924 has been paid to the company for works carried out to date and we have drawn down \$50k of the loan funds available to us, leaving us \$350k further to draw down on, if needed. A total of \$275k in parish funds has been used towards the cost of repairs and the \$85k received by us as part of our previous insurance claim, will be put towards the costs of the internal repairs, as is required under the payment of that claim.
- As advised in last year's report, the 'Raise the Roof Appeal' was withdrawn, with all donations made to the parish by means of the Second Collection and Planned Giving etc. now going towards meeting the development and maintenance needs of the parish, which, of course, includes repayments to the Diocese for our increased loan/debt.
- Continued thanks go to Bruce Moa, a Quakers Hill parishioner, who has been project managing the repairs to the roof on our behalf, at a very reasonable cost to us.
- GS Design + Construct will give us a 15-year warranty on the repair work and will also undertake to do inspections for us every 5 years (and to do any necessary touch-ups as necessary at the time, at our expense).
- It was agreed that solar panels will not be installed on the SPC roof once repairs are finalised, unlike what we did at SMC.
- Given the issues we encountered with the SPC roof, the Finance Committee had previously elected to have the SMC roof inspected and for any necessary repairs / improvement works to be carried out. This project will commence once the SPC roof repairs are finalised and will also be carried out by GS Design + Construct.
- Please refer to the 'Church Maintenance Update' section of the bulletin each week for the latest news on this and any other maintenance matters affecting our parish.

## **OUR TOP 4 PRESSING NEEDS / FINANCIAL ISSUES**

- After drawing down on the loan funds available to us to cover the costs of the repairs to the SPC roof, our loan debt (as of the date of this report) is \$190,351. And, whilst we have taken the maximum loan term available to us to minimise our monthly repayments, we will now need to endeavor to reduce this debt through your ongoing generosity, by supporting our Planned Giving and attending future fund-raising events.

- Our church car parks are in constant need of repair, especially with regards to potholes. We have always stated that both our parish schools should contribute towards the costs of such repairs due to the traffic they generate during school drop-offs and pick-ups. You'll be pleased to know that a 'Memorandum of Agreement' that now stands between the Catholic Schools Diocese of Parramatta (CSPD) and the parish now means that the cost of any repairs carried out, instigated by us, or not, are now paid at the following ratios: for the SPC car park (97% CSPD & 3% Parish) and, for the SMC car park (42% CSPD & 58% Parish). We are also obtaining updated quotes for the cost of fully restoring both car parks now that this agreement is in place, for future discussion and consideration.
- Our yearly insurance premium of \$72,800 which was due to be paid as of 1 March 2025 was, once again, paid in full by our parish, without the need to use the special loan facility, which is available to all parishes through the Diocese. Using this facility entails the payment of interest, and so, we have saved money as a parish by not doing so. We will once again need to be prepared for next year's premium, which will undoubtedly be higher. Imagine getting a bill like this each year! But the reality is that if we don't pay this bill each year, we simply can't open the doors to both of our churches.
- Following a security/vandalism incident in the SPC car park it was highly recommended by both the Chief Police Officer at Parramatta and the Diocese that we install security gates along the Allawah Street frontage to the SPC. The quotes for this work range from \$35k to \$44k. We also need to repair the entrance doors at SPC at a cost of \$42,000. We will seek to apply for a Government Grant to try and cover these costs once such a grant becomes available.

## FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- The 'Collections / Planned Giving Appeal' was made by members of the Finance Committee at all Masses over the weekend of 21-22 June 2025, including the Sudanese Mass for the first time, and, at the Filipino Mass that was held that Sunday. We saw a modest increase in the amounts being given to both collections and 8 new parishioners joined up to Planned Giving bringing the total amount of parishioners committed to Planned Giving via envelopes and electronic giving up to 496 (of which 149 are using envelopes). It also resulted in seeing the Second Collection from the Sudanese Mass being put towards the support of the parish going forward. Previously it was staying with the community for their use and administration.
- We paid our yearly insurance bill of \$72,800 in full, in March, without the need to use the special loan facility available through the Diocese (as was previously mentioned).
- Our application for a 'Safe Places for Faith Communities' Grant was successful and saw us receive a Government Grant of \$36,869 which was put towards the installation of CCTV cameras at both of our churches. The cost of the installation was \$42,000, meaning that we only had to use \$5,131 of actual parish funds to complete this project. Special thanks go to Raphael Saccasan and Sarah for putting together the application, and to Dianne Wigan from the Diocese for her assistance in reviewing our submission.
- Sales through our Piety Stores have contributed \$21k net to our parish. Thank you to anyone who purchased something and to those who are involved in this Ministry.
- The Parish Audit for 2025 has been completed and gave our financial administration a tick of approval, with no issues highlighted.
- We raised an amazing \$29,000 during our Parish Feast Day activities, which celebrated the 10th Anniversary of 'Mary Queen of the Family' as a parish. \$23,000 of this was raised through sponsors who advertised through our Souvenir Booklet, which, coincidentally, cost us \$7,500 to print. A further \$6,000 was raised through the raffle. A huge thank you to the organising committee and to the sponsors for their generosity and support. Thanks also to those of you who participated in the Feast Day activities.
- All Tap'n'Go Terminals were replaced by new CommBank Terminals and are now consistent across both churches, allowing you to easily make donations of \$5, \$10, \$20 or 'Other' amounts. From 1 July 2025, all donations made via these machines are now apportioned 30 cents to the First Collection and 70 cents to the Second Collection, except when being used at Fund-raising events, like the Parish Golf Day.

- A 'Property & Maintenance (P&M) Committee' has been established at the request of Fr Wim (as a sub-committee of the FC) and committee member, Frederick Brillo, has agreed to chair this committee. Parishioner, Ray Francica has also agreed to join them. Thank you to both Frederick and Ray!
- Our 'Sister Parish' relationship with St Anthony de Padua parish on Nissan Island, in Bougainville, PNG was ended. This relationship had been set up by Fr Regie whilst he was our Parish Priest (PP) as the PP at the sister parish was also an MSP Priest. Our parish had made several donations to the sister parish over the years, including \$5k in the previous financial year but, efforts to get reports and photos from them, to present to our parishioners at a Mass and then hold a Special Collection, failed to eventuate. The sister parish had their own roof issue to resolve which was one of the main reasons we offered to assist them. We wish the parish all the very best going forward.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY!**

- Thank you to everyone who supports our parish through the loose collections, Planned Giving and Fund-Raising Events.
- We appreciate that there are many costs of living pressures and that it's becoming increasingly difficult to make ends meet.
- All we can ask is that you support your parish, to the best of your ability, based on your situation at the time, knowing that the parish too has obligations and commitments that it must meet each month, for us to remain operating and serving you.
- If you do have the capacity to increase what you give each week, even modestly, then please consider doing so. Please also consider moving across to the convenience of Planned Giving (via an automatic credit card or bank account deduction) as this allows you not to have to come to Mass prepared with change. It also allows the parish to better plan for our future knowing what's coming in each week.
- Thank you also to **Father Wim and our Clergy Team, to Sarah, our Business Manager** for her prudent management of the parish's finances and assets, to **our Admin Team, to our Collectors** at all of our Masses for your service to this ministry each week, and, to all those who have assisted with, or sponsored, our Fundraising Events, such as the Parish Golf Day, our Feast Day and Christmas Gala. It's all very much appreciated!
- A special word of thanks goes to **Ged Oblea** for all the assistance he rendered to me and the Finance Committee over the years he was with us, and especially when it came to the Parish Golf Day. Ged is now working at Marsden Park Parish, closer to his home.
- A big thank you also to our generous **Parish Bulletin Advertisers**. Please support these businesses that support us.
- And, finally, thank you to all currently serving members of the **Parish Finance Committee** for your continued efforts and support including Father's Wim, Andrew and Stephen, Deacon John, Sarah, Reagan and Kiran. A big thank you also to Cita Correa, Raphael Saccasan, Glenda Sergio and Angelica Green, who served on the committee for part of the financial year but, who had to step down due to a change in their circumstances/work commitments, and, in the case of Raph, due to him moving away from the area. And, lastly, an extra special thanks to Anita Cvitkovic, Frederick Brillo, Cholly Paderanga and Angeline Sandrakumar, who have since volunteered to join the committee. Welcome!
- If you have any questions with regards to any of the information within this report, please feel free to contact Sarah at the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or via email at [accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au).

Thank you.

Fr Wim Hoekstra  
Parish Priest

28 November 2025

Michael Zerafa  
Chairperson, MQOF Parish Finance Committee

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**Always red+e!**

**U don't when the  
of will come.**



Help Noah and the animals find their way onto the ark so they can be ready for the flood when it comes.

