



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 YEAR A

28 DECEMBER 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;
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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Excerpts from Pope Leo's *Urbi et Orbi* Message 2025

Dear brothers and sisters,

"Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Savior has been born in the world. Today, true peace has come down to us from heaven" (*Entrance Antiphon*, Christmas Mass during the Night). Thus sings the liturgy on Christmas night, and the announcement of Bethlehem resounds in the Church: the Child born of the Virgin Mary is Christ the Lord, sent by the Father to save us from sin and death.

Indeed, he is our peace; he has conquered hatred and enmity through God's merciful love. For this reason, "the Lord's birth is the birth of peace" (Saint Leo the Great, *Sermon* 26). Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for him in the inn. As soon as he was born, his mother Mary "wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger" (cf. *Lk* 2:7). The Son of God, through whom all things were created, was not welcomed, and a poor manger for animals was his crib.

The eternal Word of the Father whom the heavens cannot contain chose to come into the world in this way. Out of love, he wanted to be born of a woman and so share our humanity; out of love, he accepted poverty and rejection, identifying himself with those who are discarded and excluded. Already in the birth of Jesus, we glimpse the fundamental decision that would guide the entire life of the Son of God, even to his death on the cross: the decision not to leave us under the burden of sin, but to bear it himself for us, to take it upon himself. He alone could do so. At the same time, however, he showed us what we alone can do, which is to take on our own share of responsibility. Indeed, God, who created us without us, will not save us without us (cf. Saint Augustine, *Sermon* 169, 11, 13), that is, without our free will to love. Those who do not love are not saved; they are lost. And those who do not love their brother or sister whom they see, cannot love God whom they do not see (cf. *1 Jn* 4:20).

Sisters and brothers, responsibility is the sure way to peace. If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and the oppressed, then the world would change.

Jesus Christ is our peace first of all because he frees us from sin, and also because he shows us the way to overcome conflicts — all conflicts, whether interpersonal or international. Without a heart freed from sin, a heart that has been forgiven, we cannot be men and women of peace or builders of peace. This is why Jesus was born in Bethlehem and died on the cross: to free us from sin. He is the Savior. With his grace, we can and must each do our part to reject hatred, violence and opposition, and to practice dialogue, peace and reconciliation.

On this day of celebration, I wish to send a warm and fatherly greeting to all Christians, especially those living in the Middle East.... The Child born today in Bethlehem is the same Jesus who says: "In me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (*Jn* 16:33).

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 Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Wim Hoekstra
Assistant Priests: Fr Stephen Onyekwere, Fr Tom Green
Deacon: Rev. John Cinya
Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole Email: accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au
Parish Secretary: Jill Franco Email: jfranco@mqofblacktown.org.au
Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team
Email: 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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH -YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Luke 2:16

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

FIRST READING: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

R ~ Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-21

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Colossians 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:
He will be called a Nazarene.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Baruch 3:38

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

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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: Donor's name

Thank you for your support and generosity!

Thank you for your continued support to our parish. We are grateful!

From God let us ask for justice, peace and stability for Lebanon, Palestine, Israel and Syria, trusting in these divine words: "The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust for ever" (Is 32:17).

Let us entrust the entire European continent to the Prince of Peace...in a particular way for the tormented people of Ukraine: may the clamor of weapons cease...

From the Child of Bethlehem, we implore peace and consolation for the victims of all current wars in the world, ...I remember in a special way our brothers and sisters in Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo... the beloved people of Haiti, ... those in Latin America who hold political responsibilities...Let us ask the Prince of Peace to illuminate Myanmar with the light of a future of reconciliation ... (and) ask the Lord that the ancient friendship between Thailand and Cambodia be restored.

We also entrust to God the peoples of South Asia and Oceania, who have been severely tested by recent, devastating natural disasters that have struck entire communities. In the face of such trials, I invite everyone to renew, with heartfelt conviction, our shared commitment to assisting those who suffer.

Dear brothers and sisters, in the darkness of the night, "the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (Jn 1:9), but "his own people did not accept him" (Jn 1:11). Let us not allow ourselves to be overcome by indifference towards those who suffer, for God is not indifferent to our distress.

In becoming man, Jesus took upon himself our fragility, identifying with each one of us: with those who have nothing left and have lost everything, like the inhabitants of Gaza; with those who are prey to hunger and poverty, like the Yemeni people; with those who are fleeing their homeland to seek a future elsewhere, like the many refugees and migrants who cross the Mediterranean or traverse the American continent; with those who have lost their jobs and those who are looking for work, like so many young people who struggle to find employment; with those who are exploited, like many underpaid workers; with those in prison, who often live in inhumane conditions....

On this holy day, let us open our hearts to our brothers and sisters who are in need or in pain. In doing so, we open our hearts to the Child Jesus, who welcomes us with open arms and reveals his divinity to us: "But to all who received him... he gave power to become children of God" (Jn 1:12).

In a few days' time, the Jubilee Year will come to an end. The Holy Doors will close, but Christ our hope remains with us always! He is the Door that is always open, leading us into divine life. This is the joyful proclamation of this day: the Child who was born is God made man; he comes not to condemn but to save; his is not a fleeting appearance, for he comes to stay and to give himself.

In him, every wound is healed and every heart finds rest and peace. "The Lord's birth is the birth of peace."

To all of you, I offer heartfelt good wishes for a peaceful and holy Christmas!

**The Parish Office is closed till
Mon 5th January.
Please use our email:
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
for communications.**

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 Mosely 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.

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) President: Steve Attard.
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—MARY'S PANTRY

ROSARY GROUP

Contact: Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877

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

Baptism

If you wish your child to be baptised here at MQOF Parish, please contact the parish office or go online.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 5th February, 2026 at 7:00pm in the Cardinal Clancy Room.**

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

MQOF SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR 2026

Sacrament of Eucharist -First Communion

For children eight/nine years of age or older who have received the Sacrament of Penance.

- Online registration 3 April to 19 April
- Workbook sessions from 27 April to 30 May
- First communion Masses — weekends of 6-7 June and 13-14 June

Sacrament of Confirmation

For children ten/eleven years of age or older who have received the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist.

- Online registration 3 to 19 July
- Workbook sessions from August
- Confirmation Masses —
 Tuesday 8 September at 7pm
 Thursday 10 September at 7pm

Sacrament of Penance

For children 7 or 8 years of age or older who have not received the Sacrament of Penance.

- Online registration 25 September to 11 October
- Workbook sessions—October and November
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Thursday 26 November 4pm onwards

Please keep an eye for emails and notices in Parish Bulletins and School Newsletters.

"IN SANTO NIÑO WE ARE ONE"

36th Anniversary
Fiesta Sinulog
2026

Cofradia del
Señor Santo Niño
of Sydney Incorporated



Main Celebrant: Fr Wim Hoekstra, EV

Sunday, 18 Jan '26 Concelebrated Mass at 2:00 pm

St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, NSW 2148

All devotees please bring your Santo Niño Statues

Contact Persons:

Ella 0404 871 319 . Marideth 0407 250 562 . Nick 0413 066 490 Luz 0410 564 331
Marissa 0431 503 333 . Dianne 0420 844 955 . Aline 0416 876 912 . Sarah 0405 756 752

SCHEDULE OF THE 9-DAYS NOVENA MASSES @ 7 PM

Date	Venue	Address
Day 1 Thursday, 8th Jan	Holy Spirit Catholic Church	5 Todd Row, St Clair, NSW 2759
Day 2 Friday, 9th Jan	St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church	326 High Street, Penrith NSW 2750
Day 3 Saturday, 10th Jan	Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church	26 Swanston Street, St Marys 2760
Day 4 Sunday, 11th Jan	St Aidan's Catholic Church	9 Adelaide Street, Rooty Hill, NSW 2766
Day 5 Monday, 12th Jan	St Paul, the Apostle Catholic Church	40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills, NSW 2153
Day 6 Tuesday, 13th Jan	The Good Shepherd Catholic Church	136 Hyatts Road, Plumpton, NSW 2761
Day 7 Wednesday, 14th Jan	St Andrew, The Apostle Catholic Church	40 Breakfast Road, Marayong, NSW 2148
Day 8 Thursday, 15th Jan	Mary Immaculate Catholic Church	125 Barnier Drive, Quakers Hill, NSW 2763
Day 9 Friday, 16th Jan	Our Lady of the Rosary Church	8 Diana Avenue, Kellyville NSW 2155

Be The Witness

THE MUSICAL
THAT WILL TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND

Vocal Auditions

St Patricks Church
Allawah St Blacktown

Sun 18 Jan '26 11 - 4pm
Mon 19 Jan '26 6 - 8pm



music@bethewitness.com.au

Scan to book



The Migrant Jubilee Cross - celebrating the contributions of our migrant and refugee Communities will be at Mary Queen of the Family Parish - St Patrick's Church

on Wednesday January 7 with Mass at 7pm, supported by the Filipino Community.

Mary's Pantry and Café Closure Dates

Mary's Café morning tea will resume on Wednesday 4th February. Mary's Pantry will be closed from 22nd December to 7th January.

We thank everyone for their continued support and patronage. Wishing you and your families a blessed Christmas and joyous New Year.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Reno Vella, Denis Hewett, Erlinda Connor

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Patricia Byrne, Anna Velcich, Johannes Moonen, Jamie Ross Lee, Jayaraj and Jaya, Richard Osbourne and Fr Kevin Lee

DECEASED

Anthony Curmi and family, Seferina, Severino, Leocadio, Genaro, Members of the Borden family, Cornelio Ezar, Mauro and Salvador Ezar, Victims of Gaza's genocide

SICK

John McGettigan

THANKSGIVING

Geronimo & Evelyn Zaragoza (59th wedding ann), Aitkins family (55 wedding ann—Clyne and Joyce)

Mass intentions can be requested online at:

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/mass-intentions/>

Normal schedule this week

The normal liturgy schedule operates this week, including the times for Adoration, Confession and evening Masses.

Thu 1 January New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Mass at 8 am at St Michael's and 9am at St Patrick's

**Wishing you all a
Happy New Year 2026**