



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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

18 JANUARY 2026

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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."
John 1, 29-34

Today's gospel-reading follows an account of how a group of priests and Levites had been commissioned by the Jewish leaders to approach John the Baptist and put to him the question: "Who are you?" John started by stating that he was not the Christ, not Elijah and not the Prophet. However, when his interrogators insisted on taking back an answer to their masters, the Baptist responded by identifying himself as one predicted by the prophet Isaiah: "A voice that cries in the wilderness: 'Make a straight path for the Lord'" (Isaiah 40:3) Pressing him further, the emissaries asked the Baptist to explain why he was baptising the people who had been flocking to him. Today's gospel-reading follows the Baptist's further explanation and then proceeds to tell how he subsequently identified Jesus as the "lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1: 29)

I suggest that, for us to shift from the role of observers of today's gospel-reading to that of participants, we may need to start by answering for ourselves the question directed to us: "Who are you?" That's a question that I don't answer easily in the space of one short sentence. But it's a question that each of us has to answer eventually. It's not as simple as stating my name and occupation.

Today's other readings give us some hints for answering the question. Isaiah, for example, offers in today's first reading a description of one who is "a servant of God". But it's not exactly clear whether that "servant" is the nation of Israel, the Messiah still to come or Isaiah himself. However, most Biblical scholars seem to agree that Isaiah's suffering servant is identified as Jesus, the Messiah.

We can look closely at the life of Jesus as it is described in the Gospels and come to appreciate how he struggled with what he saw as his vocation to grow into being God's servant. Remember, for instance, how he struggled with the temptations that came to him in the wilderness (Matthew 4: 1-11; Mark 1: 12-13; Luke 4: 1-13) We can also reflect on how and when Jesus came to see his crucifixion as his moment of glory (John 17: 3-25;) moreover Psalm 22 gives a detailed description of Jesus' crucifixion and his reliance on God).. If I see my vocation as being invited to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, what kind of appetite do I have for the kind of glory Jesus discovered was his? (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 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

To what extent do I really rely on God as I go about living as a faithful Christian? How do I express that reliance?

Today's second reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians gives us another hint as to how we might answer the question: "Who are you?". Paul begins by boldly describing himself with the title attributed till then only to the Eleven. Paul states: "I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle...send greetings to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to the Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours" (1 Corinthians 1: 1-2). How does that description of Paul himself and the members of the Christian community of Corinth fit you and me? Moreover, if we dare to pray today's responsorial psalm which echoes the words of Isaiah's response to God who was looking for a volunteer messenger: "Here I am, Lord, send me", how would we measure up? Do I ever see my vocation in life as a volunteer intent on bringing to reality God's dream for our world as it was articulated in the life of Jesus?

In today's gospel-reading, which focuses on both John the Baptist and Jesus, the Baptist emerged from the desert wilderness and belonged to the tradition of Israel's prophets who were endowed with wisdom. His description of Jesus as "the lamb of God" ran counter to the prevailing expectations for a Messiah who would rout the Romans and restore the nation of Israel to a position of power and prestige. His metaphor of a lamb suggests that peacefulness, meekness and gentleness are essential qualities for addressing the restoration of a world in need. It's qualities like that which will rid the world of its sin and brokenness. They are the characteristics of Jesus and his mission to the world. In describing his own experience of what occurred after he had reluctantly agreed to baptise Jesus in the Jordan, John the Baptist said: "I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him." It was as though God's Spirit was intent on nestling in Jesus. John proceeded to add that he had been inspired by God to proclaim who Jesus was. (Cont'd...)

(Cont'd...) When we look at how we might fit into today's gospel reading, there is a link between the Baptist's commission from God and our role as members of the Christian community. Both we and John the Baptist have and had the same responsibility: to point out to our world the Lamb of God. How might we do that in action rather than in word?

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PARISH PLANNING DAY 2026

Sat January 31—9.30am to 2.30pm

The Parish Pastoral Council is hosting a Parish Planning Day for 2026, on Saturday 31 January after the 9.00am Mass. Its main purpose will be to plan for the pastoral issues for Mary Queen of the Family. While issues relating to the Blacktown Quarter project will no doubt arise, its focus will be on 2026 and what we can do to promote the concept of "missionary disciples" in the Blacktown area.

If you would like to attend, please use the QR code to register for the day.



Call from The Legion of Mary

Parishioners are invited to welcome Our Lady's statue in their homes for a time of prayer and devotion. This is a wonderful way of drawing closer to Jesus through Mary and praying for peace in the world. If interested please contact Doris Zammit on **0419274002**



Be The Witness Musical – Parish Update

An exciting year ahead as The Witness musical, an inspiring parish initiative continues to gather momentum across our Parish and Parramatta Diocese with Vocal Auditions and Chorus rehearsals scheduled to commence in the weeks ahead.

This production is more than just a performance—it is a vibrant expression of faith, community, and creativity, bringing together people of all ages to proclaim the Gospel through music and drama.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Thank you to all who have registered and joined us for the Commissioning Mass and Welcome event. It was a resounding success, filled with an uplifting and infectious energy. View pictures on our website bethewitness.com.au or [Diocese of Parramatta's albums | Flickr](#)

At the mass over 60 parishioners were commissioned and at the event that followed they were aligned to the seven core teams – **Chorus, Production, Event Management, Fund Raising, Finance, Communication and Prayer team.**

The enthusiasm and commitment are a true testament to the spirit of collaboration and mission that defines our parish.



Register: If you haven't yet signed up, there's still time! Let us know which team you'd like to align with and we can add you to the groups

Pray and Support: Even if you're not performing, your prayers and encouragement are invaluable. Spread the word and invite others to join this

exciting journey. Together, let us make Be The Witness a beacon of hope and joy for our community.

Vocal Auditions

Whether you are a seasoned performer or simply passionate about sharing your gifts or know friends and family who are—we encourage you to register or get in touch with us. Everyone is welcome to take part in this inspiring musical journey. These are the scheduled dates, times, and venue:

Scan the QR code to book a time slot for
Sunday, 18/01/2026 – 11:00am to 4:00pm
Monday, 19/01/2026 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm



Auditions will be held at the Parish Office, St Patrick's Church, Allawah St, Blacktown.

For further information, please email music@bethewitness.com.au or call Marianne Fernandes on 0411 540 917.

Additional Audition Dates

To accommodate those who may be away on holidays, we have added extra dates for open auditions. This ensures that everyone who feels called to participate has the chance to do so:

Sunday, 01/02/2026 – 11:00am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Monday, 02/02/2026 – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Choral Rehearsals Begin Soon

Music lies at the heart of Be The Witness, and we are delighted to confirm that choral rehearsals will commence on 23/02/2026. This marks a significant milestone as we begin shaping the powerful harmonies and uplifting songs that will bring the story to life. Our dedicated music team is eager to work with singers of all levels, so don't hesitate to join us—your voice matters!



Thank you for your continued support, and stay tuned for more updates.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME —YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Psalm 65:4

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

R ~ Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 1:14. 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him
to become the children of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 1:29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 22:5

You have prepared a table before me,
and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

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PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Anna Callaghan (Mother of Bill), Marcus Ojo, Sr Jeana Abejuela OAR

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Peter Attard, Len Lovejoy, William Peppin,
Rex Scott, Maria Francica, Peter Fernandes.

DECEASED

Joe Tanti, Carmelo Montabello, Bernadette Rodrigues,
Deceased of the Simon & Coutinho families, Michael Zahra,
Emilia Goyanna Colussi, Souls in Purgatory, Olga Thomas,
Rose & Paul Farrugia, Milton Gonsalves, Celestine Fernandes,
V Chinnapu Reddy.

SICK

Julie Yeoh

THANKSGIVING

Benjamin (birthday)

Mass intentions can be requested online at:

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

The South-Sudanese and Sudanese Catholic Community together with the Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team invite you to the

St Josephine Bakhita Memorial Mass & Community Celebration

Patron Saint of South Sudan and Sudan & Patron Saint of the Victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

8 FEBRUARY 2026, 12:30 FOR 1PM START

St Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah St & All Saints of Africa Centre, 63 Allawah St Blacktown

Celebrant:
Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv

VICTUS jr.

MPA ST. PATS

LITTLE LAMBS

\$60 per child

MOVIES FOOD CRAFTS

Wednesday 21st - Friday 23rd January, 9AM-3PM

AGES 5-12

Little Lambs is our holiday program for children ages 5-12 that our Youth will be running each day from Wednesday 21st to Friday 23rd January. There will be activities, craft, movies, and more with snacks and lunch provided each day. Please use the QR code



FORMED
Watch, listen and read.
Anywhere, anytime.



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

The next Baptism Preparation 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>

And from the MQOF Flower Ministry

We sincerely appreciate your generosity and faithful support over the past year. Your contributions, whether through our donation boxes in the church foyers, or by participating in our fundraising events, have played an important role in the success of the MQOF

Flower Ministry.

Your ongoing commitment allows us to continue adorning our

churches with beautiful, fresh flowers throughout the coming year. Thank you for making it possible for our places of worship to remain vibrant and welcoming for all.



AUDITIONS

FOR THE BIGGEST MUSICAL IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Be The Witness



- Sunday, 18th Jan – 11:00am to 4:00pm
- Monday, 19th Jan – 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Venue : Parish Office, St Patrick's Church
Allawah St, Blacktown.
Scan and Book your audition

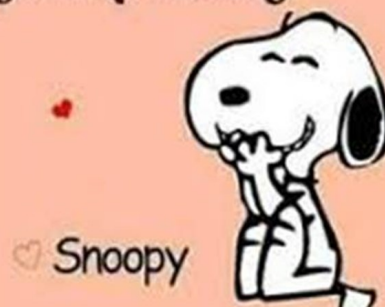


Additional Open Auditions

- Sunday, 1st Feb – 11am to 1pm and 2pm - 4pm
- Monday, 2nd Feb – 6pm to 8pm

Chorus Rehearsals commence 23 Feb 2026

A giggle a day,
keeps the
grumps away!



Some puns

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hall-way. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.