



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.

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

25 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.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

From that time on, Jesus began to preach: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"... As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers...they were fishermen. He said to them: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him...He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and curing every disease and illness among the people.
Matthew 4, 12-23

The world to which we belong is undergoing massive change. It is change that is happening at many levels. Much of that change is destructive, triggered by people in positions of power. Today's gospel-reading reminds us that when Jesus began his public ministry, it, too, was in a climate of precarious change. The economy of Jerusalem had been built on the proceeds accruing from pilgrims over hundreds of years, and would soon be challenged. Without warning, the Baptist had emerged from the wilderness and had begun to call people to repentance in preparation for the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah. In the process he offended a cruel and powerful tyrant and paid the ultimate price. However, before his imprisonment and death, the Baptist had identified Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ of God. Jesus clearly saw that preaching repentance and speaking the truth was a very dangerous practice. But he was committed to ushering in the reign of God, a way of living the values of God that promoted the dignity of everyone, that called for peace, justice, respect and compassion for all. The reign or kingdom of God was about living life and relating to everyone with the mind of God. In the circumstances in which Jesus began his public ministry, he decided that there was no time for hesitation. The rapidity with which he enlisted Peter, Andrew, John and James to assist him and involved them in reaching out to others underlines the urgency with which he embarked on his work.

Living with the mind of God is as relevant today as it was when Jesus embarked on his mission. Our world is in such a mess that many are saying that we are now on the brink of a Third World War. In the same breath, they are saying that this is something which we might have to endure, which we are powerless to change. Yet that is the biggest obstacle to the change of mind and heart required to embrace the reign of God which Jesus lived. His life and ministry shone with God's agenda, with God's dream for our world and for humanity. Captivated by Jesus, by his very presence, those first four disciples saw in his invitation to join him in fishing for people a clear message that they would leave behind the catching of fish to sell as nourishment for their customers in order to become nourishment themselves for others in need. Jesus, in his very behaviour, acted out the reign of God, giving expression to God's agenda and dream for humanity. How could those four disciples have resisted that? Moreover, who is to say that they embarked on that adventure without their families? Matthew simply makes no mention of women and children.

There is no part of our current world that is not longing for nourishing change. Luke, in his Gospel, noted that when the world was faced with severe threat, people were insensitive (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 the gravity of their situation and, so, took no constructive action but went on pursuing the ordinary activities of daily life: "As it was in Noah's day, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man (the Second Coming). People were eating and drinking, marrying wives and husbands right up to the day Noah went into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all" (Luke 17: 26-28). Luke proceeded to say that it was the same when Sodom was destroyed. Today's gospel-reading calls us to heed Jesus' call to adopt a change of mind and heart (metanoia), so as to act in harmony with the reign of God.

Pope Francis called our attention to our participation in polluting and destroying our common home. Effectively, he challenged us to avoid being negligent, giving our time to eating and drinking, to accruing wealth and pursuing personal success while climate change and global warming are turning the Earth into an environment that will no longer be able to sustain life. Are we willing to take positive action or are we trapped in listlessness like Lot's wife, hankering for the past? Are we deluded, hoping for a return of the days of unlimited use of natural resources? When Jesus called people to act with compassion, he made no room for exceptions: Acting with compassion is a responsibility of every disciple and they are to overlook nobody. When celebrities are obsessed with getting attention, Jesus is intent on noting that everyone is to be treated with dignity and respect. When world leaders are obsessed with expanding their influence, power and status, Jesus is concerned with the well-being of the very least: the stranger, the refugee, the ostracized, the imprisoned, the poor, the hungry, the lonely, the homeless. If there is anything for which we may need to repent, it might be our thinking that anything we can do to change our world for the better is futile. Made in God's image we are good, creative, free and made for love. They are the gifts and capacities which God's Spirit invites us to invest in bringing the reign of God to reality. It's only in collaboration and co-operation with other similarly inspired people that we can succeed in making Christ present in our world. But therein lies the challenge of opening ourselves to accept diversity.

Sadly, communities can sometimes lose their direction when their members fail to work creatively with individual differences. In his letter to the Romans, Paul defended diversity, hoping that the group's common purpose in promoting the message of Jesus would lead to their rising above individual preferences regarding how best to do it. His experience with the Corinthians was clearly very different, as we hear in today's second reading. Factions in the Corinthian community had become so intransigently wedded to their own views that they made the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross meaningless. We ourselves have witnessed competition and factions at work in the life of our contemporary Church. All they succeed in achieving is nullifying the message of Jesus and his Gospel.

In the long run, today's readings confront us with a choice of deciding whether our identifying ourselves as disciples is a nice idea or whether following Christ as his disciples is the only thing that gives meaning to our lives.

© Br Julian McDonald cfc



Think about it!

*Will glass coffins be a success?
Remains to be seen.*

*What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?
A maybe.*

*Need an ark?
I Noah guy.*

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, it 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**



CELEBRATING

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

MASS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
WITH THE RITE OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

At the conclusion of Mass, a special blessing will be given for all carers and those who minister to the sick.

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 11AM 2026

Main Celebrant: Most Rev Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. DD.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church,
51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown

Refreshments available following Mass. For catering purposes, RSVP to:
ofw@parracatholic.org | 0460 037 795

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 95:1,6

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3

In the Galilean country, the people have seen a great light.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14. R. v.1

R ~ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

I appeal to you, my brothers and sisters, make up the differences between you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness

has seen a great light;

on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 33:6

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;

let your faces not be abashed.

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PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Robert Harris, Teodoro Millarez, Paul Mowbray, Mick Ryan,
Sonia Lee Bradshaw, Emile Habib, Emile Amine

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Stephen Byrne, Paul Borg, Andreanna Muscat, John, Otto Zehentner,
Mario Cauchi, Anunziata Vitetta, Frank Vitetta, Tony Arena

DECEASED

Martina Galea, Sam Bujea, Rose & Paul Farrugia, Rose Coleiro, Arthur
Bourlias, Rose Redman, Joseph Redman, Holy Souls in Purgatory,
Richard Osbourne, Sam Borg, Rita & Francis Farrugia

THANKSGIVING

Teresa, Ike & Elna (Wedding anniv)

Mass intentions can be requested online at:

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

**Masses**

**8am
St Michael's**

**9am
St Patrick's**

**Monday 26 January—
Australia Day Public Holiday**

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



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

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.

Be The Witness Musical Update

The team at **Be The Witness** are excited to announce that our musical auditions have taken flight this past week. We have been amazed at the response from the Parish community in Blacktown and at how this experience is already bringing so many within our community together to proclaim the Gospel through music and drama, and we are so excited to continue to journey with all those within our community and beyond as we move towards rehearsals and bringing this production to life.

We would love to now extend the invitation to our open auditions, taking place on:

Sunday 1st Feb: 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm

Monday 2nd Feb: 6pm-8pm

Parish Office, St. Patrick's Church, Blacktown

To register, email: music@bethewitness.com.au

We would also love to invite anyone who is interested in assisting in any way in any of our teams – production, event management, communications, finance, fundraising, and prayer – to get in touch using the QR code provided below.

We are also currently looking for a director and choreographer. Musicians and dancers can also scan the relevant QR codes to register their interest and be kept informed of upcoming Live Band and Dance auditions.

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LEARN HOW TO MAKE ROSARY BEADS FOR THOSE IN NEED!



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\$5 per participant



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9TH FEBRUARY
7PM-8:30PM**

Volunteer your time to make rosary beads for the sick in hospitals!



AUDITIONS

FOR THE BIGGEST MUSICAL IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Be The Witness



Register to join
the core team

Chorus

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

Parish Office, St Patrick's Church, Allawah St, Blacktown

Email – music@bethewitness.com.au to book

Musicians and Dancers

Scan the QR code and register to be informed of our Live Band and Dance Auditions

DANCERS



MUSICIANS



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.

Please support the advertisers that support us. Thank You!

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



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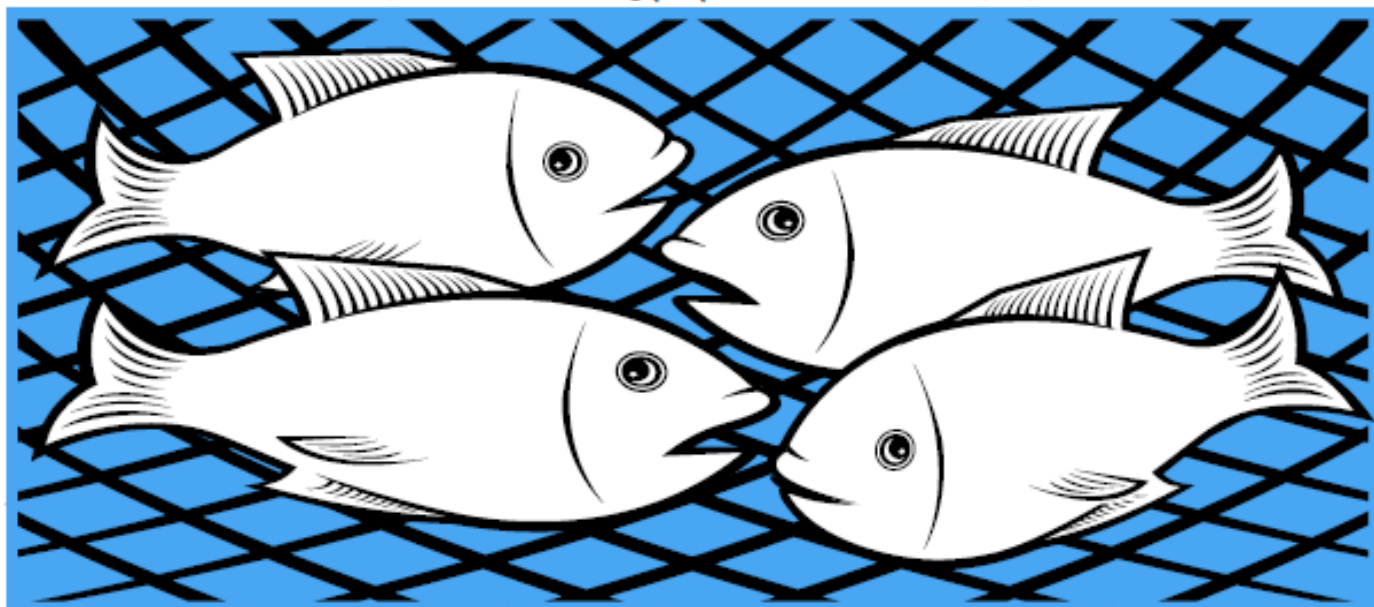
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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The disciples were called by Jesus to bring people to God. Inside the fish write down some of the ways that we can bring people to God in our everyday lives.



Write down the names of four people you know who follow Jesus. For each person give an example of how they follow Jesus.



The first disciples to be called by Jesus were all fishermen. Connect each of these apostles with his correct description.



Also known as Simon, Jesus called him the "rock" upon which he would build the church. After the Ascension, he became a leader of the apostles and is regarded as the first pope.

He was the brother of John and one of the sons of Zebedee. He was chosen by Jesus to be one of the witnesses to the Transfiguration. He was the first of the apostles to be martyred.

He was one of the sons of Zebedee and a close friend of Jesus. He stood at the foot of the cross with the virgin Mary during Jesus' crucifixion. One of the Gospels bears his name.

He was the brother of Peter and the first called by Jesus. He was martyred by being crucified on an 'X' shaped cross, which became his symbol. He is the patron saint of Scotland.