



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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

4 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.



Migrants Jubilee Cross

To mark the Jubilee of Migrants in October 2025, the Jubilee Cross celebrates the faith, gifts, contributions and resilience that migrant communities and refugees bring to our local Church.

The Diocese will be hosting the Cross, which contains sacred relics of the Holy Family and St Mary MacKillop between 5 and 11 January across four parishes.

It will be at St Patrick's on Wednesday 7 January—with Mass at 7pm. As a result, there will be no Mass, Holy Hour or Confessions at St Michael's this Wednesday evening.

POPE FRANCIS HOMILY—EPIPHANY 2025

"We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage" (Mt 2:2). This is the testimony that the Magi gave to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, announcing to them that the king of the Jews was born.

The Magi testified that they had set out in a different direction in their lives because they had seen a new light in the sky. Let us pause to reflect on this image as we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord during this Jubilee of hope. I would like to highlight three characteristics of the star about which Matthew the Evangelist speaks: it is *bright*, it is *visible to all* and it *points the way*.

First of all, *the star is bright*. Many rulers at the time of Jesus called themselves "stars" because they felt important, powerful and famous. Yet the light that revealed the miracle of Christmas to the Magi was not any of these "lights". Their artificial and cold splendour, arising from their scheming and power games, could not satisfy the needs of the Magi who were searching for newness and hope. Instead, they were satisfied by a *different kind of light*, symbolized by the star, which illumines and warms others by allowing itself to burn brightly and be consumed. The star speaks to us of that unique light that can show to all people the way to salvation and happiness, namely *that of love*. This is the only light that can make us happy.

Above all, this light is the love of God, who became man and gave himself to us by sacrificing his life. As we reflect, then, we can see that this light likewise calls us to give ourselves for one another, becoming, with his help, a mutual sign of hope, even in the darkest nights of our lives. Let us think about this: are we radiant with hope? Are we able to give hope to others with the light of our faith?

The star led the Magi to Bethlehem by its brightness. We too, by our love, can bring to Jesus the people that we meet, enabling them to see in the Son of God made man the beauty of the Father's face (cf. *Is 60:2*) and his way of loving, which is through closeness, compassion and tenderness. Let us never forget this: God is close, compassionate and tender. This is love: closeness, compassion and tenderness. Moreover, we can do this without the need for extraordinary means or sophisticated

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

(continued)

sophisticated methods, but simply by making our hearts bright with faith, our gazes generous in welcome, our gestures and words full of gentleness and kindness.

Thus, as we reflect on the Magi, who fixed their eyes on heaven in searching for the star, let us ask the Lord that we might be bright lights that can lead one another to an encounter with him (cf. Mt 5:14-16). How sad it is when someone is not a light for others.

Now we come to the second of the star's characteristics: it is visible to all. The Magi were not following the clues of a secret code, but a star that they saw shining in the sky. While they observed it, others – such as Herod and the scribes – were not even aware of its presence. Yet the star is always there, accessible to those who raise their glance to heaven in search of a sign of hope. Are we a sign of hope for others?

This too holds an important message. God does not reveal himself to exclusive groups or to a privileged few. God offers his companionship and guidance to those who seek him with a sincere heart (cf. Ps 145:18). Indeed, he often anticipates our own questions, coming to seek us even before we ask (cf. Rom 10:20; Is 65:1)....(and thus) remind ourselves that God seeks everyone, always. God seeks everyone, everyone.

We do well to meditate on this today, at a time when individuals and nations are equipped with ever more powerful means of communication, and yet seem to have become less willing to understand, accept and encounter others in their diversity!

The star, which shines in the sky and offers its light to all, reminds us that the Son of God came into the world to encounter every man and woman on earth, whatever ethnic group, language or people to which they belong (cf. Acts 10:34-35; Rev 5:9), and that he entrusts to us that same universal mission (cf. Is 60:3). In other words, God calls us to reject anything that discriminates, excludes or discards people, and instead to promote, in our communities and neighbourhoods, a strong culture of welcome, in which the narrow places of fear and denunciation are replaced by open spaces of encounter, integration and sharing of life; safe spaces where everyone can find warmth and shelter.

The star is in the sky, then, not in order to remain distant and inaccessible, but so that its light may be visible to all, that it may reach every home and overcome every barrier, bringing hope to the most remote and forgotten corners of the planet. It is in the sky so that it can tell everyone, by its generous light, that God does not refuse or forget anyone (cf. Is 49:15). Why? Because he is a Father whose greatest joy is to see his children returning home, gathered together from all parts of the world (cf. Is 60:4). He delights to see his children building bridges, clearing paths, searching for those who are lost and carrying on their shoulders those who struggle to walk, so that no one is left behind and all may share in the joy of the Father's house.

The star speaks to us of God's dream that men and women everywhere, in all their rich variety, will together form one family that can live harmoniously in prosperity and peace (cf. Is 2:2-5).

This brings us to the third of the star's characteristics: it points the way.

The light of the star invites us to undertake an interior journey that...frees our hearts from all that is not charity, in order to "encounter Christ fully, professing our faith in him and receiving the abundance of his mercy"

Walking together is "traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life" By looking at the star, we can also renew our commitment to be women and men of "the Way", as Christians were referred to in the first years of the Church (cf. Acts 9:2).

Thus may the Lord make us lights leading others to himself; may he make us generous, like Mary, in giving of ourselves, welcoming and humble in walking together, so that we may meet him, recognize him and do him homage. Renewed by him, may we go out to bring the light of his love into the world.

"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

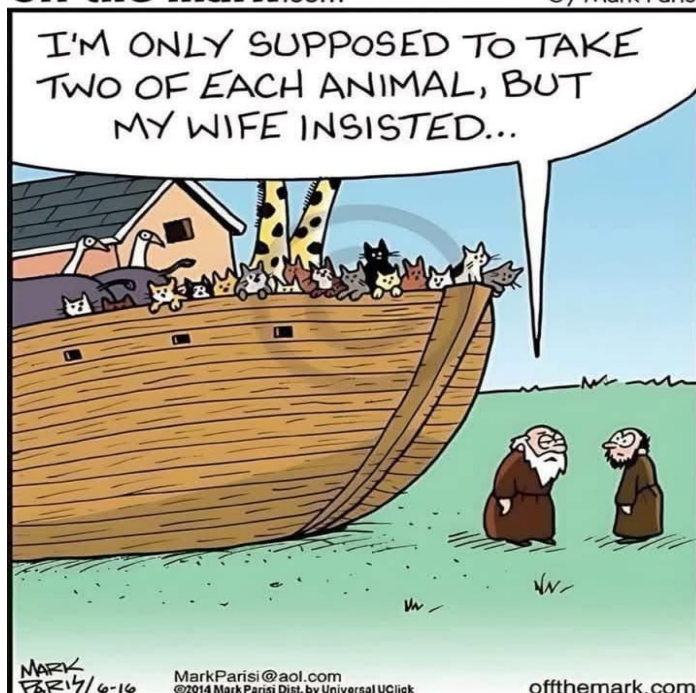
Date	Venue	Address
Day 1 Thursday , 8th Jan	Holy Spirit Catholic Church	5 Todd Row, St Clair, NSW 2759
Day 2 Friday , 9th Jan	St Nicholas of Myra Catholic Church	326 High Street, Penrith NSW 2750
Day 3 Saturday , 10th Jan	Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church	26 Swanston Street, St Marys 2760
Day 4 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

Happy New Year

**Wishing you all God's
blessings for 2026**

off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



MARK
PARISI / 6-16

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Malachi 3:1; 1 Chr 29:12
Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6
The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11
R ~ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6
The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 2:2
Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf Matthew 2:2
We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

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FORMED
Watch, listen and read.
Anywhere, anytime.



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

James Muscat, Reno Vella, Elias Astorea, Steve Ojurovic, Erlinda Connor

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Stephen Byrne, Maria & Joseph Bugeja, Chito Vedra, Lillian Mossfield,
Yustinus Fernandez

DECEASED

Arthur Bourlias, Ray Greenway, Rico Sy, Milagros Baguio, Orfeo Marchetti
Marguerite Bru, The Formoas, Galea and Grech families

SICK

John McGettigan

THANKSGIVING

Marilou, Maurice Bru

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

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.



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.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

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.

Congratulations to

France-Junior Magele, Bella-Rosa Skroza, Cleo Skroza, Aria Skroza, Julian Vassallo, Harley Andrew Welsh and Kai Lincoln Ritumalta who were baptised in Mary Queen of the Family Parish last month.

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.

Fr Stephen will be on annual leave till 1st February. We wish him a relaxing time as he catches up with family and friends in Nigeria.