



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.

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 FEBRUARY 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.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

"God chose those whom the world considers absurd to shame the wise; God singled out the weak of this world to shame the strong. God chose those whom the world looks down on, despises and regards as nothing, in order to destroy what the world regards as important."

1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs..." Matthew 5: 1-12

In his book, Who Needs God? Rabbi Harold Kushner, reflecting on religion, wrote: "Religion is not primarily a set of beliefs, a collection of prayers or a series of rituals. Religion is first and foremost a way of seeing. It can't change the facts about the world we live in, but it can change the way we see those facts, and that, in itself, can often make a difference." (Harold Kushner, Who Needs God? p.19, Simon & Schuster, N.Y. 2002) This makes me ask myself just how has my being a card-carrying Catholic influenced the way I look at the world, and has what I have seen prompted me to act in ways that Jesus would approve.

As I looked at today's first reading from Zephaniah the word "remnant" caught my attention and reminded me of the reality that most of the people to whom the First/Old Testament prophets proclaimed God's word did not embrace it and act on it. It didn't change their lives. In fact, many of Israel's prophets were threatened with violence. As a result, most of them came to the conclusion that only a minority of the people of Israel would take any notice of them. The people to whom Jesus proclaimed the coming of the reign of God were no different. In today's gospel-reading from Matthew, known to us as the Beatitudes, Jesus presented his agenda for the mission he had discerned had been given to him by God. Those Beatitudes resonate loudly with the words he read from the scroll of Isaiah in his home-town synagogue of Nazareth: "The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Isaiah 61: 1-2) He then added: "This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen" (Luke 4: 21). Luke recorded how the people in the synagogue gave him a vote of approval, having been "astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips" (Luke 4: 22) However, in next to no time, they were enraged and set out to throw him off a nearby cliff. Sounds like the treatment meted out to prophets before him!

In this context, let's not forget that Jesus had plenty of competition. At the time, there were at least four Jewish sects trying to attract new members: mainline Jews, Sadducees, Essenes and Pharisees. While crowds came to hear Jesus, out of curiosity and hoping to witness miracles, he had only a small group of close followers.

Today's gospel-reading is the opening of three chapters in Matthew which we know as "the Sermon on the Mount", which is a full elaboration of Jesus' agenda for those who would (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

give him their allegiance and give themselves to establishing his dream for the world. Clearly, this did not appeal to everyone. Only a minority would have been able to accept that a peaceful world could be created by those who made a practice of forgiving, befriending and loving their enemies. Showing mercy, welcoming persecution, basking in insults and invariably putting the good of others first are practices which few would rush to embrace. Matthew, too, realised that only a remnant could adopt such practices and follow then day in and day out.

Today's second reading from Paul's letter to his Corinthian community makes it clear that Paul, too, had realised that this little group chosen by God was no more than a remnant made up of those regarded as lowly, weak and foolish could be charged with a mission to confound and put to shame the worldly wise and those who considered themselves powerful. This has been a story that has been repeated across centuries.

Moreover, there has been a succession of Biblical scholars in our own times (many of them Jesuits) who have noted the role played by insignificant "remnants" in bringing the dream of Jesus to reality and the failure of the large majority of Christians to let themselves be captivated by Jesus' agenda.

Biblical scholar and archaeologist, Robert North SJ noted: "The reason Christianity isn't working is because we have too many Christians! Just look at our Scriptures. It's clear from the Gospel Jesus didn't intend his followers to be more than a very small group."

The theologian and scholar, Karl Rahner SJ had this to say: "When Christians reach more than 20% of the population, they no longer have any effect in changing the culture around them. At that point, people become Christians just because it's the acceptable thing to do, not because they're really committed to carrying on the ministry of Jesus. Often, they're an obstacle to real Christians."

G. K. Chesterton, convert to Catholicism and writer of the "Father Brown" stories observed: "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried."

Finally, Daniel Berrigan SJ, peace activist and university professor, stated that he deducted marks from students who, in their theology papers used the term "radical Christian". "If you're a Christian", he asserted, "you're automatically radical!"

To become part of the remnant, we have to translate the values embedded in the Beatitudes, God's values, and integrate them into our living each day. That requires of us a flexibility and a willingness. Both Jesus and John the Baptist called that "conversion", "metanoia" or "change of mind and heart". We know that God is ever-present to each of us. We have to invite God to be active in the living of our daily lives, reaching out in compassion, encouraging, showing mercy, inviting others into reconciliation and reaching out in forgiveness. Those actions have to become part of our habitual behaviour.

We can give notional and verbal assent to the belief that, created in God's image, we are made for love. However, it requires of us a conscious decision to reach out in love to everyone we encounter. It is only through that path that we will become one with our sisters and brothers. Through that process we will be changed, provided we are sufficiently flexible. In his letters, John said that God is love. We cannot say we love God if we cannot bring ourselves to love our sisters and brothers, day after day after day.

© Br Julian McDonald cfc

FORMED—The Catholic Faith, On Demand

Scan QR code and in parish search field type in 2148 and find Mary Queen of the Family, and press next. Enter your name and email address to register and "sign up". Download app to Phone.



St Joseph's Men Group 2nd & 4th Fridays | 7:00–9:00pm

The St Joseph's Men Group invites all men to deepen their faith, share life experiences, and recognise the presence of the Divine in everyday moments. Together, we build genuine brotherhood, strengthen self awareness, and grow through open conversation, reflection, and community.

Alongside our regular gatherings, optional social activities such as trekking, fishing, and golf offer time for connection, friendship, and fellowship.

We welcome you. Come as you are.
Step in. Be part of the journey.

Starting Friday 13 February



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**



DIOCESE of
PARRAMATTA



"LET US BE CLOSE TO OUR
BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO
ARE GOING THROUGH ILLNESS
AND ALSO THEIR FAMILIES."
POPE FRANCIS

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Psalm 105:47

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

R ~ Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Matthew 5:12

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 30:17-18

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

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The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Parramatta Diocese is hosting the Annual Holy Spirit Mission on the **21st February 2026**. Experience a life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit open to everyone seeking a deeper understanding and connection with the Holy Spirit. Discover the Spiritual Gifts and how to grow in them. Receive encouragement, help, and support from charismatic communities.

Time: 12pm to 5pm

Camilleri Hall, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Enquiries—Dilani 0425 607 227
Register Now for this free event. With QR code
Or at <https://www.trybooking.com/DIENC>



Scan To Register

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Robert John Harris, John McGettigan, Teodoro Millarez, Paul Mowbray, Mick Ryan, Sonia Lee Bradshaw, Emile Habib, Emile Amine, John O'Brien, Lede Canete (Sarah's sister-in-law)

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Vincenza Zahra, Otto Zehentner, Frank Beilby, Domingo Espinoza, Freda Lovejoy, Maureen Bartley, Colin Kennedy, John Kennedy, George Lobo

DECEASED

Antonia Pace, Natasha Isabel Marcelina, Carmen Dimech, William Attard, Ethan Mendiola, Micallef family, Zahra family, Lyncham Gutierrez.

THANKSGIVING

Ike & Elna (Wedding anniversary), Teresa

Mass intentions can be requested online at:

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

Funeral Notice

John McGettigan

Friday 6 February

11am

St. Michael's Church

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

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

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



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Be The Witness Musical Update

The team at **Be The Witness** are excited to announce that our musical auditions have taken flight these past 2 weeks. 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 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.

DANCERS



MUSICIANS



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.

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



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By participating in A Stronger Me and with ongoing encouragement from our supportive community, you'll gain the confidence, courage, and determination to rebuild your life.

Next program starts **mid February 2026**

Where? Blue Mountains area
Who can attend? Women over 18 yrs who've been separated from an abusive partner for 3+ months

catholic care
Expressions of interest
Call 0422 876 700 or 8843 2500

Survivor Voice Australia Inc.

SYDNEY—THE INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The 54th International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) will be held in Sydney in **September 2028**. The IEC is a significant event in the Catholic Church held every 4 years to celebrate the Eucharist and depend the understanding of the real presence of Jesus Christ.

The event will feature large open-air Masses and processions, and the them chosen by Pope Leo XIV is “This is My Body, Given for You”, emphasising the sacrifice of Christ.

Remote preparation for the ICE will be starting soon, and there will be a small corner of our bulletin devoted to this preparation.

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LEARN HOW TO MAKE ROSARY BEADS FOR THOSE IN NEED!



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1-5 MARION ST BLACKTOWN

RSVP: ofw@parracatholic.org
\$5 per participant

MONDAY
9TH FEBRUARY
7PM-8:30PM

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

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

AGES BETWEEN 4-15 YEARS OLD




MUSIC ROSTER
We will sing on the
5th Sunday of the month
at 10am at MQOF

PRACTISE TIMES
Every Friday from 4pm-5pm at MQOF
**First practise will be on Friday,
13th February, 4pm-5pm**

CONTACT
Lulu: 0422990108
or
Fill out clipboard at the
entrance of the church

Mary Queen Of Family, Blacktown Address: 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown NSW 2148

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.

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Email: filipino.professionals.australia@gmail.com | Mobile: 0468355399

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



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Draw a line from the first half of each beatitude to its correct ending.

Blessed are those
who grieve...

...they will be treated
with mercy.

Blessed are the
merciful...

...they will be called
God's children.

Blessed are those
who make peace...

...they will see God.

Blessed are those
with pure hearts...

...they will find comfort.



Jesus told his disciples that even though people may be mean to you, as a follower of Christ you will have a great reward in heaven. What are some of the ways we can follow Christ?

Complete the Text Maze

"Blessed are the humble, the earth will belong to them."

B	L	E	A	C	M	I	C	E	B
E	R	S	E	B	H	E	N	P	J
Q	E	S	H	E	T	E	A	R	D
A	D	O	A	L	K	I	N	T	H
R	P	F	M	B	D	E	L	K	W
E	T	H	U	Q	L	D	E	L	I
M	H	E	H	A	L	E	B	L	J
U	C	V	D	F	O	W	I	F	A
X	D	G	D	J	N	G	T	O	E
H	A	I	A	B	V	O	G	T	P
M	F	H	R	G	O	C	A	H	E
A	S	C	L	H	D	E	N	J	M