



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.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

12 JULY 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 (except during Lent)

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Anointing of the Sick by appointment.

Vinnies Winter appeal—



Vinnies
good works

leaving collection at all Masses

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The disciples came and asked Jesus: “Why do you talk to them (the crowd) in parables?” He replied: “You’ve been given insight into God’s kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn’t been given to them. Whenever a person has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness, any trace of receptivity soon disappears. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing and understanding. So, in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: “You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again but not perceive **Matthew 13: 1-23**

Today's gospel-reading is taken from chapter 13 of Matthew's Gospel. That chapter is often referred to as “The Parable Chapter” because it has seven successive parables. While Matthew calls Jesus' story of the sower, the seed and the soil a parable, it is technically an allegory. Our dictionaries will tell us that an allegory uses material things to explain concepts or spiritual realities, while a parable is generally a short allegory whose purpose is to teach moral lessons. Jesus used this story to explain how and why his teaching about the kingdom of God more often than not fell on deaf ears. The example he used would have been well-understood by the farmers in his audience. The practice followed by farmers in the time of Jesus was to sow their crops by scattering the seed before they ploughed the ground on which the seed had been scattered. Hence some seed landed where it could not possibly germinate and grow to maturity. While Jesus' disciples understood next to nothing of his parables, they were astute enough to attribute ignorance to members of the crowd rather than admit to it themselves: “Why do you talk to them in parables?” In response, Jesus explained in detail how his teaching about God's word received a varied reception from those to whom it was directed. But he did not proceed to explain the response expected of those who heeded his message (the good soil). They were meant to share the seed that flourished in them in order to nourish the people they encountered as they pursued their ministry of discipleship. In this story of the farmer sowing the seed, those who receive the seed, who hear Jesus' message of the kingdom of God, take on three

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 (all hours): 02 9622 1125

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:

Chairperson: Vince Tabone; **Deputy Chairperson:** Daniel Mangabat; **Secretary:** Eva Cheetley **Asst Secretary:** Helena Vea **Members:** Don DeMello, Erica Luiz, Fran Satchell, Josh Carr, Marian Asiegbu, Savita Surendra, Trevor Brewty, 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

(Cont'd...)

This gospel-reading is complemented and reinforced by today's first reading from Isaiah and second reading from Paul to the Romans. Isaiah invites us into a reflection on the word of God offered freely to God's People and transmitted to them by people like Moses, their Prophets and Judges and other inspired writers. Yet, again and again they failed to hear and abide by what had been offered to them. Created in the image of God, humanity is free to accept or turn a deaf ear to God's invitation to be in communication

Likening the offer of God's word to the falling of snow and rain, Isaiah made the point that humanity has no more control over the generation of God's word than it has over the rain and snow that fall down from the heavens. Moreover, just as rain and snow nourish creation, God's word is a source of nourishment and life to all who open their ears to hear it. By heeding and embracing God's word, we human beings commit ourselves to be in relation with the God who loved us into life.

A connection between today's gospel-reading and our first reading from Isaiah is evident in the words Isaiah attributes to God in his opening verses: "Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do." (Isaiah 55: 10-11) The theme of these verses is the very theme of today's gospel-reading, namely that the lives of all who open their ears to God's word will be nourished.

The second reading from Paul to the Romans adds another layer for our reflection on God's creative and nourishing word. The very first book of the Bible taught us that God's creative word brought the world into existence. Paul notes that the whole of creation, including all of humanity, is groaning under the grip of decadence and, consequently, longing for freedom. In very recent times Pope Francis reminded us, in his voluminous encyclical *Laudato si*, that we humans have contributed to the groaning of creation by destroying and polluting our common home and many of the birds, animals and insects that share that home with us. We are all longing, hoping praying and actively cooperating for God's re-creating word to free the whole of creation from decadence and destruction. Paul gives us a ray of hope in stating that our current sufferings and struggles pale into insignificance compared to the glorious future God has in store for us. (cf Romans 8: 18)

Taken together, today's readings urge us to open our hearts, minds and ears to God's word inviting us to be in relationship with the One who loved us into life. The readings remind us that God's word comes to us in a multiplicity of ways: from Moses, the Prophets and the other wisdom figures of the First Testament, through Jesus, the Christ and his teachings, actions, compassion, mercy and love, through the Holy Spirit who abides deep within each of us, through the wonders of the created world which reflect God's creative word, through the writings of theologians and scripture scholars and the encyclicals of our recent Popes and through our fellow human beings whom we encounter every day.

Our responsibility as modern-day disciples of Jesus, is to open ourselves to heed and be nourished by God's word and, in turn, to transmit it to everyone we encounter. We have a responsibility to be nourishing soil, seed and sower.

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Safeguarding at MQOF

A Safe Church is a Strong Church

Mary Queen of the Family is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment and takes the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons seriously.

Safeguarding those who are vulnerable is part of the mission that Jesus Christ entrusts to our Church. We all have a role to play in safeguarding those who are vulnerable.

If you have any concerns about someone's immediate safety, or you suspect a crime may have or is likely to occur, please contact NSW Police on Triple Zero (000).

Concerns about safeguarding in the Diocese may be referred to the Parish Office, or directly to the:

Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards

Ph (02) 8838 3419

Email: safeguarding@parracatholic.org.

Information about the Diocese's response and supports about safeguarding children and vulnerable people are available at www.safeguarding.org.au.



MQOF Gifts and Talents—Stewardship Card

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another"

At its meeting last month the Pastoral Council agreed to ask parishioners to nominate their gifts and talents to help our parish "to live as a faithful and committed Catholic community", where we encounter Christ.

So we've set up a "Stewardship Card" via a Google Form and invite all parishioners to nominate the areas where they can offer their time and talents to build up the Body of Christ—our community here at MQOF.

Please use the QR code to access this form, and help us help you



Arts & Crafts Ministry: School Holiday Activities

Join us this school holidays on Fridays 10th & 17th July, 10am -2pm in the Cardinal Clancy room, St Patricks for some artsy fun! There'll be exploring colours in drawing and painting. Materials and refreshments are provided. To register, contact **Noemi** on 0475 798 770.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 64:10-14 R. Lk 8:8

R ~ The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-23 (shortened version)

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Psalm 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

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Dates for your Diary

Now to Jul 19	Registrations - Confirmation program
Jul 16	Parish Pastoral Council
Aug 20	Parish Pastoral Council
Aug 23	Mary Queen of the Family Fiesta
Aug 27	Parish Finance Committee
Sep 6	Father's Day and Collection
7-10 September	The Witness the Musical <i>Riverside Theatre, Parramatta</i>
Sep 8 & 10	Confirmation masses (St Pat's @ 7pm)
Sep 25—Oct 11	Registrations - Reconciliation program
Oct 16	Parish Golf Day
Nov 25	First Reconciliations in the afternoon
Dec 12	Christmas Gala—Nagle College

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY**RECENTLY DECEASED**

Fr Brian Egan, Tristan Sampang, Elena Jamias

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Angela Concepcion, Juliana A. Glana, Felipe Martinez Ancheta,
Theresa Onyekwere, Santiago Duart, Lucita Abal,
Rev Fr Kevin Dadswell, Andrew Lobo, Ajit Mutttoo,

DECEASED

Angelina Buttigieg, Pedro Dagle, John Louisse Hernandez,
John Gibson, Joe Aquilina, Souls of the D'Souza family

SICK

Hayley Vella

THANKSGIVING

Lucy Janezic (own intention), Lutaos & Luong family

**Mass intentions are no longer available online.
Please use the envelopes and give to the priests.**



Save THE Date

**SUNDAY
23RD AUGUST 2026**

AS WE CELEBRATE

Mary, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY Feast Day

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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. To arrange receiving of the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on **9622 1125** or after office hours number **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!



Contact: Noemi Romero on 0475 798 770.
Meeting Time and Venue: Tuesdays, 10am-12pm in the Sid Mosely Room, St. Michael's and Fridays from 10am-12pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St. Patrick's Church.

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—CENACLE

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!

MARY'S PANTRY

Contact: Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877

ROSARY GROUP

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

MQOF MEN'S GROUP



Contact: Trevor Brewty, 0429 777 518
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd & 4th Fridays, 7-9pm

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (Blacktown Conference)



Contact: Deborah Squire, 0449 113 162
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd Wednesday, 7pm-8pm. Next meeting -22 July

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

If you wish your child to be baptised here at MQOF Parish, please contact the parish office. If this is your first child, you will need to attend a Baptism workshop. For more information, please call the Parish Office or visit our website:

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>

Sacrament of Confirmation

will be celebrated in September.
 Registration for this sacrament is now open.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in St Patrick's Church, Mary Queen of the Family Parish, in September 2026. You are now invited to consider registering your child for reception of the Sacrament.

Please note that your child must be ten/eleven years of age or older and have received the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist. Children should be 10½ by the beginning of September.

By registering, you are also committing yourself to attending a Parents Information session at 7pm Tuesday July 28 in St Patrick's Church **OR** at 9am Friday July 31 also in St Patrick's Church. Full information and details regarding the program will be given then.

Please note – this program will be different to previous Confirmation programs at MQOF - you will be responsible for guiding your child through the program.



Registrations close at 8pm on Sunday 19 July.

Please use the QR Code.

* Or the link: <https://forms.gle/RfjM3cEZF2MyBCvP7>

Alternatively you will find a link on the parish website – www.mqofblacktown.org.au

CYP Annual LIFTED Retreat for year 10-12's: 15 July

This is a one-day retreat for 16-17 year olds from across the Diocese at St Paul's, Winston Hills on Thursday, 15 July. Whether you're just beginning your faith journey, looking for community or need a mid-year renewal, do come along! Registrations close 19 June.

To register: parracatholic.org/events/lifted-high-school

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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. 30% of the donations goes to the First Collection (supporting the clergy) and 70% goes to the Second Collection i.e. the maintenance and development of the Parish.

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.

Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to: www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations.

PLANNED GIVING APPEAL

Thank you to those members of the Parish Finance Committee who spoke at all the Masses last weekend.

Planned Giving Envelopes for the upcoming financial year are now available for collection.

If your envelopes are not in the allocated box, please contact the Parish Office.

If you are a **new parishioner**, or an **existing parishioner** who would like to join our Regular Planned Giving Program, please complete a **Planned Giving Pledge Form** on the back page of this bulletin.

Completed forms may be returned to the Parish Office, placed in the collection basket, or emailed to

accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au.

For further information or clarification, please contact the Parish Office on **9622 1125**.

Thank you for your continued support.

BLACKTOWN PROJECT UPDATE

Thank you for those who expressed interest in being part of the Committees.

The governance structures are being put in place, and among these entities, is a MQOF Working Group, which will engage with parishioners and community groups, listening to the hopes, ideas and concerns of our community, and ensuring those insights are shared with the Project Steering Committee.

More details next week.

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



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The seed fell on good ground

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Help Jesus tell the story of the farmer sowing the seed. Add words and pictures to the story.



A farmer scattered
_____ in a field.

Some seed fell on the road
and was...



Some seed fell on rocky
ground where the soil was not
deep; the plants that grew
withered in the _____.



Draw the farmer sowing seed.

Write down what happened to the seed.

Draw what happened to the seed
which fell on rocky ground.

Some seed fell among thorns,
which choked the plants that grew.



Draw thorns choking the plants.

But some seed fell on good ground and...

Write down what happened to the seed that fell on good ground and draw a picture of it.

The Word of God is like seed that needs good soil.
How can we be like good soil for this seed?



Which of these four plants is the one bearing fruit?