



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.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

30 AUGUST 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.



Queenship. We are especially grateful to those who stepped forward with willing hearts, who gave their time joyfully, and who worked together in a spirit of unity. **Each of you played a part**, and together you helped create a day filled with faith, beauty, and community. May Our Mary, Queen and Mother, bless you abundantly for all you have offered and continue to guide and protect our parish family.

Congratulations to our major and consolation Raffle Winners:

Mr. Maurice Bru – Green D54

1st Prize - \$500 (donated by Michelle Aitkins and Amazing Grace Ent)

Ms. Lilly Cefai – Blue A66

2nd Prize - \$300 (donated by Anonymous)

Ms. Lilian Maling

3rd Prize - \$100 (donated by Helena Vea)

You can claim your prizes at the parish office, if you haven't claimed it.

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

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus turned and said to Peter: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do... Those who wish to come after me must deny themselves, take up their crosses and follow me."

Matthew 16: 21-27

Today's three readings combine to confront us with a serious challenge on the personal cost of what it means to live with integrity. After enduring a succession of bitter experiences such as public criticism, allegations of tyranny, personal rejection and threats of murder, Jeremiah accused God of tricking him into accepting the role of being a prophet. But then he admitted that he was unable to douse the fire of the commitment that burned within him, despite the hurts he had endured.

In writing to the members of his community in Rome, Paul urged them to reflect on the mercy and love of the God they had come to know and to give expression to their allegiance to that God by rejecting the lure of the society that surrounded them and, instead, "offer their bodies as a living sacrifice" by being faithful to the daily demands of living the Gospel.

In the gospel-reading, Matthew has quoted Jesus' personal testimony to what it had meant for him to live true to the vocation he had embraced of wakening his world to the mercy, love and compassion of God. His integrity compelled him to make his way to Jerusalem where he knew his critics and enemies would do away with him.

We all make decisions and commitments of one kind and another, and they all have consequences. At some time, many of us would have chased after a train or a bus as it was beginning to move off and discovered that it wasn't going to the destination we wanted. Some of us may have exceeded stipulated speed limits in our driving of a motor vehicle and earned a penalty for ourselves. Qualifying for and embracing a profession such as medicine, law or nursing implies adhering to the code of conduct required by the profession to which we have committed ourselves. We learn from experience, sometimes painful, that all decisions have consequences.

It is worth our noting that the compilers of the Sunday readings have omitted from today's gospel-reading the first three words of today's first verse: "From that time...". They refer to the moment when Peter, in the presence of the other eleven Apostles, identified Jesus as the Messiah. Those three words also introduce the first of Jesus' three predictions of his passion and resurrection and they herald the start of closer attention from Jesus to the formation and instruction of the Apostles.

This is the first time he alerted them to the fact that following him closely would be a dangerous business for them, too. So, it was not coincidental that he forcefully told Peter not to obstruct him from pursuing with integrity the mission God had given him. Being true to his vocation would lead him to his death but, more importantly, to his resurrection. Moreover, faithfully following him would mean self-renunciation and embracing one's cross. (cf Matthew 17: 24-26)

The fact that Jesus said in response to Peter's well-intentioned protest that the Messiah should not have to undergo execution: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path because the way you think is not God's way but man's" is a very clear hint from Matthew that Peter was effectively suggesting nothing different from the temptations that had confronted Jesus in the wilderness immediately before he began his public ministry. Matthew very cleverly indicated that "Peter the rock" had unwittingly transformed himself into a stumbling block for his Master. Implicit in all of this for us would-be disciples of Jesus that there will come a time when we, too, will have to set ourselves on the road to our

Back in chapter 10 of his Gospel, Matthew recorded some of what Jesus named as the costs of being his disciples: "You will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the pagans... You will be hated by all men on account of my name... Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul... If anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 10: 17-33). Jesus was pointing out that those who held firm as his disciples would be victims of physical violence, but the values embedded in their minds and hearts would never be overcome by evil. Today's gospel-reading embodies the start of his stepping out in the direction of Jerusalem where he would demonstrate in action his lived commitment to confront and challenge those intent of ridding themselves of him and the message God had entrusted to him. To have steered clear of Jerusalem and the power of its religious authorities would have amounted to tacit approval of all they were, represented and imposed. In doing that, he put his own safety and life on the line. His integrity required nothing less. 1600 years after Jesus, in his play Hamlet, Shakespeare put into the mouth of his character Polonius the following advice to his son Laertes: "This, above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." (Hamlet, Act I, Scene 3, lines 564-566) The difficulty with that is that any person's "truth" is an unpredictable variable. Jesus' truth was God-given, the foundation of all he did and said. That allowed him to declare, as John the Evangelist recorded: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life!" (John 14: 6)

That Jesus insisted to his close disciples that being true to his own integrity meant that he had to make his way to Jerusalem was an expression of both his faith and trust in God and his fidelity to the commission God had given him. He could not shrink from his loyalty to, his faith in and his love of God, even though he realised that such would spell certain death for him. Such, he knew, is the price of love. The Russian novelist Dostoyevsky was aware of that when he attributed to the wise Fr Zosima the advice he gave to a religious Sister: "Love in practice is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams." (Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov). And in his Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech, Jewish writer Elie Wiesel echoed Jesus' courage and purpose when he said: "We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented" Jesus would not be muted. As genuine disciples, neither can we, in both word and action.

© Br Julian McDonald cfc

Prayer for our Blacktown Parish Project

Heavenly Father,
author of all that is good,
inspiration of all that is holy.

Hear our prayers for our new church, to
be dedicated to the patronage of the
Mother of God, Mary, Queen of the Family.

Through her intercession, send forth
your Holy Spirit on all those you have
chosen to be instruments in this work,
so that our new church may be for your
greater glory,
for the sanctification of your faithful
and for the good of the whole people
of Blacktown.

Guide the beginning of this work,
direct its progress
and draw it to a fruitful completion.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Mary, Queen of the Family,
pray for us.**

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 85:3,5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

R ~ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Psalm 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

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RAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Patrick Bridge (Fr. Arthur's Father),
Fr Eugene Stockton, Clem Gallagher, Ron Honeybrook,
Simon Testa, Leopoldo Lozada, Judith Hewitson,

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

May Jumeau, Arsenia Cruz, Andres Luis Lareza, Patricia Regan,
Josephine Borg, Adina Giallonardo

DECEASED

Brianna De Souza, Leopoldo Martinez, Jaya & Jayaraj, Carmencita,
Ian, Crispin, Soling, Isidro Dinolan Jr., Roberto Artates, Salvador
Ezar, Peter Delange, Ramon Corpin, Reynaldo Yatco, Souls in
Purgatory, Carl Daclan, Asunscion Baclay, Elanora Baclay, Maria
Rugari, Rita Joachim

SICK

Marilou Van Asten, Mary Ryan, Andree Fraser

THANKSGIVING

Nadushi's birthday

Marriage Enrichment Weekend



*We are offering an opportunity for you to
learn to become the best version of your-
selves together and live your best life in
love! Come and join us!*

When: 9th - 11th October, 2026

**Where: at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW –
a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney.**

Book online at www.wwme.org.au

Rosary Making Workshops

Come along for a fun evening of community and crafting rosary beads that will then be donated to the sick and dying in hospitals across our Diocese. The craft evening will be held on the following days: 10 September, 23 September, 15 October, 5 November. Costs are \$5 per person – payable on arrival (includes all materials). To register and for more information, visit: parracatholic.org/rosary-workshops

ACOLYTE TRAINING



**SAVE THE DATE:
ACOLYTE
TRAINING
With Fr Tom and
Fr Stephen**

Thursday 24 September
St. Patrick's Church
6pm-8pm

Saturday 26 September
St. Michael's Church
3pm-5pm

All MQOF Acolytes are strongly encouraged to attend.



MQOF Youth, come and see what's up at VICTUS!

Friday 4 September, 8pm
Cardinal Clancy Room, St. Patrick's Church

VICTUS

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, 8pm-9.30pm in the Cardinal Clancy Room, St. Patrick's.

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>



There will be a Confirmation Rehearsal this Thursday 3 September at 5pm in St. Patrick's Church.

You are invited to attend a

Married Couples' RETREAT

"Reflect, Renew & Reconnect"

Saturday 5th September 2026
Bishop Bede Heather Centre,
1 Marion Street, Blacktown
8:30am to 4:30pm

\$45 per couple
Bookings essential
Places strictly limited
Register at:
parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/

Sessions

- Expressions of Love
- Living your Vocation of Marriage
- 7 Principles of making Marriage Work
- Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit
- Couple Prayer + Commitment Ceremony + Mass with Bishop Vincent

Included

- Lunch + refreshments

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5th & 6th September



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Dates for your Diary

Sep 6	Father's Day and Collection
10-13 September	The Witness the Musical <i>Riverside Theatre, Parramatta</i>
Sep 8	Confirmation masses (St Pat's
@ 7pm)	
Sep 25—Oct 11	Registrations - Reconciliation
program	
Oct 16	Parish Golf Day
Nov 25	First Reconciliations in the af-
Dec 12	Christmas Gala—Nagle Col-
	lege



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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.

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



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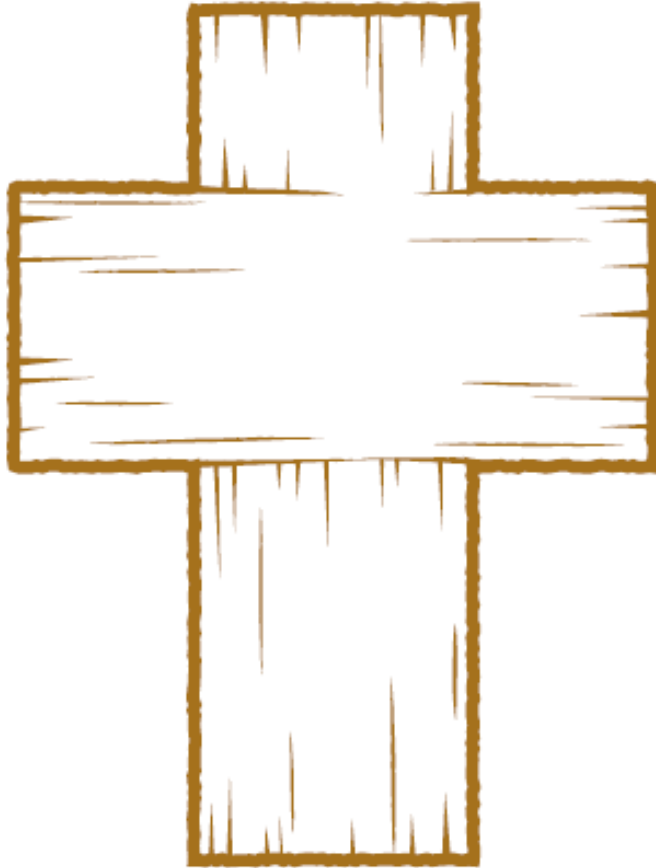
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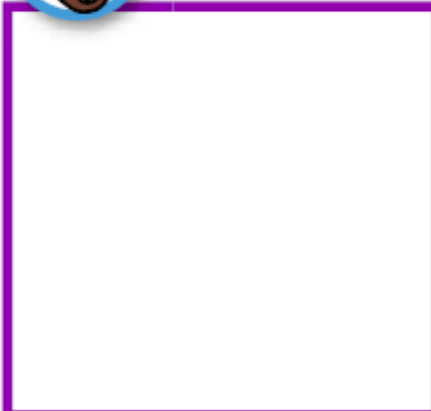
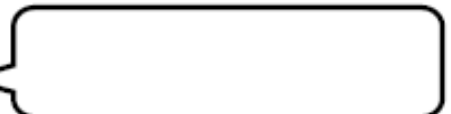
E U W T **E** FINISH

Help Jesus tell his disciples about the coming events in Jerusalem.



I must go to the city of Jerusalem...

...where people will make me suffer and I will be killed.



Draw Jesus entering the city on the donkey



Draw Jesus suffering on the cross



Write what Jesus tells the disciples next