



MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

Our Parish Mission Statement

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish is a welcoming, diverse, multicultural, Catholic community. We seek: to live, teach and share the joy of the Gospel; to grow as disciples of Jesus through prayer, witness and action and to respond to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

Sunday, 9 Dec 2018: Second Sunday of Advent - Year C

THIS TIME AND THIS PLACE

If I were to ask you where you are now as you read this and what time it is, you would be able to answer me with great certainty. If I were to ask you where our Australian Church was at this time and place in which we live, there would be a variety of responses. We have seen in our Plenary consultations, with over one thousand responses from the MQOF community - an answer with much less certainty.

This week the parish team stopped to reflect on the year that was. We offer here an insight into our time together as we transition as a team and as a parish community. This time last year we were re-grouping after Alison and Sr Grace left the team. Earlier this year we farewelled Fr Denes and Jacqueline. We reflected on where we were now in this time and place and what path lay before us as we continued the MQOF story with a new team - the arrival of Fr Regie this weekend and Fr John Paul and Fr Jack in the new year.

The readings for this weekend speak to our experience beautifully. We hear in the poetry of the first reading, *"Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress"* and it invites us to ask the question, *'What is it that we are mourning as we face this new path before us?'*

As the team reflected on the past year, and indeed the years before that with Fr Peter and Fr Luis as our leaders, we gave thanks and recognised in the words of the psalmist *"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."* In the second reading Paul tells us, *"Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present."* We remembered those who had been part of the journey to help us spread the good news and serve the parish the best way we could as the parish team and were invited to ask, *'What have been the joyful moments on the journey?'*

And then we heard that familiar Advent phrase, *"Prepare the Way of the Lord"* from the Gospel this weekend. The Gospel tells us specifically the time and the place when *"the Word of God came to John son of Zechariah"*. We are in this new time and place and we are being asked to prepare this new way for the Lord in 2019. We ask ourselves ... *'Will we do what is asked? Will we block the path or will we do our best to ensure the path is straight and clear?'*

Whilst only each of us can answer these questions for ourselves, what is, and will always be 100% certain, is that in all time and all places, we shall always *"see the salvation of God."* God will always guide us and Jesus will always be the light. In this time and this place, may our hearts be willing to prepare a way for the Lord in our community and in our lives.

- Lisa Bright

CONTACT US

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Confeggi
Assistant Priest: Fr Luis Herrera
Deacon: George Bryan
Finance Officer: Jennifer Gillman
Pastoral Associate: Lisa Bright
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Antoinette Mangion
Parish Assistant: Aaron Pinto
Parish Assistant: Christina Rodricks
Parish Assistant: Cate Gabriel
Parish Assistant: Kaitlyn Vergano
Parish Team Meetings each Monday from 1.00 - 2.00pm

St Michael's Church
58 Orwell St
Blacktown
Office Hours:
Sunday 8.30am - 11.30am

St Patrick's Church
51-59 Allawah St,
Blacktown
Office Hours:
Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm

Tel : 9622 1125
A/H : 9621 3146
Fax : 9671 6425
Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

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LITURGY TIMES

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Michael's
Mass 8:00am Mon, & Fri & 7.30pm Wed
Communion Service 8.00am Tues & Thurs
St Patrick's
Mass 9.00am Tues & Thurs & Sat
Communion Service 9.00am Mon, Wed, Fri
First Friday 7.30pm St Patrick's

SUNDAY MASSES

5.30pm Saturday Vigil (St Patrick's)
7.00am Sunday (St Patrick's)
8.00am Sunday (St Michael's)
9.30am Sunday (St Michael's)
10.00am Sunday (St Patrick's)
11.30 am 4th Sunday - Filipino Mass (St Michael's)
2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)
3.30pm - Syro Malabar Mass (St Michael's)
5.30pm Sunday (St Patrick's)
6.00pm Sunday (St Michael's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Wednesday 7.00pm—7.25pm (St Michael's)
Saturday 9.30am - 10.25am (St Patrick's)

Anointing of the Sick

First Saturday during 9.00am Mass (St Patrick's)
or by appointment contact Parish Office

HOLY HOUR:

6.30pm - 7.30pm Wednesday @ St Michael's
6.30pm - 7.30pm First Friday @ St Patrick's

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals

by appointment. Please contact office for details

CONNECT

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Michael's Primary 8869 6200
St Patrick's Primary 8869 6000
Nagle College 8887 4501
Patrician Brothers College 9671 3000
Catholic Early Learning Centre 8814 8406
(St Michael's)

Institute for Mission 9831 4911
Fr Paul Roberts (Director)
paul.roberts@ifm.org.au

Diocesan Ministry Centre 8838 3460

Catholic Care 8822 2222
Blacktown@ccss.org.au



www.mqofblacktown.org.au



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YEAR OF LUKE - YEAR C 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 30:19,30

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING: BAR 5:1-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 125. R. V.3

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING: PHIL 1:3-6. 8-11

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordandistrict proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bar 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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M 10 Dec: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
T 11 Dec: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
W 12 Dec: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Th 13 Dec: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
F 14 Dec: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
S 15 Dec: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:10-13
S 16 Dec: Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Daily Readings



Frankly Speaking...

"In Advent we rediscover the beauty of all being on a journey across the paths of time."

- Pope Francis



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anniversaries: Patricia Byrne, Encarnacion Artesano, Irene Dorothy Cherry, Grech Family

Special Intentions: Crispin Limchoc, Asisclo Justina Granadino Toledo, Go Tan Long, Tran Van Son, Fred BellChambers, Richard Aeria



We remember and pray for those who are ill at home or in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ: Nancy Shami, Melanie Randa, Carlos Braithwaite, Lois Roy, Paul Clemson, Tony Clarke, Doreen Stanslaus, Dr Cherry Ann Wy, Michael Hiriwo, Charles Xuereb, Leo Iannuzzi, Baby George Vella, James Ryan, Terri Vance, Andrew Magers, Connie Facchin, Sophie Debono, Mary Wong Kuan Chan

If you would like to include in the bulletin the name of a loved one who is ill or you are going into hospital and would like to be anointed, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au. You may also write your mass intention on the envelopes provided, indicating the time and date that you would like your intention to be offered.

Please be considerate of our neighbours ...

We have had complaints over recent weeks from our neighbours about cars parking across driveways during Mass times. Please extend consideration to our neighbours as we respect the rules and regulations when it comes to parking.

Jean & Betty's Tours

Tuesday December 11, 2018

8.30am Pickup Greystanes 9.00am

Pick up from St Patrick's Church

Call Jean for more information on 99203401 or 0425251754

Piety Stall

Christmas Cards and 2019 Calendars are on sale at the Piety Stall. Take up the Christmas Wrapping Challenge and instead of using wrapping paper this Christmas, wrap your gifts in the MQOF Bag! \$1.25 each or 6 for \$5.

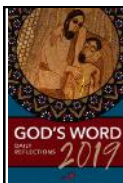


God's Word 2019

Daily Reflections

Available now from the Piety Stall \$15.

Reflections on the Gospel for each day with a space to write your own thoughts.



Community of Schools

Teachers from our Catholic Schools will gather for Mass at St Patrick's Church on Thursday 20th December at 9am. Everyone is welcome to join them as we celebrate the 2018 school year.

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO WELCOME, GROW AND ACT?

Registrations for Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for beginning February 2019 are open now!

Workshops available for Ministers of the Word, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Acolytes & Adult Servers and Communion to the Sick and Dying. Contact the parish office for a registration form.



**THIS CHRISTMAS,
YOUR DONATION CAN
MAKE WISHES COME TRUE.**

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

8th/9th December



Let's Welcome, Grow and Act this Christmas!

- Thank you for the wonderful response to the Vinnies Giving Tree Appeal. Please remember to return all gifts to the tree this weekend.
- Sponsor a Christmas Lunch for those doing it tough or volunteer to help out on the day - 22nd December. Call the Parish Office on 9622 1125 to leave your details.
- You can join the last 2 weeks of Advent Pathways - Monday Night at 7pm in the Parish Office or Tuesday Mornings at 9.30am in the Cardinal Clancy Room.
- Join the Welcome Team for Christmas Masses. Call the Parish Office to let us know that you would like to help.



Welcome Fr Regie!

Fr Regie Lavilla MSP joins the MQOF Community this weekend. Fr Regie will be the moderator for our community beginning 1st January. We will spend the next few weeks together in this time of transition until the end of the year. Please make Fr Regie feel at home at Mary, Queen of the Family Parish.

Fr Peter

Children's Christmas Masses

Each year the children of Mary Queen of the Family retell the story of the first Christmas. Your children are invited to take part in these Children's Masses.

St Michael's Church

Our practises are Saturday 8th, 15th & 22rd December at 3pm in the Church. Each practise will run for approximately one hour. We will be looking for a Joseph; wise men (or women); Herod; Drummer Boy; some soldiers; shepherds, angels and a baby Jesus. Costumes are provided for each child. All children are welcomed. You will meet with Silvana. If you cannot come to one of the practises that is fine just let us know. **Children's Christmas Mass on the 24th December will be at 6pm** and children need to be in the parish centre by **5 40pm**. Seats in the church on the night will be reserved for your family.

St Patrick's Church

Children's Christmas Mass on the 24th December will be at 5.30pm. Rehearsal dates to be determined. Contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 if your child would like to be part of the Christmas play.

Any questions, please call the office on 9622 1125.



HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

22nd, 23rd, 24th JANUARY 2019
9am - 3pm
For children aged 5-12 years old

LISTEN TO THE
Spirit

22, 23, 24 January 2019



I would like to register my child for the Faith'n'Family Holiday Experience.

Child's Name: _____

Age: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Contact Email: _____

Parent's Contact Phone: _____

Please return to sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au or at the parish office.



MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

COME AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR PARISH FAMILY



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: 58 Orwell St.

ST PATRICK'S CHURCH: 51-59 Allawah St.

**2nd RITE OF
RECONCILIATION**
Tuesday 18th December
7.30pm (St Michael's Church)

CHRISTMAS EVE
Monday 24th December

5.30pm - Children's Mass
(St Patrick's Church)

6.00pm - Children's Mass
(St Michael's Church)

8.30pm - Youth Mass
(St Patrick's Church)

CHRISTMAS DAY
Tuesday 25th December

12.00am - Midnight Mass
A carols service will begin at 11.30pm
(St Patrick's Church)

7.00am (St Patrick's Church)

8.30am (St Michael's Church)

10.00am (St Patrick's Church)

NO EVENING MASSES
ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The Christmas Roster will be emailed and displayed next weekend. Morning Prayer and Mass Times will continue as usual over the Christmas/New Year Period.



Tony Saba
Director

Mobile: 0404 390 620
Website: fivestارشuttles.com
Email: fivestارشuttles@outlook.com

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MALTA TRAVEL: Tours for 2019

1. 16 Days Highlights of New Zealand: 6 - 21 March.
All inclusive tour of both North and South Islands.
This is the 18th time we are running this magnificent
tour! Guaranteed the best price on the market. Book
your spot early. Call Charlie Felice on 9631 2689 or
0412 523 893.

2. 15 Days Splendours of Europe River Cruise: 5 -
20 May. A fabulous River Cruise from Budapest to
Amsterdam. It is a very relaxing experience for all to
enjoy! After the cruise you can either fly to Malta or
Rome and back to Sydney. Call Monica Ledger on
9896 0712 or 0414 859 386.



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