



# 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, 16 Dec 2018: Third Sunday of Advent - Year C

### REJOICE...Then, what must I do?

Over the year I have met too many *consecrated lemons*, people buckled up with piety but bitter about life. Pope Francis, in his first encyclical *"The Joy of the Gospel"*, sought to enliven the faith of believers and underscore that their life with God is a gift of joy and the fruit of the Spirit.

In the second reading today Paul gives the Philippians guidelines for experiencing joy in the Christian life: *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"* It is the only time in the writings of Paul where he repeats himself!! Paul proclaims that the Lord is near. *'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'*

Writing in popular Greek of the time, Paul knew that joy is a gift from God. The root word for joy in the Greek is *chara*, which is closely related with the Greek *charis* for "grace." Joy is both a gift of God as well as a response to the gifts of God. Joy comes when we are aware of God's grace and relish his favour in the events of our lives.

The Gospel today calls for a joyful spirit that is given to a just and righteous way of life. The sharing of goods, exacting no more than we should and the avoidance of intimidation and extortion. In speaking of the joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis goes on to emphasise the importance of social justice.

Joy is meant to be a hallmark of the Christian life. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit and a gift of God. We best receive this gift when we focus on the truth of who God is, commune with God through prayer, rely on the community of believers and commit ourselves to living a just life.

- Fr Peter

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:paul.roberts@ifm.org.au)

**Diocesan Ministry Centre** 8838 3460

**Catholic Care** 8822 2222  
[Blacktown@ccss.org.au](mailto:Blacktown@ccss.org.au)



[www.mqofblacktown.org.au](http://www.mqofblacktown.org.au)



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# YEAR OF LUKE - YEAR C 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

## FIRST READING: ZEP 3:14-18

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: IS 12:2-6 R. V.6

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

## SECOND READING: PHIL 4:4-7

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL: Lk 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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M 17 Dec: Gen 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17  
T 18 Dec: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-24  
W 19 Dec: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Lk 1:5-25  
Th 20 Dec: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38  
F 21 Dec: Song 2:8-14  
S 22 Dec: 1 Sam 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56  
S 23 Dec: Micah 5:1-4; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44

Daily  
Readings



## Frankly Speaking...

"Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man. 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:** Gonzalo Sitjar, Raoul Jumeau, Roland Bouquet, Errol Sansouci, Jamie Ross Lee

**Special Intentions:** Deceased members of the Tanti family, Maryse Durocher, Beato Liberati Toledo



**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, 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](mailto: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.

## Reconciliation

Join us for the 2nd Rite of Reconciliation on Tuesday 18th December at 7.30pm at St Michael's Church. There will also be the first rite available on Wednesday 19th December at 6.30pm at St Michael's and Saturday 22nd December at 9.30am at St Patrick's. Prepare your hearts for the joy of Christ's birth.

## Wednesday 8.30am Mass

The Wednesday 8.30am Nagle Masses at St Michael's Church have finished for the year. They will resume on the 6th February 2019. Thank you to the students at Nagle College for leading these Masses this year.

## 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.



## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the farewell gift for Fr Peter and Fr Luis. We were able to give Fr Peter a gift voucher to the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Visa Vouchers and bound book of all the bulletin front pages over the past 10 years at Blacktown. Fr Luis was also given a book of bulletin front pages over the past 4 years, a photo book of his time at Blacktown, a stole with Australian flowers and gift vouchers.

## 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.



At Mary, Queen of the Family Parish we WELCOME, GROW and ACT

**Thank you for your donations to the VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL. We can pass on \$7379.65 to Vinnies to bring joy to others this Christmas.**

*Congratulations to all couples who are celebrating wedding anniversaries this month.*

**Geronimo and Evelyn Zaragoza - 52 years  
Councillor Jess Diaz and Josie Diaz**

*May the love of God continue to bless all marriages.*



**Garden of Remembrance at St Michael's**

To give greater access to a space where everyone is invited to visit and remember those who go before us, the Garden of Remembrance will be open all the time.

Furthermore, those who care for the garden have asked that the water fountain be removed. This will be removed in coming weeks.

Fr Peter

**Can you help?**

Are you able to drive a parishioner to and from the 10am Mass on Sundays from the Stewart Ave? If you are, please contact Antoinette at the Parish Office on 9622 1125.

**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 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 will be at 11am on Sunday 16th & 23rd December. Please turn up to the rehearsals if your child would like to be part of the Christmas play.



**Any questions, please call the office on 9622 1125.**

**Christmas Lunch for those doing it tough**

You are still able to give your gift of support to the Christmas lunch for those doing it tough organised by the Social Justice Committee. Your gift of \$20 will cover the cost of a person invited to share joy with others at the Christmas lunch on 22nd December. Please place your donations in an envelope and drop off to the parish office.



**HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE**

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

Email [sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au) for a permission form.

**LISTEN TO THE Spirit**

22, 23, 24 January 2019



**You are invited to write your farewell message to Fr Luis and Fr Peter in the guest books in the Church foyers. They will be available this weekend.**

The Bible study group has finished for the year and will restart on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2019. Join them in the Sid Mosley Centre in the new year at 7.30 pm finishing at 9pm every Thursday.



**ONE MEAL**  
IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Join a team of volunteers to prepare and serve food to people doing it tough (once every 10-12 weeks) on a Saturday afternoon. There are opportunities for those who would prefer to prepare food and not attend the services (and vice versa). Please contact Terri Sebastian via the parish office (9622 1125) or 0466 418 809 to volunteer your services.





# 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.

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

Morning Prayer and Mass Times will continue as usual over the Christmas/New Year Period. The Parish Office will be closed from midday 21st December until Monday 7th January.  
In January, the parish office will be open from 9am-12pm.

★★★★★  
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Tony Saba  
Director

Mobile: 0404 390 620  
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**STEPHEN MAGRI 0412 926 185 9625 3353**



**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  
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9896 0712 or 0414 859 386.



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