



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

58 EDGAR STREET or PO BOX 18 MACQUARIE FIELDS NSW 2564

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD

Parish Priest: Fr. Bosco Sangbok Son SVD

Assistant Priest : Fr. Gideon Awudi SVD

Parish Secretary: Veena Miranda

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Acknowledgement of Country : We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, Elders and communities and the spirit that binds us in our dreams and aspirations on Dharawal country. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

2nd Sunday of Advent - YEAR - B

9th & 10th December 2023

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

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 our heart.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (40:1-5,9-11)
(Prepare the way for the Lord).

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 79)

All: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reader: I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

All: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reader: Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

All: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Reader: The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

All: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of Peter (3:8-14)

(We wait for new heavens and a new earth).

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out

Parish News and Happenings

his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that is contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where the righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark (1:1-8)

(Make straight the paths of the Lord).

Communion Antiphon

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

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 6:00 pm. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday : 8:00 am & 10:00 am.

Weekday Masses:

Mon- Fridays at 9:00 am

Saturday : 8.30am

Every Wednesday : NOVENA to our Mother Mary,
6:30pm Rosary followed by Novena Prayers

Bible Study :Fortnightly on Sundays at 2.00pm in the Logos Centre.

Sunday School : Fortnightly on Sundays during 10am Mass in the Logos Centre. (during the School Term)

The WORD in other words - Bible Diary 2023

This book contains daily scripture readings and reflections written by the priests, brothers and sisters of the congregations founded by St. Arnold Janssen (the SVD and SSpS) is now available for sale. **The cost is \$25.00 /each.**

For enquiries : please contact Tina Pineda on 0408 785 626 or Lina De Santis on 0418 264 696

Novena Dawn Masses

The traditional Dawn Masses in our Parish will commence on December 16th till the 24th December daily at 5am. Mass will be offered by different guest priests. If you wish to sponsor a mass with your intentions please contact tina Pineda on 0408 785 626.

Shared breakfast will be served on the 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th only. A plate will be much appreciated.

FAREWELL FOR FR. GIDEON

As we bid farewell to Fr. Gideon this Saturday, let us express our deepest gratitude for his time and efforts in fostering a sense of community and faith within our parish. We are truly blessed to have had him as part of our parish family.

We extend our best wishes to Fr. Gideon as he takes on new responsibilities and challenges in his next ministry. Let us remember him in our prayers, thanking God for the time he shared with us and asking for God's continued guidance in his future endeavours. Wishing you all the best, Fr. Gideon! You will be deeply missed.

Online contributions can be forwarded to our Church A/c. Please put reference as "farewell gift"
Account Name : Macquarie Fields Parish
BSB: 066711
Account No: 001737

Christmas Pageant: Join us for a festive Children's Choir Christmas Pageant play **on December 24th at 7 pm!** We're excited to make this event memorable and heartwarming, but we need more children to participate in the pageant.

If your child or children (aged 5-12 years) are available and eager to take part in the pageant, we invite you to bring them for a practice session this Sunday at 2:00-3:30pm in the church. Let's come together to create a joyous and spirited celebration for the community. Thank You.

Parish News and Happenings

New Parish Pastoral Council 2023 - 2025

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the following 7 committed parishioners [5] elected by the parish and two [2] appointed by Fr. Bosco) to serve as Parish Pastoral Council members for the next two years:

1	Edyleen Santos
2	Filomena Luamanuvae
3	Jennifer Kreltszheim
4	Jessica Malama Parsons
5	Mario Kreltszheim
6	Matilda-Tamasese Faasoa
7	Thomas Gunawan

20th January 2024 Saturday : 10am - 2pm
Parish Council Formation session

21st January 2024 10am Mass :Commissioning Mass for new Parish Pastoral Council



Christmas Carols

Join us for the Parish Carol singing on **Saturday, 16 December 2023** after 6:00pm vigil mass followed by Thanksgiving sausage sizzle. All Choir members & musicians, Parishioners, Children & Youth are cordially invited to share your talents at our carol singing.

Dates for your Diary

December 16: Saturday - Parish Carols after 6:00pm vigil mass followed by sausage sizzle

December 19: Tuesday - 2nd Rite of Reconciliation at 6:00pm

December 16-24 : Dawn Masses at 5:00am daily

December 24 : Sunday - Christmas Family Mass at 7:00pm

December 24: Midnight mass at 11:30pm

December 25: Monday- Christmas Day Mass at 9:00am

December 31: Sunday- End of year Thanksgiving with Adoration at 6:30pm followed by mass

January 1 2024: Monday- New Year's mass at 9:00am

Reflection:

The straight Pat

One message rings out loud and clear from the readings of today's mass. We hear it in the 1st reading, and it sounds again in the Gospel. That message is: 'Prepare a way for the Lord.. Make straight for our God...'

A straight road shortens journey for the traveller. In modern times the bulldozer has straightened out many a winding road, levelled many a mountain and filled in many a valley. But of course this is not what the prophet is talking about when he says, Make a straight highway for the Lord'.

The highway to be made straight is our way of life. Who is not the Lord who needs the straight path but we. And it's not much a straight path we need as a straight attitude. People may be living next door to one another, yet, because of hostile or unforgiving attitude, they may be unable to travel the few yards that separate them from one another.

Here the word 'straight' stands for honesty and right living. People are sometimes urged to straight themselves out. We know what that means. To go straight means to reform after having been dishonesty, cheating, deceit and so on. There can be a crooked way of dealing with others, a crooked attitude, a crooked way living.

We find the path of acting with integrity, treating people fairly, refraining from any form of oppression, not making life more difficult for anyone, sharing with those in need. This the way to seek God. The prophet Micah put it even more simply when he said, 'This is what God asks of you: that you act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God'. (Mic. 6:8).

How easy things become for the one who walks the straight path-the path of the Lord. But to walk a straight path needs strength, wisdom and single-mindedness.

How crooked the path of the one who is devious. How dark the one who lies and cheats. It may downhill, but the vision is diminishing. The right path, on the other hand, is an ascending one. The ever-expanding view compensates for the difficulty of climb.

If there is some crooked attitude, or some crooked way of behaving, or some crooked relationship that needs to be straighten out, let us try to do so. Then we will truly be preparing a way for the Lord to come to us, and to come to others through us.

Fortunately everything does not depend on our efforts. The Lord can come in spite of us, just as the dawn comes. However, let us ask the Lord to take the blindness from our eyes, the weakness from our wills and the hardness from our hearts, so that the world may be flooded by the grace of his coming.

Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies

Parish News and Happenings

Thank you to our Catechist:

As we approach the end of the school year, We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our state school Catechists for their dedication and commitment in this ministry throughout 2023. May your efforts be richly blessed.

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Neha / Alijah

Thanksgiving : / Clara & Family /
Alwyn Noronha /

Wedding Anniversary : Yves & Jackie

This week masses have been offered for the Sick and Special needs of :



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Dr Lydia de Jesus | * Eva Silang |
| * Dr Joycelyn de Jesus | * Carole Dimayuga |
| * Leslie Reich | * Selda Dimayuga |
| * Noli Leyesa | * Nancie |
| * Jaypee Masangkay | * Jun & Charo Doctors |
| * Aida Dayao | * Fr. David Catterall |
| * Victor Padura | * TJ del Rio |
| * Nelia Ambat | * Alan Raisbeck |
| * Vivian Martin | * Catherine Nguyen |
| * Anthony Lee Mariano | * Nathan Biag |
| * Jane Peralta | * Monique |
| * Steve Ducas & family | * Brigitte & Lysiane |
| * Alphonsus Lieu Bui | |

THIS WEEK MASSES HAVE BEEN OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS & DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OF benefactors of:



- ✠ Leo & Tressy Rodrigues
- ✠ Francesco Milazzo
- ✠ Walter Noronha
- ✠ Clara Sequeira
- ✠ Joachim Menezes
- ✠ Margaret Benard
- ✠ Julian & Max
- ✠ Maria Hunkin
- ✠ Lita Belbes
- ✠ Deceased members of:
 - Helene Family
- ✠ All souls in Purgatory



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SVD Prayer : *"May the darkness of sin and night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the spirit of grace, and may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all. Amen"* **Saint Arnold Janssen**

An Advent Prayer

God of light and hope,
look upon us in love,
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus
that we may love you and serve you in your kingdom.
Protect us during this week
and keep us watchful in prayer
as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who is the light of the world,
and who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.



The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (all bow)
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell; on the third day he rose
again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is
seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the
dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic
Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of
sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.
Amen.*