



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.

1st Sunday of Advent - YEAR - B

2nd & 3rd December 2023

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to
shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
(63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8)
*(Oh, that you would tear the heavens apart
and come down).*

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 79)

All: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reader: O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

All: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reader: God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

All: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reader: May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

All: Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1:3-9)

(The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord).

Parish News and Happenings

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mark (13:33-37)

(Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come).

Communion Antiphon

**The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.**

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.

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

Please join us in bidding a fond farewell to our beloved priest, Fr. Gideon Awudi, who will be leaving us in December to take up his new posting in Townsville. Your presence at the farewell event will mean a lot.

Farewell : Saturday, 9th December 2023
Time: After 6pm Vigil Mass in the Hall
(Please bring a plate to share)

As you leave our parish Fr. Gideon, we want to express our sincere appreciation for your service. Thank you for care, love and support you have provided for everyone at the church. May the path ahead be paved with joy, peace, and divine guidance.

There will be cards available at the entrances of the Church for you to write a personal message to Fr. Gideon. These messages will be presented to him after the 6:00 PM Mass on December 9th during the Farewell Mass, celebrated by Fr. Gideon and Fr. Asaeli Raas SVD, Provincial.

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

Second Rite of Reconciliation : On Tuesday, December 19, at 6:00pm. There will be 3 priests to hear the confession on that day. Please try your best to come along and renew your commitments to the Lord this Christmas.

Parish News and Happenings

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The candidates for election are as follows:

1	Edyleen Santos
2	Filomena Luamanuvae
3	Jennifer Kreltszheim
4	Jessica Malama Parsons
5	Mario Kreltszheim
6	Matilda-Tamasese Faaso
7	Shirley Suggun

There are 7 candidates available for election.

You will be required to select **only 5** of the 7 candidates. **There is to be One Ballot paper ONLY per Parishioner.** You must have reached age of 16 years to be eligible to vote. **For this Ballot Paper to be valid you must sign the ballot and print your name so that the vote can be verified. Voting will take place this weekend 2nd/3rd December 2023**

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 8: Friday- Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 9:00am

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

Reflection:

The sleep of habit

Three times in today's Gospel passage Jesus urges his disciples to 'stay awake'. The call to 'stay awake' is meant for us too. It is a very appropriate call for the beginning of the liturgical year.

They say that the swallows return to the exact same nest each year. They travel all that way to end up in the same locality. What does this tell us about swallows? That they are creatures of habit.

Habit plays a big part in our lives. All of us, except the very young, are to a great degree creatures of habit. It is said that we live the second half of our lives according to the habits acquired during the first half. That will be comforting for those who have formed good habits. But it will be disturbing for those who have formed bad habits.

There is a positive side to habit. Repetition is necessary. It is a hard grind and a tough discipline, but it can bear fruit. Athletes have shown us that repetition can produce results. Only thus is a skill mastered. The most perfect actions are effortless, because through dint of habit, they have become second nature to us.

Nelson Mandela gives us an example of this. Writing about his time in prison, he says : 'To survive in prison, one must develop ways to take satisfaction in one's daily life. One can feel fulfilled by washing one's clothes, by sweeping a corridor...'

But there is a negative side to habit. There is a lot of repetition in life, especially in work. As a result of doing the same things day in and day out, we get into a rut, and end up doing things merely out of habit. This results in things being done absently-mindedly and in a casual, unthinking manner. There is no real heart or feeling in them. This is sad, and soul-destroying.

Furthermore, habits can be selfish. Habits are very hard to break, especially bad habits. We can get used to anything, even prison walls. First you hate them, then you get used to them, and then you depend on them.

If you place a frog in a pot of hot water, it will jump right out. But if you put a frog into pot of cold water that is slowly brought to the boil, the frog will just sit there. Its nervous system is so primitive, it needs a sudden jolt to realise that is in danger.

Maybe that is the purpose of Advent. It gives us a jolt. It issues a wake up call to us. It provides us with a chance to start again. We can easily become Christians by habit only. We may be just going through the motions, taking part in rituals that have lost all freshness and meaning. We don't hear the Gospel anymore. Advent calls us to wake up. To shake off the dust of routine and habit, and to let Christ come alive in our lives once more.

New 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 : Lina De Santis / Catalina Calado

Thanksgiving : Trevor Noronha / Patrick Munslow

Special Intentions : Max, Michelle & Ian

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 | |
| * Steve Ducas & family | |
| * Alphonsus Lieu Bui | |

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



- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| ✠ Nena Desalit Mariano | ✠ Maria Kartini |
| ✠ Melody D'Souza | ✠ Robert Bartlet |
| ✠ George Yongching | ✠ Mary |
| ✠ Sr Doreen Dyson SGS | ✠ Lita Belbes |
| ✠ Aproniano Lara Elardo | ✠ Nance Wyr |
| ✠ Francisca Alcoriza Andres | ✠ Cyril Francis |
| ✠ Jennifer Nagarajan | ✠ Irvin Million |
| ✠ Phina-Germaine & Iris | ✠ Bruce Pellinger |
| ✠ Mary Sheila Million | ✠ |
| ✠ Deceased members of: | |
| - Ambrose, Moses, Bent, Meyne & Gunnion families | |
| - Patterson, Alfonso, Hendricks, Kreltszheim families | |
| - Marcelo, Carluen, Lati & Liuanag families | |
| ✠ 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.*