



## MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

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**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD**

Parish Priest: Fr. Bosco Sangbok Son 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.

## THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

11th & 12th January 2025

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

#### FIRST READING

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah (40:1-5, 9-11)*

*(The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it).*

'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 in 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, his trophies all go before 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 103)

**All: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

**Reader:** Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe! You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

**All: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

**Reader:** Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants.

**All: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

**Reader:** How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small.

**All: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

**Reader:** All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill.

**All: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

# Parish News and Happenings

**Reader:** You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

**All: Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!**

## SECOND READING

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.  
(2:11-14; 3:4-7)*

*(He saved us through the water of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit).*

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the Glory of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our Saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

*John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

**Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

**Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

*(When Jesus had been baptised and had been praying, the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit came upon him).*

## Communion Antiphon

*Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*

## **BAPTISMS are open.**

**For Baptism Preparation** please contact **Maria D'souza** through email : **maria197114@gmail.com** or **Contact the parish office.**

**BAPTISMS on 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 11:30am**

## **Readings for 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year C : 18th & 19th January 2025**

**Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11**

## Baptism

Through the waters of Baptism,

**Estavi Maria Malo Walton  
Toeafe Taafuli Malo Walton  
Rylie Gomez Tan**

**&**

**Daniela Sofia Pettit Fonseca**

Enter into the life of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



## 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**

## RECONCILIATION:

**Saturday :** 5:15pm – 5:45pm

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

**Bible Study :** Fortnightly on Sundays at 2.30pm in the Logos Centre.

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

# Parish News and Happenings

## Parish Profit and Loss Statement - 2024

**Total Income : \$ 316,797.00**

**Total Expenses : \$ 210,606.00**

### **Summary of Major Works Completed in 2024:**

- Tree cutting
- Hall windows replacement and interior painting
- Church lights upgrade

### **Future Projects Planned:**

- Complete Church Painting
- Installation of New Air Conditioning System
- Construction of New Toilets

## **Resumption of Communion from the Chalice in the Diocese of Wollongong**

Bishop Brian has announced the lifting of the restriction on Communion from the chalice in the Diocese of Wollongong, which had been in place during the COVID pandemic. In our parish, Communion from the chalice will resume this weekend **January 11–12, 2025**. Please note that receiving from the chalice is entirely optional. Those experiencing symptoms of a cold, flu, covid, or any other illness are kindly asked to refrain from sharing the chalice. The practice of wiping the chalice after each communicant will be observed to maintain hygiene.

## **The WORD in other words - Bible Diary 2025**

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

## **Forthcoming Dates for Bible Study Sessions:**

**January:** 12th & 26th

**February:** 9th & 23rd & will be held at 2:30 PM in the Logos Centre. All Welcome

## **REFLECTION : The greatness of baptism**

The baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own baptism. There are many offices that people can hold in the Church. But all of these pale when compared to the basic gift to all: baptism. When we stand before the throne of God, these other offices will be no importance. Our dignity will depend on one thing only - the extent to which we have lived out our baptismal calling.

The ceremony of baptism is a beautiful one. In it we were formally given a name and welcomed into the family of God's people. Lovely prayers

were said over us. Our body was signed with the sign of the cross, the mark of Christ's love for us. Water was poured over us. Water is a symbol of cleansing, and in baptism we are cleansed of sin. But it is more especially a symbol of life. In baptism we are given a share in the undying life of God.

Not once but twice our bodies were anointed with holy oil. Just as the bodies of athletes were smeared with oil to give them strength to compete, so we were anointed with holy oil to give us strength for the inevitable struggle against evil. And just as kings, prophets and priests were anointed with oil and thus marked out as God's ministers to the community, so we are anointed with the oil of chrism that we may be envoys of Christ in the world.

Our body was covered with a white garment, the outward sign of our Christian dignity. We were given a candle lighted from the Easter candle to signify the precious light of faith. God called us out of darkness into the wonderful light of his Son.

What happened at the baptism of Jesus happened at our baptism too. God called us by name. He said to each of us, 'You are my beloved son,' or 'You are my beloved daughter.' And the Spirit descended on us, in order to help us to live the life of a Christian and to participate in the mission of Jesus.

From a spiritual point of view baptism is the greatest thing that can happen to us. To be baptised is to be christened, that is, to be made like Christ. But this doesn't happen automatically as a result of being baptised. One has to learn what it means to be a Christian, and to grow into it. This is the task of a lifetime. Towards the end of his life a saint was asked if he was a Christian, and he replied, 'not yet.'

There are many vocations in the Church. But the most important vocation of all is common to all the baptised. It is the vocation we received at baptism - the vocation to be disciples of Jesus. This is the core vocation. Every other vocation in the Church must be seen in relation to this one.

We celebrate birthdays lavishly. So we should celebrate our baptismal day, because this was the day we were born as children of God. Every time we enter a church and sign ourselves with holy water we are reminding ourselves of our baptism, and committing ourselves to live up to it. To live one's baptism is to live as a disciple of Jesus.

## **New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies**

# Parish News and Happenings

## Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

**Birthday :** Janina Skoczylas / Nathaniel Chandra

**Thanksgiving:** Joyce Cuizon

### Wedding Anniversary:

Amado & Teng Manubay /  
Gertrude and Noel Jonathan Elardo

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



- \* Dr Lydia de Jesus
- \* Dr Joycelyn de Jesus
- \* Jaypee Masangkay
- \* Aida Dayao
- \* Maria Vu
- \* Alan & Margaret Raisbeck
- \* Mick Jones
- \* Noelene Bartlet
- \* Wally Skoczylas
- \* Carmencita Palma
- \* Peter & Maria D'souza

- \* Eva Silang
- \* Carole Dimayuga
- \* Selda Dimayuga
- \* Nancie
- \* Mason Dulalia
- \* Jun & Charo Doctors
- \* Catherine Nguyen
- \* Mabel Artuz
- \* June Carroll
- \* Fellie Duggan
- \* Danica Pineda Lacin
- \* Stanislava
- \* Anthony Smith



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



- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| ✠ Esperanza Alcuriza-Manuel             | ✠ N.P. Jacob        |
| ✠ Fe Elardo-Pale                        | ✠ M.O. George       |
| ✠ Luz U. Lopez                          | ✠ Maria Samonte     |
| ✠ Marcelle Fabian                       | ✠ Ada Bours         |
| ✠ James Read                            | ✠ Sonia Salazar     |
| ✠ Frank Medill                          | ✠ Sarah Dempsey     |
| ✠ Jose Ravino                           | ✠ Pierre Clark      |
| ✠ Irene Patterson                       | ✠ Jimmy O Neil      |
| ✠ Anne Roman                            | ✠ Rizalina Villa    |
| ✠ Laurine Lewis                         | ✠ Tony Alfonso      |
| ✠ William Lewis                         | ✠ Teodora Grafilo   |
| ✠ Feliciano Matildo                     | ✠ Carl Mc Coy       |
| ✠ Mercedes Carlos                       | ✠ Raymunda Caleon   |
| ✠ Cyril Ferriere                        | ✠ Wickton Grabowski |
| ✠ Deceased members of The Helene Family |                     |
| ✠ Noel Park                             |                     |
| ✠ Ally Oh                               |                     |
| ✠ All souls in Purgatory                |                     |



## A caring approach to help to say farewell



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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**

**Parish Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, we thank you for the loving and supportive environment in our Parish, where people of diverse backgrounds come together to encounter You in the Holy Eucharist and glorify Your name in prayer and song. We pray for all priests and parishioners who have given their time and service to You through ministries in the Parish and local community. We pray that through the wonderful gifts of the Holy Spirit we may continue to grow stronger in faith and spread your message of love and forgiveness. All of this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ through the intercession of His Mother Mary. Amen.*

## Roster for Next Week - 18th & 19th January 2025

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>(1) First Reading</b> | <b>(2) Second Reading</b> |
| <b>(3) Ministers</b>     | <b>(4) Altar Servers</b>  |

### 18/01 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| (1) Davitah S                            | (2) Terry Beattie |
| (3) Noel E / Andres C / Noel S / Maria D |                   |
| (4) Syona & Rosy                         |                   |

### 19/01- 8.00 am

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| (1) Matilda Faaso                       | (2) Rachele Fogarty |
| (3) Lucy N / Emelia B / Mimi C / Alla B |                     |
| (4) Cathy & Freddy Bernard              |                     |

### 19/01- 10.00 am Mass

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| (1) Lucy Maher                            | (2) Tina Pineda |
| (3) Tina P / Noel S / Bennette S / John T |                 |
| (4) Gabriel Wijaya / Neejay Santos        |                 |

### Church Cleaners (18/01)

### Proverbs

Niumata Family / Regimol Jaison  
Sheeba