



## MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

58 EDGAR STREET or PO BOX 18 MACQUARIE FIELDS NSW 2564

Phone: 02 9605 6169

Email: [mfields@dow.org.au](mailto:mfields@dow.org.au)

Website : [mmotc.org.au](http://mmotc.org.au)

**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.

### 4th Sunday of Lent

Year A – 14th & 15th March 2026

#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

##### Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.  
Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult  
and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

##### FIRST READING

*A reading from the first book of Samuel  
(16:1, 6-7, 10-13)*

*(In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed  
David king of Israel).*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David

and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord.

##### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 22)

**All: The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

**Reader:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

**All: The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

**Reader:** He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you me comfort.

**All: The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

**Reader:** You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

**All: The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

**Reader:** Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

**All: The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

# Parish News and Happenings

## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians  
(5:8-14)

*(Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you).*

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
Whoever follows me will have the light of  
life.

***Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!***

**GOSPEL:** **John** (9:1-41)

*(The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored).*

## 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,** 5 pm Rosary followed by Novena Prayers

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

## Communion Antiphon

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

## **Readings for 5th Sunday of Lent**

**21st & 22nd March 2026**

**Ezek 37:12-14; Rom 8:-8 –11; Jn 11:1-45**

## **BAPTISMS are open.**

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

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

## **Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Church

## **Holy week Roster :**

The roster for readers and the choir for Holy Week has been placed on the notice board. If you are a reader, please check the roster to see if you are scheduled to read.

## **Catechist Retreat - March 2026**

All Catechists and supporters of the Catechist Ministry are welcome to join us on a special day of retreat either in Wollongong on Monday 23 March or in Rosemeadow on Friday 27 March. Being the season of Lent, the theme for the retreat is Gospel Conversion: Turning to the God of Jesus Retreat facilitator, Fr Aloysius Rego OCD, will lead us into a greater understanding of the God of Jesus, as revealed to us in Scripture. There will be times for prayer, learning and discussion. Mass is planned before lunch. Please BYO lunch. Morning Tea provided. Donations are welcome however there is no cost for the retreat. Register now: [dow.sh/CCDRETREAT26](http://dow.sh/CCDRETREAT26)

## **Save the date:**

**Farewell for Fr. Bosco — Sunday, 19 April 2026**

**Mass: 9:00 AM (only one Mass)**

The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Brian with Fr. Boni - SVD provincial. More details to follow.

# Parish News and Happenings

## Upcoming Meeting :

Combined PPC, Liturgy & Events committee  
Meeting : Tuesday 17th March at 6:30pm.  
Members please attend.

**CatholicCare** now has one easy-to-remember number - **1800 967 894** - to help people connect with the support they need quickly and confidently. This single number links parishioners directly to aged care, disability services, family support, counselling, foster care, and OSHC.

## Holy Week Schedule

### Reconciliation (1st Rite) :

**Tuesday 24th March 2026 at 6pm**

**Palm Sunday : 29th March 2026 - Usual Sunday Masses**

### Holy Thursday, 02nd April 2026

Mass at 7pm

### Good Friday, 03rd April 2026:

Stations of the Cross at 9am

First Rite of Reconciliation at 10am

**Celebration of the passion of the Lord at 3pm**

### Holy Saturday, 04th April 2026:

**Easter Vigil Mass at 7pm**

### Easter Sunday, 5th April 2026:

Mass at 8am & 10am



**PROJECT  
COMPASSION**

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

### **Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes (available in the Church Foyer) or by scanning the QR code.

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*



## Reflection : God's Creation

There are many occasions when we ask the question why and can't find the answer for which we are looking. Why did we miss out on a job? Why did someone we love get cancer? Why can't we find a place to live that we can afford? Why do some days seem so difficult?

It is good to sit with our confusion and even grief. It is good to share it with the Lord who loves us so tenderly. But sometimes we have to step aside from the question why did this happen? It may be better to start with where can I go from here? What small steps will enable me to face the future in a positive spirit?

Today's readings touch upon these issues. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters a person who was born blind. The bystanders want to know why this happened. They think it must be because either he or his parents did something wrong. They are looking backwards. Jesus prefers to look forwards. He says, 'he was born blind so that the works of God may be displayed in him.' In other words, his blindness presents opportunities for growth, not a pretext for blame. The letter to the Ephesians similarly reminds us that we are on a journey from darkness to light. The whole of Lent could be described in those words. The letter says, 'try to discover what the Lord wants of you.' It asks us in terms of possibilities! The same thing happens when Samuel anoints David. It doesn't matter that David is a young shepherd. He has a big future, as anyone familiar with the Bible well knows.

This week, Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, draws us into the story of Manaini, a 44-year-old mother and subsistence farmer in remote northern Fiji. She has transformed her family's life through food processing and organic farming, thanks to a Caritas-supported project. Once reliant on more store-bought food and prone to food waste, she now produces homemade flours, dried foods, and sells produce and baked goods from local crops. Her passion for learning has made her a key player in her community, working with others to embrace more sustainable, empowering ways of living. Thanks to the generosity of the Australian Catholic community, hundreds of thousands of people such as Manaini are finding an answer to the question, 'where can we go from here.'

**Caritas Australia : Project Compassion Reflections**

# Parish News and Happenings

## Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

**Thanksgiving** : Louise Ratinon  
**Birthday** : Evelyn Pineda

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



- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Jaypee Masangkay                 | * Carole Dimayuga     |
| * Aida Dayao                       | * Selda Dimayuga      |
| * Maria & Mr. Vu                   | * Nancie              |
| * Alan & Margaret Raisbeck         | * Charo Doctor        |
| * Mick Jones                       | * Lisapeta Kalasito   |
| * Monique Yongching                | * Nestor Henriques    |
| * Wally Skoczylas                  | * Iya Gozum           |
| * Resty Perez                      | * Olga Peric          |
| * Andrea Tuazon                    | * John Vukovic        |
| * Nelia Ambat                      | * Jovencio Gregori    |
| * Romulo Cabrera                   | * Monica Djoneski     |
| * Lydia, Jocelyn & Janice de Jesus | * Mercy Espiritu      |
| * Logan Wall                       | * Czeslawa Piela      |
| * Jean Yongching                   | * Allan Titmarsh      |
| * Bernard Scott                    | * Drago Kukavica      |
| * Elizabeth Gutierrez              | * Leslie Miller       |
| * Mason Dulalia                    | * Kylie & Justin King |
| * Mycka Dimasangal                 | * Shirley Suggun      |
| * Brian Devine                     | * Harold Maurice      |
| * Jennifer Cooper                  | * Jovencio Gregorio   |
| * Kathryn Weidenbach               |                       |
| * Mary Clout                       |                       |



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



- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| ✠ Ivor Collom            | ✠ Ignacio Ona     |
| ✠ James Edward Roche     | ✠ Cyril Bijoux    |
| ✠ Ben Siqueira           | ✠ Raymond Gautray |
| ✠ Leticia Olate          | ✠ Winifred Dyson  |
| ✠ Rita & Ivan Ambrose    | ✠ Philomena Rizzo |
| ✠ Sr Doreen Dyson        | ✠                 |
| ✠ Remo De Santis         |                   |
| ✠ Edilberto Nebrija      |                   |
| ✠ Naty Nebrija           |                   |
| ✠ Hedy Estil Laurito     |                   |
| ✠ Marissa Garay          |                   |
| ✠ Felizardo Berioso      |                   |
| ✠ Felicidad Berioso      |                   |
| ✠ All souls in Purgatory |                   |



## A caring approach to help to say farewell



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**Kenneally's Funerals**

**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 - 21st & 22nd March 2026

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| (1) First Reading | (2) Second Reading |
| (3) Ministers     | (4) Altar Servers  |

### 21/03 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| (1) Maria D'Souza                                  | (2) Edyleen Santos |
| (3) Andres C / Irma de Guzman / Terry B / Teresa B |                    |
| (4) Rosy   |                    |

### 22/03- 8.00 am Mass

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| (1) Jim Fogarty                          | (2) Calvin Ambrose |
| (3) Lucy N / Emelia B / Mimi C / Robyn A |                    |
| (4) Emmanuel S                           |                    |

### 22/03- 10.00 am Mass

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| (1) Ashley Valencia  | (2) Jayden Valencia |
| (3) Peter T / Carmen A / Threlly C / Laa F / Nancy K / Alvin M |                     |
| 4) Neejay / Nerayo Santos                                      |                     |

### Church Cleaners (21/03)

### Judges

Corrine & Michael Patterson / Sharon & Calvin Ambrose