



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

Website : 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.

3rd Sunday of Lent

Year A – 7th & 8th March 2026

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus (17:3-7)

(Give us water to drink).

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 94)

All: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reader: Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

All: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reader: Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.

All: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Reader: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work'.

All: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to Romans

(5:1-2, 5-8)

(The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us).

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered

Parish News and Happenings

this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

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

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

(The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life).

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Readings for 4th Sunday of Lent

14th & 15th March 2026

Sam 16:1,6-7, 10-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

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)

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

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

Fr. Bosco's Birthday Celebrations:

A heartfelt thank you to all the parishioners who helped make Fr. Bosco's birthday celebration last Sunday so special. Your generosity in preparing and sharing delicious food, baking cakes, decorations and helping with the arrangements created a wonderful time of fellowship for our parish community.

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

Compassio - Lenten Program 2026

Copies of the 2026 Diocesan Lenten Book, "Compassio" are available for purchase from the table in the Church foyer for **\$6.00**. Please see Lina for your copy.

Lenten Reflection : Due to lack of response and interest, the Lenten program reflection is now cancelled.

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**

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

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

Every summer seems to get a little longer and a little hotter. We have all become conscious of issues surrounding water. Either there seems to be too much, as when we see summer floods or the rising sea levels in the Pacific. Other times, there seems to be too little water as when the rivers in our country run low or members of God's family around the world experience drought. Caritas Australia, through Project Compassion, has been responding to the dire needs of water justice in a range of vulnerable countries.

Today's readings may well cause us to reflect on the current state of God's creation. In the book of Exodus, we hear that people are complaining to Moses because they are dying of thirst. In the Gospel, Jesus meets a woman in a Samaritan town. She has come to draw water from the well in the hottest part of the day. In both cases, access to water is precarious. Yet God responds not only to a thirst for water but to a deeper thirst as well. Moses' people are thirsty for direction, leadership and hope.

The woman in John's Gospel has a thirst for love and acceptance which, Jesus tells her, will come from within if she is able to accept him and his message of life. As the story unfolds, we learn of her loneliness and see her reconnecting with her community.

In reflecting on this story in Listening Together, Cardinal Radcliffe reminds us that Jesus' first words are abrupt. 'Give me a drink.' He considers the times in John's Gospel when Jesus expresses thirst, including when he is on the cross. Radcliffe concludes that Jesus is thirsty on our behalf. He longs for our freedom.

Thirst is a great spiritual metaphor, one which Pope Leo XIV has used. But let's not forget the millions of people for whom physical water is a real challenge.

This week, Project Compassion shares with us the story of Monoranjon, a farmer in Bangladesh whose family has been deeply impacted by environmental damage, specifically salination of soil and water. This beautiful story reminds us of the importance of meeting people, as Jesus did, at their place of greatest need.

Our thirst for freedom and justice enables us to *Unite Against Poverty.*

Caritas Australia : Project Compassion Reflections

Parish News and Happenings

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Thanksgiving : Rochecoste Family / Nguyen Family

Birthday : Obed Fabin Bijoy / Aaron Vasudevan / Ankush Gupta

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



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|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| * 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 | * Irma Torres |
| * Jennifer Cooper | * Harold Maurice |
| * Kathryn Weidenbach | |
| * Mary Clout | |
| * John & Leila Khoury | |
| * Elie & Linda Khoury | |
| * Tamara & Grant James | |



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



- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| ✠ Christopher Nathan | ✠ Lucrese Helene |
| ✠ Sam Sorebello | ✠ Franciscek Smolik |
| ✠ Demetria Aguino | ✠ John Mach Due Nguyen |
| ✠ Yolandra Lara | ✠ Noel Helene |
| ✠ Jeanne Helene | |
| ✠ Josef Pospichil | |
| ✠ Roger Lerch | |
| ✠ May Quealy | |
| ✠ Wilfred Dyson | |
| ✠ Consolation Zabat | |
| ✠ Elizabeth Clarke | |
| ✠ Edau Racino | |
| ✠ Thomas James | |
| ✠ Stanley & Phyllis Rozario | |
| ✠ 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**

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 - 14th & 15th March 2026

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

14/03 - 6:00 pm Vigil Mass

- (1) Chloe Kreltszheim 2) Alisha Joseph
(3) Noel E / Jisha J / Noel S / Terry B
(4) Rosy / Jayson Huynh

15/03- 8.00 am Mass

- (1) Lucy Niumata (2) Robyn Ashley
(3) Mimi C / Robyn A / Alla B / Steve N
(4) Emmanuel S

15/03- 10.00 am Mass

- (1) Peter Thankachan (2) Tess Valesini
(3) Alvin M / Tina P / Noel S / Bennette / Elisha S / John T
4) Gabriel Wijaya / Nerayo Santos

Church Cleaners (14/03)

Proverbs

Niumata Family / Regimol Jaison / Sheeba / Hyein