



# St. Patrick's Parish Blacktown

*We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.*

51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown 2148 Tel: 9622 1125 After Hours Emergency Number: 9621 3146 Fax: 9671 6425  
Email: [admin@stpatriksparrish.org.au](mailto:admin@stpatriksparrish.org.au) Web: [www.stpatriksparrish.org.au](http://www.stpatriksparrish.org.au)

**20th December 2009**

**4th Sunday of Advent**

**Year C**

### Parish Team

**Fr Peter Confeggi**  
Parish Priest  
**Fr Joseph Thomas**  
Assistant Priest  
**Owen Rogers**  
Deacon  
**Claudette Cheetham**  
Parish Secretary  
**Neng Pasigna**  
Finance Officer  
**Lisa Bright** (0419 418 547)  
Youth Minister

### Co-ordinators

**Catechists:** Mrs Colleen McCunnie  
**RCIA:** Sr Judith Lythall  
**Little Miracles:** Meg Stone  
**Social:** Mrs Len Cruz  
**Pious Goods:** Mrs Patricia Regan  
**Sacramental Program:** Mrs Claudette Cheetham  
**Archives:** Mrs M. Geraghty  
**Choir Rehearsal:** 7.00 pm Thursday

### Weekly Mass Times:

Mon - Sat 9.00am  
**First Friday Devotion:**  
9.00am Mass, 7.00pm Mass  
**Blacktown Hospital Mass Times:**  
Thursday 10am, Friday 9.30am  
Saturday Vigil Mass 7pm  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
Saturdays 9.30am - 10am

### Weekend Mass Times:

**Saturday:** Vigil 5.30pm  
**Sunday:** 7am, 8.30am, 10am,  
5.30pm (Youth Mass)  
**Mass for the Sick:** 9.00am  
2nd Saturday of the month

### Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals

by appointment.  
Please contact office for details

### Office Closure

Mon - Fri: 1- 2pm (**Lunch**)  
Thursday: 11.15am - 12.15pm (**Team meeting**)

### Contacts

**Hospital Chaplain**  
Fr Ed Kenny - 9622 1125  
**Loaves & Fishes**  
51- 59 Allawah St, Blacktown  
9621 2758  
**Centacare**  
51- 59 Allawah St, Blacktown  
9671 2011  
[admin@centabtn.ngo.org.au](mailto:admin@centabtn.ngo.org.au)  
**St Patrick's Primary School**  
51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown  
9621 4122  
[stpatsblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stpatsblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
**Patrician Brothers College**  
100 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown  
9671 3000  
**Nagle Girls College**  
58A Orwell St, Sth Blacktown  
9622 0022  
[nagle@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:nagle@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
**Institute for Mission**  
1-5 Marion St, Blacktown - 9831 4911  
[ifm@tpg.com.au](mailto:ifm@tpg.com.au)

### **What is a Permanent Deacon?**

Deacons are ordained ministers within the Roman Catholic Church who perform various ministries in support of the Church, usually at parish level. He is neither a layman nor a priest. The deacon is a cleric ordained for the service of God's people in communion with the bishop and his body of priests and works collaboratively with the bishop, priest and existing staff members of a parish or institution. They work together to build up the Body of Christ. All ordained ministers in the Church are called to serve through **Word, Sacrament, and Charity**, but they exercise this service in various ways. As minister of Word, a Deacon proclaims the Gospel, preaches, and teaches in the name of the Church.

As minister of Sacrament, a Deacon baptises, leads the faithful in prayer, witnesses marriages, and conducts wake and funeral services. As minister of Charity, a Deacon is a leader in identifying the needs of others and in calling God's people into service to meet these needs. Whatever specific services a Deacon performs, they all flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only **WHAT** a Deacon does, **but WHO a Deacon is, that is significant.**

The Deacon, as an ordained minister, has a permanent and a public responsibility for a ministry of **Word, Sacrament and Charity**. Through ordination, he becomes an icon of Christ the Servant. When a person sees the Deacon, the person ought to see and experience Christ in service to the world. There is much that a man can do as an ordained Deacon in today's Catholic Church. Now following the Second Vatican Council, men – married or single – can with the grace given in the sacrament of ordination, serve under their Bishop and alongside the parish priest in encouraging, facilitating and enabling the Church community to develop its own skills and aptitudes in building the family of God's Church.

*As these men do not go on to the priesthood they are called "Permanent Deacons".* A Deacon's ministry: visiting the sick and lonely; the bereaved; families and schools; taking communion to the housebound; proclaiming the Gospel and preaching at Mass; teaching within the community and also celebrating the sacraments of baptism and marriage; presiding at funerals and leading public liturgies. The ministry of a Deacon is similar to but different from that of a priest or bishop. A deacon is ordained and missioned by Christ through the bishop to minister to the needy and the poor and to be a minister of Word and Sacrament, working in obedience to his bishop and in close fraternal cooperation with priests.

While all Christians are called to serve others, the Deacon is an official sign of this service and he solemnly promises to be a living example of such service for others. Through Holy Orders, the Deacon acquires a special relationship to the bishop. The Deacon's ministry of **Charity, Word and Sacrament** enables the Church to be a credible sign of the Servant Christ in the world. A Deacon may solemnly baptise; may act as a Deacon at the Eucharist Liturgy; may preach; may distribute Holy Communion and bring Holy Communion to the sick; be a minister of exposition and benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; impart blessings; officiate at marriages; lead prayers at a wake and officiate at burial services at a cemetery. And works to serve.

*Owen Rogers*

## 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour

**FIRST READING: Micah 5:1- 4**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19**

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

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

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. R.

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.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Luke 1:38**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!



**GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-44**

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

The Virgin is with child and shall bear a son,  
and she will call him Emmanuel.

**Mass for the soul of the following:** Peter Hickson, Maggie Fernandes, Stanley Stokes, Carl Bartley, The Schembri family, P. Camilleri, June O'Hara, Joseph Tabone, Socrates, Cristes, Niceforo, the abandoned souls and all souls in purgatory.

**Prayer for the sick:** Kerry Bush, Peggy Giddey, Kim Baker, Naomi Petrie, Jesus Boy Bernido, Mary Toohey, Coral McLean, Frank Vella.

**Recently Deceased:** Jim Morris

**Special Intention:** Louis Cassar, Solon "Bong" Sicut, Carmen Galea, Laurence Cassar, Angelo Vella, Loreta Cassar, Danny Nocillado, Emily Agres, Edna Nocillado, The Jesus my Lord and Mama Mary

### Daily Readings

21st Dec: Lk 1:39-45; 22nd Dec: Lk 1:46-56, 23rd Dec: Lk 1:57-66, 24th Dec: Lk 1:67-79, 25th Dec: Christmas Day, 26th Dec: Mt 10:17-22

### CARING FOR OUR CHURCH

It is now a couple of weeks since I announced that Brian McCunnie was unable to continue with the many tasks of service around the Church. It seemed best that the tasks were shared among a few and I asked for volunteers to contact the office. Perhaps it is due to this time of the year but as yet no one has come forward. Can I spell out the need.

**Monday:** Perhaps after morning Mass - Straighten the pews, a clean up of tables in foyers and checking the toilets for fresh paper

**Tuesday:** Empty the various waste paper bins and put out the otto bins.

**Wednesday:** Bring otto bins in.

It would be great if the parish could employ a handy person to do all these things. That is simply not possible. So we have to find other ways to meet these needs. Remember many hands make light work! You might like to take responsibility for the needs of one of those days. Perhaps a family might take on one of the responsibilities.

Brian McCunnie, with his exceptional attention to detail, has prepared notes on everything that he has been doing. Copies are available in the sacristy.

### LET THERE BE LIGHT PROJECT

Thank you again for the further contributions to the Let there be Light Fund. We have reached a total of \$4204.95.

*Fr Peter*

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

6.30pm Children mass  
(children are invited to dress  
as angels and shepherds)  
9.00pm Youth Mass  
11.30pm Christmas Carols  
12.00am Midnight Mass

## 25th DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY

7.00am, 8.30am, 10.00am

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE  
NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

**NEW YEARS DAY MASS: 10am**

## Christmas Letter Box Drop

There are still some pamphlets left to distribute for our Christmas Letter Box Drop. It would be a great help if you could take a bundle of 50 and cross out the streets that you may be able to drop these pamphlets to.

Pamphlets and list of streets are available in the car park foyer. Thanks for your help.



## St Vincent de Paul Society

On behalf of St Vincent de Paul Society, we would sincerely like to thank all the parishioners, students from St Patrick's Primary School and Patrician Brothers for the wonderful response to the "GIVING TREE"

Every year your generosity is amazing and it enables us to help many families in our parish community. So once again many thanks and may you have a happy and holy Christmas.

Patrick Regan  
President

## Fresh Flowers Wanted ...

Fresh flowers especially Agapanthus and Christmas Bush to decorate our church this Christmas. Please bring to the church by Wednesday 23rd Dec. and leave in the water buckets near the Marian Shrine. (near main entrance). Any amount appreciated even if only one or two stems.

Thank you from the Liturgy Team.

## Advertising in Parish Bulletin

There is a space available in the Parish Bulletin for anyone who wishes to advertise their business. Cost is \$150 per quarter. Contact Neng for more information.

## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24th December and re-open on Monday, 4th January at 9am. The Parish Team wish you a happy and holy Christmas.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS - 6.30pm

Inviting children aged 5-12 yrs to participate in the Christmas play at the children's Christmas Mass (6.30pm Christmas Eve). Rehearsal for the play will be in the Church on **Tuesday, 22nd December at 9.30am** (after the morning mass). If you have costumes, please bring them on the rehearsal. Please call the parish office to register.



If you would like to join the children's choir for the Mass, you are invited also to come to the rehearsal on Tuesday morning.

## Children's Liturgy 2010

Children's Liturgy will be moving to new dates and times in 2010. A special thanks to Meg Stone and Julie Beattie who have given over 10 years leadership to Little Miracles. We thank them both for their dedication to Little Miracles over this time.

Children's Liturgy will recommence on the 4th Sunday of each month at the **10am Mass**, beginning **24th January 2010**.

Look out for details of Children's Liturgy at other Masses in the new year. If you would like to help out with Children's Liturgy contact the Parish Office.

## DAWN MASS

The Novena of Dawn Masses (Rooster Mass) continue until 24th December at 5am. If you wish you could bring a plate to share for breakfast.

## Blacktown Relay For Life

Blacktown Relay for Life has raised \$137,000.00 to date for the 2009 event for Cancer Council NSW.

A record 94 teams entered the event. There were between 1000 and 1500 participants over the 24 hours. This was an incredible result, given the very difficult financial year that we have all survived.

Special thanks go to St. Patrick's parishioners who always respond so generously to the Cancer Council's Relay For Life appeal. St Pat's contributed over \$2000.00 which was very generous, considering how much you have contributed this year to improvements to St. Pat's church and to the Tsunami victims.

St Pat's parishioners take a bow. You are a very generous community!

A big thank-you to all those who contributed in any way. Each dollar we raised puts us one step closer to eliminating Cancer.

I will be very happy to hear from those who would like to be part of St. Pat's team in 2010. We could start early and chip away towards the 24 hour event Saturday October 30 to Sunday October 31 2010.

Contact: [kathie.collins@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kathie.collins@blacktown.nsw.gov.au)  
Kathie Collins 0414194052 or 96211896

## CLOSURE FOR CHRISTMAS

Please note Loaves and fishes will close from Tuesday 22nd December and reopen on Monday 18th January 2010. Thanks to all parishioners who supported us during 2009. Wishing everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and a happy New Year from all the volunteers.



## In Our Parish ...

**Housie ...** Held every **Saturday** evening, in the Parish Hall commencing at **7.40pm**. **Come along and join in the fun!**

**Church Cleaning ...** This ministry is very important. Extra helpers can contact the office to be placed in one of the teams. **Volunteers sought...**

**The Legion of Mary ...** meets every Wednesday at 7.00pm in the **St Patrick's Dining Room**. Your support is welcome and all are invited.

### LOAVES AND FISHES NEEDS YOUR HELP...

This week we would appreciate your help in providing the following food items for the homeless: Tinned pineapple, tinned fruit salad, tinned beetroot, jellies, wheatbix. Thank you for your generosity.

**MORE NOTICES and information can be found on the notice board in both foyers.**

### Pray 2010: The power of Prayer

The Archdiocese of Brisbane is hosting a 3 day event or provide practical teaching and experiences of different prayer forms and encourage Catholics to deepen their relationship with Jesus through prayer. The dates are from 7-10 July 2010. Details of the program and individual & group registrations at [www.pray2010.org.au/register](http://www.pray2010.org.au/register).

## ADVENT REFLECTION



The fourth star reminds us of the bright star that guided the Magi to Jesus. Let it also guide us in our faith that will open our lives to the Spirit of God.

**Let us pray:** God of the Starry Skies, thank You for leading us as the astrologers of old were led to the Christ's Child's crib. Forgive us for not always following in Your way. Amen.



**Reflection:** *What star beckons us in this busy season? Choose paths that bring us closer to people and the people who need our love.*

### AROUND THE DIOCESE ...

The St Nicolas Festa Committee have organized an 18-day tour of France and Italy with stopovers in Paris, Bordeaux, Lourdes, Marseilles, Turin, Venice, Assisi, San Giovanni - place of St Padre Pio, Bari - St Nicolas resting place, Naples, Rome and the Vatican and then Malta. Buffet breakfast and dinner included daily. Tour commences when we fly to Paris on 18th May 2010.

Contacts: *Jim Borg* 9636 7767 or 0418 825 591  
*Bill Schembri* 9896 1415 or 0416 261 415

### Catalyst for Renewal Dinner

Speaker: Geraldine Doogue. Topic: Spirituality – making connections in our world. Friday 12 February 2010, 7pm for 7.30pm. St Bernadette's Parish Hall, 367 Old Northern Rd, Castle Hill. Cost: \$45 for 2-course dinner (BYOG). RSVP: 3 February 2010. Limited numbers. Book by mail: Catalyst for Renewal, PO Box 139, Gladesville, NSW, 1675, Telephone Message Bank: (02) 9990 7003 or email: [catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au](mailto:catalyst-for-renewal@tpg.com.au)

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