



# 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@stpatricksparish.org.au](mailto:admin@stpatricksparish.org.au) Web: [www.stpatricksparish.org.au](http://www.stpatricksparish.org.au)

**26th July 2009**

**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year B**

### Parish Team

**Fr Peter Confeggi**  
Parish Priest  
**Fr Joseph Thomas**  
Assistant Priest  
**Claudette Cheetham**  
Parish Secretary  
**Neng Passigna**  
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  
**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)

## HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?

Last Saturday evening I was confronted by a fairly forceful woman - *one whom I greatly respect* - regarding the proposed changes that were presented in the *concept drawings* for the development of the parish offices and Centacare. For those who have studied them, there is an obvious loss of the Marian Chapel in the northern foyer. This is one of the reasons that we have been experimenting with a Marian devotional space in the southern foyer. ***You can't have a devotional place in this noisy space***, I was told in no uncertain terms.

In recent decades there has been a very understandable call for greater participation in decision making in our Church. I understand this, as I have known some very strong priests who ruled with an iron fist and others whose behaviour was quite bullying. Perhaps partly in response to this, there has been ***a call for the Church to be more democratic***. The problem with democracy is that you can end up with just 51% ruling the day. So if the Church is not a monarchy, where all authority is vested in one person, and not a democracy where a small majority can carry the day, who are we and how can we make decisions?

Can I suggest that **a Christian community is one of discernment**. This is a place where we build consensus and that can take time. It is often said that you can not please everyone and every leader knows that. As a rule of thumb I try to see if there is at least 80% in favour of something before moving on it. When there is that strength of support, there is the challenge to the 20% or at least to listen to what the Spirit might be saying in the vast majority.

As we move on as a parish there will of course be changes. I hope that there are some structures in place to see that there is ample opportunity for community participation in decision making. Our committees - *formation, liturgical, social, grounds and maintenance and social justice* - provide a forum for active participation in these important areas of our parish life. It is the task of the Finance Committee to listen to the Spirit of these groups and their proposals and to see what can be achieved and at times temper their enthusiasm for spending! In all this, it is my responsibility not only to allow, but to encourage positive, and if needed, negative comment.

Now back to those rather forceful comments of last Saturday night... ***You can't have a devotional place in this noisy space.....*** which seemed to cause some stress for this good woman's peace loving husband. In fact, within twenty four hours, and with a few more conversations, other possibilities had emerged, ones that had not been considered in the liturgy team and ones that had not crossed my mind!

So, how do we make decisions? The community of the Church is not a monarchy and its leaders should not act in a monarchical way. At the same time it is not a democracy where those who can gather the 51% carry the day. We are a community of discernment where we listen to one another and what the Spirit is saying among us in the light of the teaching of the Church. At the heart of the Gospel is a concept of leadership as service.

As we move ahead let's listen to one another and not be afraid to say when we disagree - *it may well have a transforming outcome!* - but always listening to the other and what the Spirit may be saying in the vast majority. As a community of discernment .... **HOW DO WE MAKE DECISIONS?**

**Fr Peter**

**P.S.** Many thanks to that good woman - *she knows who she is* - for just saying how she saw things. Always love people who say things to my face rather than behind my back. But far more importantly what seemed to her to be a negative moment engendered some positive outcomes. That's the nitty gritty of discernment!

## 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR B

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** God is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people.

**FIRST READING:** 2 Kings 4:42-44

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 144:10-11. 15-18

**The hand of the Lord feeds us;  
he answers all our needs.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God. **R.**

The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live. **R.**

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 4:1-6

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Luke 7:16

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** John 6:1-15

Jesus went off to the other side of the  
Sea of Galilee - or of Tiberias - and a  
large crowd followed him, impressed by

the signs he gave by curing the sick.

Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down  
there with his disciples. It was shortly before  
the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching  
and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some  
bread for these people to eat?' He only said  
this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what  
he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two  
hundred denarii would only buy enough to give  
them a small piece each.' One of his disciples,  
Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is  
a small boy here with five barley loaves and  
two fish; but what is that between so many?'  
Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.'  
There was plenty of grass there, and as many  
as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus  
took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them  
out to all who were sitting ready; he then did  
the same with the fish, giving out as much as  
was wanted. When they had eaten enough he  
said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left  
over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they  
picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with  
scraps left over from the meal of five barley  
loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he  
had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who  
is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could  
see they were about to come and take him by  
force and make him king, escaped back to the  
hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord

### Daily Readings

27th July: Mt 13:31-35; 28th July: Mt 13:36-43, 29th July: Jn 11:19-27,  
30th July: Mt 13:47-53, 31st July: Mt 13:54-58, 1st Aug: Mt 14:1-12.

**Mass for the soul of the following:** Lawrence Vella, Louise Vella, Pam Cook, Shane Hayes, Charlie Azzopardi, Paulina Micallef, Carl Bartley, The Schembri family, P. Camilleri, the abandoned souls and all souls.

**Prayer for the sick:** Peggy Giddey, Peter White. Naomi Petrie.

**Mass for recently deceased:** Beatrice Dang, Joyce Swan, Barry Connelly

**Mass for special intention:** Marilou Miranda, Joyce Vella



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

### VINNIES DOORKNOCK APPEAL

**Volunteers Needed!**

**Exercise, Fun, Faith in Action!**

Are you able to spare 2-3 hours of your time, on the weekend of **22/23 August** to join  
St Patrick's Vinnies Doorknock Team?

Encourage your family and friends to join you! No one is too old! Make a team of 2 or 4 adults  
or we'll place you in one of our friendly teams.

Here is an opportunity to put our faith into action. Without a word being spoken, the Doorknock spreads the Lord's  
message of love and compassion throughout our local community. The money collection is critical for the on-going  
support for the sick, abused, lonely and marginalised.

Further information and registration forms will be available next weekend.

Enquiries: Sr Judith Lythall: [judith@maristsisters.org](mailto:judith@maristsisters.org) or 0488 232 075 (leave name and contact number)



### PARRAMATTA DIOCESAN YOUTH CAMP MEROO CHRISTIAN CENTRE, KURRAJONG

**7-9 AUGUST 2009 • 16 years and over**

- Witness to ourselves - Living a Christian Life
- Witness to our local community - Sharing our Christian Faith
- Witness to the world

Meet other young people from different parishes, make new friends, share ideas & experiences, grow spiritually and more! Invite your friends to come...includes a variety of inspiring talks, workshops, music, art, games and fun activities, reflection time, daily Mass and Reconciliation. Registration and information available from Church foyer or contact Lisa on 9622 1125 or youth@stpatricksparish.org.au

**Sunday 9th August, 6.30pm**  
**Years 7-10 Youth Group**  
 6.30pm - 8pm in Parish Hall.  
 Anyone in Years 7-10 welcome.

**PIZZA NIGHT!!!**  
 Please RSVP to Lisa by email,  
 SMS or phone  
 for catering.

*Don't forget to  
 bring back your  
 parent forms!!!*



**Sunday 16th August, 6.30pm**  
**SPY NIGHT**  
**VOCATIONS PANEL**  
 6.30pm - 8.30pm - Parish Hall.  
 Come and ask questions to people who are living different vocations in our Church.

Anyone Years 10 & over welcome. Please RSVP to Lisa by email, SMS or phone for catering.

**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011  
 MADRID, SPAIN**  
 Interested in finding out more about how you can represent St Patrick's at WYD Madrid, 2011?

Call Lisa to ask about the Parish Internship Program to support you financially to attend World Youth Day.

### JOIN ST PATRICK'S YOUTH ON FACEBOOK GROUPS

Receive notification of upcoming events. Search for "SPY Blacktown" in facebook. To make sure you are joining the right group, please read the description carefully ... we are St Patrick's Youth Blacktown.

### LOAVES AND FISHES WEEKEND

We are dedicating this weekend to Loaves and Fishes as in today's Gospel. We would like to thank the parishioners who donate food every week to Loaves and Fishes.

Starting next weekend as part of the Presentation of the Gifts and a visible sign of the offerings to Loaves and Fishes, all food donated to will be brought up at each mass.

Below is a list of items that can be donated.

#### TINNED FOOD

Corn Niblets	Green peas	Spaghetti
Baked Beans	Tuna	Canned Fruit
Soup	Diced Tomatoes	

#### PACKETS

Spaghetti Pasta	Scotch Finger Biscuits	Raw Sugar
Tea Bags	Weetbix	Toilet Paper
Soap (facial)	Long Life Milk	

**Kathleen Willings**  
 Coordinator of Loaves and Fishes

### DWF AND PROJECT COMPASSION RECEIPTS

For those who forgot to pick up their 2008/2009 receipts for DWF and Project Compassion, they are still available to be picked up in the main foyer

### Cancer Council Blacktown Relay For Life Launch

Come and see John Paul Young live at Blacktown Workers Club on Friday August 28 at 7.30pm. Tickets \$25.00 with finger food. For more information contact Kathie Collins 0414 194 052 or email kathie.collins@blacktown.nsw.gov.au. Proceeds from the concert will go toward the Blacktown Relay for Life fundraiser.

### STEPPING BEYOND: SUPPORT GATHERING FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED

The Solo Parent Ministry offers monthly gatherings at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion St Blacktown on the last Wed of each month, for those who are working through issues following the breakdown of their marriage or long term partnership. We meet again on Wed 29<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm. The focus question this month is: "What have you done to bring healing into your life, following your separation or divorce?" Two facilitators lead the discussion and input and you in turn have the opportunity to share your questions and learnings, and benefit from the support and friendship of others who have been through a similar experience as your own. All welcome. Ring Eileen on 9890 2968 or eileen.quade@ccss.org.au.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2010

The time has come to commence the 2010 Sacramental Program. If you have a child who is 8yrs old in years 3-6 in 2009 **AND BAPTISED**, please call Claudette at the Parish Office on 9622 1125 during business hours to register your child.

There will be an Enquiry Session for **PARENTS ONLY** on **Monday 26th October 2009** in the Church at 7.00pm. If you have registered your child, a letter will be sent out closer to the date inviting you to the session. An enrolment form will be attached to the letter. If your child was baptised in another parish, could you please attach a **PHOTOCOPY OF THE BAPTISM CERTIFICATE TO THE FORM**. The form **MUST** be handed in together with the baptism certificate at the Enquiry Session.

There will be **ONLY ONE ENQUIRY SESSION** and all the information regarding the program will be given on the night.

**SACRAMENTAL TEAM**

# In Our Parish ...

**Housie ...** Held every **Saturday** evening in the Parish Hall commencing at **7.45pm**. **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.

**Pious Goods Store ...** is opened after every mass on the weekend. Lots of beautiful gifts & ideas for that special occasion. It is fully stocked and Mary Mackillop items are also available. So come and browse - you may find that special gift for that special person you have been looking for! At the same time you will be supporting your parish.



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

## SYDNEY SYMPHONY FELLOWS CONCERT

Blacktown Arts Centre is hosting an afternoon of classical music such as Strauss, Debussy, Bax and Mozart. Guest artist Owen Torr, (harp) and Roger Benedict (viola). Tickets are \$10.00, concession, friends of BAC:\$6.00. The concert will start at 2pm on August 2nd at Blacktown Arts Centre 78 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown. Early bird offer - purchase your tickets before the end of July for only \$6.00. For bookings phone 9839 6558.

## HOMESHARER WANTED

Quiet, friendly lady, late 40's, with a mild intellectual disability, has leased a two bedroom unit in Epping and would like to share with a non-smoking, considerate female companion. She has a very supportive family and works part-time in the retail industry. Reference required. Cost to be negotiated in exchange for some support. For more information contact Catherine on 0413 367 931 or Alan on 0418 419 029

## CRAFT STALL

A craft stall will be held on the 16th August after the 8.30am and 10.00am masses. Money raised will go towards the purchase of another electric candle for the Marian Shrine. For more information please ring Edna Hession on 9671 1955. Thank you for your generosity.

## BETTY AND JEAN'S BUS TRIP



Please note the next bus trip on 11th August Way Way to Davistown Cruise is **FULL**. Please ring Jean on 99203401 or 0425 251 754 **IF YOU ARE NOT GOING** as there are people on the waiting list. The bus will depart at 8.30am sharp.

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