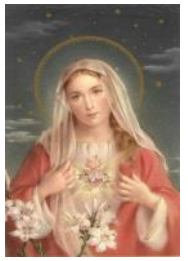




Mary Immaculate Parish

Quakers Hill—Schofields
125 Barnier Drive, Quakers Hill, NSW 2763
PH 9626 3326



BULLETIN

Website: www.maryimmac.org.au

ABN 93 648 688 769

CHRISTMAS DAY

Fr Oliver's Christmas message...

Christmas is a time of great joy and the most widely celebrated feast across Christendom. The birth of Jesus of Nazareth has always been a moment of celebration and worship, honoring our newborn King.

In today's world, the true meaning of Christmas often faces challenges from the pressures of materialism and commercialism. Yet, the Spirit of Christmas continues to shine brightly. Many people embody this spirit by generously supporting others through donations, hampers, and parcels distributed by organizations like the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Whilst, we live in a world overshadowed by moral darkness, wars and challenges to our Catholicity, God continues to send us the light of Christ to guide us through the gift of selfless leaders and laity who are willing to put their lives on the front lines. People who uphold our Catholic values and inspire the rest of us to be bearers of Christ's light. Though the struggle between light and darkness persists, the light of Christ is destined to illuminate every heart.

Christmas reminds us of Emmanuel—God with us—who brings hope and light to our lives. May the celebration of Christ's birth inspire us to overcome any obstacles that hinder our growth and maturity.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those over the past 12 months who have given so much of their time and talents to make this parish the great place it is to worship and serve the Lord. Thank you for your generosity and prayers to keep myself and our parish safe from harm.

Finally, I would like to wish each of you a joyful Christmas and a grace-filled 2025!

Fr Oliver Aro, MSP

25 December 2024

SANCTUARY STATUE UPDATE

For a few weeks now, we have had the company of the statue of St Anthony in our new sanctuary. We are now ready to accommodate the others. The cost for each statue will be \$6700.00. This includes the manufacture of the statue and delivery. We have a way of providing a tax deductible option. Please speak to Anthony in the Parish Office. Thank you to all those who have donated to the statues thus far.

NO CHILDRENS LITURGY

During the school holiday's there will be no Children's Liturgy. Thank you to all the volunteers for their help in educating our parish children during the Liturgy of the Word.

PARISH VISION & MISSION

Our Vision Statement is:

To create a vibrant, loving Catholic community that inspires and empowers members to make a positive impact in our world.

Our Mission Statement is:

To provide an inclusive, engaging environment for members to deepen their faith, use their talents to serve others, and make a positive impact in our world.

GODS WORD 2025

God's word 2025 is available to purchase from the piety store for \$20 each.

Sick:

Lennox Mastroa (10 months old), Margaret Cooper, Nina Chavez, Ray Johnston, Precious Tamayo, Sophia Pal, Dominic Fernandez, Liberty Ventura, Harrison Whelan, Joseph Buttigieg, Jackson Naidoo & Faye Demagante Chadia Kaminski

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

Anniversary of Death:

Basilio Lahay-Lahay Jr., Ernesto J. Casis, Raji John

Recently Deceased:

Fe Alegado, Joveno Victorino de la Vega, Sarath Illangantilleke, Archimedes Quijano

In Memoriam:

Michael Dias, Dominador Tulud, Thirddie Roque, Dominador Canizares, Francisco Briones, Albert Gil Estrada, Daddy Gella, Marie Jawardena, Rosemarie Jawardena, Arsenia Bautista, Anthony Mangion, Joe Farrugia, Lolito Gonzales, Edward Aro, Amy Cababasada, Alfred Luna, Colleen McCunnie, Crispina Paras, Ramon Villegas, Marites Mirasol, Teresita Racaza, Esteban & Julio Alivo, Marina Alegado, Nap Mendoza, Charles Briffa, Tony Muscat, Flower Clement, Teresita Jumao-as, Angeline Yu, Steven Houghton, Anthony Silva, Joseph Steven Camilleri, Edward & Teresita Ombina, Mamerta San Buenaventura, Annette Houghton, Antinitio Demagante, Rosemary & Joan Houghton, Albert Gomez, Maria & Jacob Gonsalves, Julie Thivy, Bibiana Malaluan, Mary Lucille Serrano, Marilou, Mariano Jr., Perpetua, Arsenia, Roberto & Marichar Serrano, Joselito & Bobet Serrano, Epifanio Serrano, Lois & Bede Hill, Marie Mackenzie, Ben McShane Hill, Albert & Michael Agius, Ruben Elago, Anthony Farrugia and family members, Bill Azzopardi, Calvin & Alberto Wijewera, Loretta & Joseph Desa, Claude & Rita Joachim, Regina—Benito Franado, Joseph Grech, Roberto—Maria Reyes, Antonio—Lucia Santos, Julio De Mello, Regina—Baby Granado, Regina & Cristeta Granado, Hugo Sr. & Marita Agudo, Naty Mutuc, Dominador Snr & Efigenia Granado, John & Frances Micallef, Stuart Richard, Dan Peiris & all the souls in purgatory.

May they Rest in Peace

PPC UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to begin by congratulating Mercee Malig for her leadership of the Parish Fundraising Committee in organising this event. Her report is in this bulletin.

Besides the outcome of raising much needed funds for the Parish, such events also serve to bring the community closer together in a pastoral context as one Catholic family. It was good to see the various ethnicities come together in a fun-filled environment enjoying each other's company, sharing international cuisine and contributing their time and talents towards a common cause.

As another year draws to a close, we can proudly look back at the achievements made in our Parish. The major transformation of course is the redesign of the Sanctuary. The new year will see the arrival of the statues to adorn the Sanctuary. Those interested in donating towards this outcome are welcome to do so.

The newly elected PPC will get down to work with new initiatives to further enrich the pastoral life of the Parish and the encouragement and support of the whole community is solicited. As in past years feasts of various ethnic communities in our Parish will be celebrated. The Feast of Our Lady of Lanka will be celebrated on Sunday February 2nd. In addition to the Filipino community last year the Indian community too celebrated relevant events. We look forward to other communities also joining in this multi-cultural initiative.

We look forward to welcoming our new Assistant Parish Priest in the new year and this will allow for the enhancement of the spiritual life and activities of the Parish.

Finally, the PPC and the Parish Team wish each and every one of you and your families a Happy and Holy Christmas and Bright and Prosperous 2025.

God Bless you all.

Aubrey Joachim

Chairman PPC 24/25



BAZAAR UPDATE

The Parish Fundraising Committee is pleased to share that we have raised \$6,626 during the Christmas Bazaar held on Sunday the 15th of December.

All the money raised will go towards much needed building repairs and ongoing maintenance of our church building.

It took many donors and volunteers to make the event a success and we have so many people to thank—those who generously donated money and various items for sale, those who cooked delicious international dishes and baked cakes and sweets, those who laboured in the heat setting up the space under the pergola the day before and helped to pack it all up, those who stood on their feet for ours and helped in selling the bazaar items, and finally those who supported the cause by buying from the Bazaar— **A MASSIVE THANK YOU** to all!

This is a wonderful result and a good start for what we hope will be many more productive fundraising endeavours the parish is planning in the future.

Below are some photos of the day.



First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

How beautiful on the mountains,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation,
and tells Zion,
'Your God is king!'

Listen! Your watchmen raise
their voices,

they shout for joy together,
for they see the Lord face to face,
as he returns to Zion.

Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.

The Lord bares his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.



Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-6. R. v.3

(R.) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving
power of God.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation. (R.)
2. The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel. (R.)
3. All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord all the earth,
ring out your joy. (R.)
4. Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

At various times in the past and in various
different ways, God spoke to our ancestors
through the prophets; but in our own time, the last
days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son
that he has appointed to inherit everything and
through whom he made everything there is. He is
the radiant light of God's glory and the perfect
copy of his nature, sustaining the universe by his
powerful command; and now that he has
destroyed the defilement of sin, he has gone to
take his place in heaven at the right hand of divine

Majesty. So he is now as far above the angels as the
title which he has inherited is higher than their
own name.

God has never said to any angel: You are my Son,
today I have become your father, or: I will be a
father to him and he a son to me. Again, when he
brings the First-born into the world, he says: Let all
the angels of God worship him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A holy day has dawned upon us.

Come you nations and adore the Lord.

Today a great light has come upon the earth.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:1-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the beginning was the Word:
the Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.

All that came to be had life in him and that life was
the light of men, a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John.
He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the
light, so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the
light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.

He was in the world that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him. He came to his
own domain and his own people did not accept
him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to
become children of God, to all who believe in the
name of him who was born not out of human
stock or urge of the flesh or will of man but of God
himself. The Word was made flesh he lived among
us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the
only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness, He proclaims:

'This is the one of whom I said:

He who comes after me
ranks before me
because he existed before me.'

Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us,
received - yes, grace in return for grace,
since, though the Law was given through Moses,
grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's
heart, who has made him known.

ROSTER: 24th /25th December 2024

CHRISTMAS VIGIL & DAY MASSES

Ministries	5.30pm FAMILY MASS	9.00pm	MIDNIGHT	8.00am CHRISTMAS DAY	10.00am	5.30pm
Senior Server	Conrad F Arthur W Ryan H	Angelo C	Isaac Z Lina Z	Angelo C Romany D	Ding M Romany D	
Junior Servers	Dominic D Samisoni W Jada P Gabriel E Kiana	Jeremy A Johan A	Hadriel F Yavniel F Aviel F		Stephanie S	
Readers	Bernadette W Gary Cluff Anthony S	Anthony S Maria S Patrick D	Divine M Amila F Mercee M	Mere S Rose B Nerissa T	Denise H Therese B Mistica G	Rachelle L
Special Eucharist Minister	Maria M, Patricia H Ralph H, Francis M	T Hutama		M Muscat	Aida L Bess M Mercy E Jovien E	
Music Ministry	Fusion 2021	Combined choir	Tony Y Paul M	Recorded music	Recorded music	Recorded music
Powerpoint	Choir	Choir	Choir			

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER: 28th/ 29th December 2024

(5th Sunday of the Month)

Ministries	5.30pm	7.30am	9.00am	10.30am	12.30pm	5.30pm
Senior Server	Tony A	Angelo C	Ding M Conrad F	Lina Z Lawrence F	Paul M	Rommel D Patricia H
Junior Servers	Kiana F		Rachael P Aviel, Yavniel & Hadriel F Gabriel E	Katrina C	Heleni M Johan M	P Marcial, M Georgie A Dass
Readers	Virginia F John F Nikita D	Mere S Belen B Pen B	Bernie P Paea T Mary C	Anna Z Cora M Pat O	Divine M Merlyn F Lourdes M	Gary C Cheri-Anne L Anne T
Special Eucharist Minister	Ralph H	Maria M John B	Bessie M Eva C	Esperanza D Fe H Patricia Z		Juvy E
Greeters	Jerry A Pompey F	Peter S	Brad & Angela A	Pat O		
Music Ministry	Recorded music	Recorded music	Recorded music	Recorded music	Recorded music	Recorded music
Power point	Jess P	Juvy A		MIP Choir	Jelynn M	
Piety Store		Sherry	Merlyn F	Joe A		Patricia D

PARISH TEAM

Priest of the Parish: Rev Fr. Oliver Aro MSP

Deacon: Rev. Leon Decena OFS

Parish/Finance Administrator: Anthony Saliba OFS

Administrative Assistant: Marthese Sultana

Sacramental Coordinator: Sr Valerie (0414638884)

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9am to 4pm

Office Email:

parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au

Accounts Email:

accounts@maryimmac.org.au

Sacramental Email:

sacramental.coordinator@maryimmac.org.au

Our current Mass services are as follows:

Monday – 6.00am only - Tuesday to Friday - 6.00am

and 9.15am - Wednesday 7pm - Saturday - 7.30am

Sunday Masses – Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm

Sunday- 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am, 12.30pm and 5.30pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday's 4pm to 5pm

THE SACRAMENTS

Baptism & Preparation for sacrament:

Baptisms on Saturdays at 10:00am & 11:00am

Two children per Baptism ceremony on Saturday.

Parents must attend a preparation session prior to baptism.

Preparation session on the 1st Tuesday of each month

If you want your child baptized, please call Marthese in the Parish Office marthese.sultana@maryimmac.org.au

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist & Confirmation:

Please contact sacramental coordinator for details.

Weddings: By Appointment.

THE YOUTH GROUPS

Email: parishoffice@maryimmac.org.au

R.C.I.A: Patrick D. 0435038281 or 96263326

PARISH SCHOOLS

Mary Immaculate Primary School

125 Barnier Drive, Quakers Hill
Ph: 9626-3999. Principal: Sharon Mizzi.

St. Joseph's Primary School

78 Alex Avenue, Schofields
Ph: 9626-1328. Principal: Lesley Studans.

Saint John Paul II Catholic College

85 Hambledon Road Schofields
Ph: 9208-7200. Principal: Acting.