

Dear parishioners,

PARISH PROPERTY and FINANCIAL HEALTH

As many know, we presented a major parish property report in the second half of last year with a quite detailed survey of parishioner response. A lot of work has gone on in the background since then and please God, we will soon be able to bring together a couple of large parts of a property vision to give the parish a repaired and sustainable base. The news I'm sharing with you here concerns just one piece of those plans in which there is now a solid direction.

Brief background to help inform newcomers to the parish:

For many years now, the parish has been operating at 'break even' after each year's costs, charges and charitable outreach are balanced against donations/income. Weekly donations from parishioners form more than 90% of our total parish income. We currently receive \$30k from children's services on the property but everything else is donation only. Some think that the diocese funds the parishes. This is not the case. The parishes in fact support the important works of the diocese! The OLQP reality has long been 'break even' and for a parish this size, there is a very low level of savings/reserves that would be gone in a month or two if we started the backlog of needed repairs and upgrades. Clearly, this 'break even' history, whilst not leaving debt, has seen a progressive deterioration of assets now needing expensive response. In the words of a longest standing member of the parish finance committee; *'our brittle church windows have needed replacing for 15 years!'* The windows are just one item on a long list for our church and property.

Big progress for our current child care story: For three years we have been working through further child care options in partnership with 'Ambrose' (the child services wing of a diocese company called 'Community Ventures') – to extend services and create an assured, ongoing parish income source. Due to regulatory requirements and working through many pros and cons, we've repeatedly gone back to the drawing board to try to find a way to best use our double storey former convent building and land adjacent to the primary school (corner Old Prospect and Braeside Roads). IT'S NOW HAPPENING. A project manager is employed, the planning is well progressed and renovation of the building starts next week! The time frame is tight but the goal is to open a long day early learning centre in 2026! AND the current service of our small pre-school will continue.

I'm very happy to let you know that we are taking this new step of expanded service and parish income, with NO INTERIM DEBT to the parish. Lots more to update as we go but I wanted to share this good news!

**With friendship in God's mission,
Fr Paul**



Our renovated building and new service is to have longer opening hours and provide for many more families

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Ambrose is a social enterprise of Community Ventures, a not-for-profit charity supporting communities within the Parramatta Diocese. As part of Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited, Community Ventures is subject to the Corporations and ACNC Acts and applicable Regulatory bodies.

Renovation of our former convent building is about to commence



Faith B4U...

New Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Information Evening

Come along if you are interested in becoming a READER or EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF COMMUNION at Mass OR if you have recently joined the ministry.

Our liturgical ministers have a vital role in creating a prayerful and welcoming environment for our entire community. At these evenings, we will reflect on the role of ministry in liturgy and offer formation for each ministry.

Tuesday 22 July, 7pm in the Church

Register at the parish office by calling 9631 8135 or email lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

We look forward to welcoming you to these ministries.

Did you know?

in Laudato Si' Pope Francis reminds us that "we are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us". An incorrect reading of Genesis 1:28 has in the past led us to believe that humans have "dominion" over the earth, which has been the root justification for "the unbridled exploitation of nature". Instead our role, in the end, is to till, keep, and protect the earth (Gen 2:15) (LS cf 67).

→ To **read** the encyclical, go to: www.vatican.va

→ To **listen** to this encyclical being read, go to: www.columban.org

Liturgical Ministry Course

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September 2025 in Blacktown. This free formation is open to anyone in the diocese interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar.

To enrol and for more information, please contact Lisa in the parish office **9631 8135** or lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

Registrations close 19 August.

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Elie Aboumelhem, Mary Anjoul, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Daphne Duff, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Joe Vella, Gerard Watts, Grace Widjaya, Maureen Zarb

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, that they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Anthony Mercieca, Angela Patterson-Kane, Carmen Sammut, Josephine Sciberras, Emmanuel Teuma, Colin Zahra, Luciana Zaller

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.

Michele Galante, Frank Mercuri, Charles Muscat - 11 July @ 11am, Blanca Lucero

NAIDOC Week in the parish

NAIDOC is the annual week-long celebration in which Australia honours the history and culture of the 'first peoples' of our incredibly ancient land.

To mark this special week (6-13 July), the Social Justice Group invites parishioners to view the film *Kanyini* – the principle of connectedness through caring and responsibility, that underpins Aboriginal life.

When? Sunday 13 July at 11.45 am (after 10.30 am Mass)

Where? St George Precinct Centre

What? Film 'Kanyini'

Morning Tea will be served on arrival

OLQP Bereavement Team

We are a group of caring parishioners from Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Our ministry is not a counselling service, but offers support, comfort and care shortly after the loss of a loved one.

At your request, we can join you in your home for prayer, a chat or simply a listening ear.

We also keep in touch via phone calls and cards shortly after your loss, and on significant days in the first year without your loved one, such as first birthday, first anniversary, first Christmas.

You are also invited to the Parish Memorial Mass and All Souls Day Mass.

The Bereavement Team can be contacted via the Parish Office on 9631 8135.

Upcoming Working Bee

Saturday 19th July, commencing 8:30am

Everyone is welcome to help clean up the church gardens and grounds.



Our sponsors...

Please understand that whilst OLQP Parish allows advertising, it cannot take responsibility for the advertisements, services advertised or for any matters arising.

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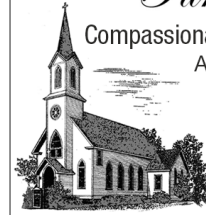
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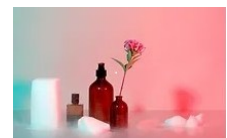
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Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

Ministry of Welcome

In the spirit of our welcoming community, we would like to grow the ministry of Welcome at our Masses. This ministry involves greeters, the friendly faces who are the first point of contact for everyone entering our church.

Do you have a warm smile and a welcoming heart? Consider becoming a Greeter!

Please express your interest to Lisa at the parish office by calling 9631 8135 or email lisa.bright@olqp.org.au

There are many ministries which you can be involved in our parish. If you would like to find out more or unsure how you can share your gifts and talents with the community, please contact the parish office and speak to Lisa.

Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner

The 2025 Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner will be held on **Tuesday 26 August from 7pm at Merrylands RSL**. Caleb Campion, Graduate Lawyer and LEGO Master Australia Finalist, will be our guest speaker. Book your tickets here <https://www.cumberlandchurches.org.au/prayer-dinner>

The Cumberland Community Prayer Dinner is a time for us to come together as a community to pray for unity, peace, and blessings for our neighbourhoods and our leaders. It's an opportunity for us to join hearts and minds in a spirit of Christian fellowship and prayer. During the evening we will have the opportunity to: hear prayers and musical items; be inspired by our guest speaker; meet with church and community members; eat a two-course meal and enjoy complimentary soft-drinks.

Call Lisa at the parish office (9631 8135) if you would like further information.

Attention Church Ministers

JULY Ministry Roster IS NOW AVAILABLE.

Please check your emails (including junk / spam) alternatively, a copy can be found in the sacristy and the foyer section of the church. ***If you plan to be away in August, please let us know no later than 20 July.***

Grace and Truth Evening

Men and women (18 years and older) are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters on **Friday 18 July** for the next Grace and Truth evening. The evening will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, Vespers and Benediction, a light dinner, and talks by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and Sr Susanna Edmunds OP. The event will run from **5-9PM, starting in the St Mary's Cathedral Crypt and moving to the Cathedral Hall**. Cost: \$20.

Registration closes 13 July. <https://www.trybooking.com/DBGYB>. For more information, email Dominican Sisters at sydney@op-tn.org.

FEAST DAYS

This week we celebrate

11th Friday **St Benedict**, abbot

This Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Isaiah

66:10-14

2nd Reading

Galatians

6:14-18

Gospel

Luke

10:1-12

Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading

Deuteronomy

30:10-14

2nd Reading

Colossians

1:15-20

Gospel

Luke

10:25-37

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm - *see notice to left for more info*

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Join us on...

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Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

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