



— OUR LADY —  
QUEEN OF PEACE

# The Peaceful Voice

25th December 2024  
CHRISTMAS

Dear brothers and sisters,

Christmas greetings to you all – including those joining us at Christmas from other places and faith backgrounds. Whenever we gather, the diversity of people and stories is deeply part of what makes us ‘catholic’ – a word meaning ‘universal’ or ‘all-embracing’. It is into this richness of all people and creation, that we celebrate and honour the human birth of God, in Jesus.

The various major world religions have profound elements of goodness and wisdom with which to bless the world for God. And there are certainly distinctive elements in the Christian faith, with a very major one of those being the belief that God has actually, physically, humanly, been born among us. What a remarkable gift! At the same time, here’s a reality check: In our parish of OLQP, even just in the three days before Christmas Eve, we prepared and celebrated four more funeral ceremonies with grieving families. Doesn’t this seem to be such a contrast to the joy, birth and life with which we speak of Christmas? Yes indeed, in obvious ways it is a contrast – and let’s each not let Christmas pass without thinking of someone to reach out to, for whom Christmas this time doesn’t so easily bring joy. BUT for all of us, even when we know the weight of loss – or when we wonder about our own eventual passing from what we now know - Christmas has a deep gift to offer that’s in fact not a contrast, but a powerful connection. What I mean is:



Photo by Mario La Pergola on Unsplash

The gift of God’s human birthing into creation, is a decisive bonding of all creation, including all of us, with the divine. Try to imagine that; the human and the divine truly as ONE – now – and always! The birth and whole life cycle of the human Jesus, through to the reality now of the risen Jesus embracing all life, gives us incredible safety and inexhaustible possibility. We are permanent. In God, we are not able to be defeated or destroyed, only transformed, more and more.

Dear friends, may your lives be blessed with hope and peace this Christmas. May we all commit in many ongoing and new ways, to truly BE agents of hope and peace in and for the world God loves. Together, may we keep growing in our contribution to God’s ‘forever mission’; the mission of a vibrant oneness and connectedness of all life, all creation, in God!

**With love and friendship – Fr Paul and the parish team.**

**Fr Paul**

*Our ‘Christmas Embrace’ recent Catholic Foundation appeal gave \$12,000 – and ‘Christmas Embrace’ prayer cards almost \$5000 – to care for people who’ve had trauma. With this sharing, we partner in the work of our Foundation, of St Vincent de Paul and of Jesuit Refugee Service.*



*Our OLQP kids/families filled a Pantech Truck completely full of amazing hampers and gifts. This was for many needy families through our ‘Christmas Embrace’ partnering with Mt Druitt Parish - Holy Family Emerton. And our own parish St V de P, with support of St Paul’s College, gave the joy of hampers and gifts to 40 local families as part of our ‘Christmas Embrace’!*



# Faith B4U...

## Priests on duty - Parish office closure

Priests are on duty and sacramental ministry continues as usual after Christmas. But the office will close until Wednesday 15th January.

Messages left on the office phone 9631 8135 will be checked each day. The Emergency number is 0447 509 207.

The parish team wishes you a happy and safe Christmas.

## Hosts suitable for gluten intolerant

If you require a low gluten host, please let an Acolyte or senior server know before Mass starts. They will organise for one to be placed aside for you.

## Optional Emergency Contact

The parish office is in the process of collecting emergency contact details for parishioners.

If you would like us to keep on file the person(s) you wish us to contact in case of an emergency, such as an injury or when an ambulance is called, please complete the Emergency Contact Forms found at each door.

Once completed you can return it to the parish office or place in an envelope and drop it into the collection plate. All information will be stored securely and referred to only when & if required.

Please note, this is optional and open to all parishioners.

**For more information please contact the parish office.**

## Youth Corner (for 13yrs+)

Are you a young person in high school? Then come along to OLQP Youth Nights

**When:** Thursdays every fortnight in the school terms, starting 6th Feb 2025.

**Where:** Youth Room (next to the parish office)

**What:** Come to meet other high-school students who are part of the OLQP community. Share in spiritual faith nights and fun social nights.

**How do I stay notified?** Call the parish office or follow us on Instagram: OLQPGreystanesYouth

## 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, John Attard, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Kathleen Davies, Nerida Fabri, Solonge Faddoul, Margaret John, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Delma Ryan, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Grace Widjaya, Jasper Wilhite, 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.**

Josephine Galea, Leonard Pearman, Maria Francica, Monty Sultana

**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.*

## New Flower Team Members needed

Whether you have a flair for flowers or not, please consider joining our flower teams who meet once a month on a roster basis for about an hour and keep our church looking beautiful. No experience necessary, all help is appreciated. For more information please contact the parish office.

*"When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.  
The work of Christmas begins."  
(Howard Thurman)*

## Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2025

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

**To enrol and for more information, please contact Lisa in the Parish Office on 9631 8135 (Tuesday & Wednesdays) or email Lisa at [lisa.bright@olqp.org.au](mailto:lisa.bright@olqp.org.au)**

Registrations close 28th January, 2025 but spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.



# Growing in faith...

We are grateful for the OLOP Parish Community.

This year we celebrated

Lenten Groups & Parish Lenten Retreat

Daily & Weekend Masses

Festa

Gala Dinner

Youth Group & HSC Mass

School Gatherings

Thanksgiving of Ministry Events

Diocesan Pastoral Plan Conversations & Launch of Plan

We journeyed with people through life's precious moments: Weddings, Funerals & Baptisms

Season of Creation Reflection Evening

During the 1 Sept - 4 Oct we celebrated the Season of Creation. Fr Paul led us in a reflection on creation as core to our faith.

Craft Market

This year \$4910 was raised for the Melita Eagles Football Club. Next year funds raised will go to OLOP Parish.

Men's Breakfast

Sacramental Process

It was wonderful to journey with 160 families for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and 95 families for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Carols

Parish Consultation & Planning

# 2024



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

## Safeguarding is a priority at OLOP

Volunteers, group leaders and assistant group leaders are asked to complete the Safeguarding modules either online or in person. Details below.

**ONLINE:** To sign up & log into your Safeguarding modules, visit: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

**IN PERSON TRAINING:** To find a training session near you & to register, visit: <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training>. For more information, please email: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

## Job Opportunity

**Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown** is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Secretary to join the parish team on a part time basis, working from the Parish Offices at St Patrick's Church, 51-19 Allawah Street, Blacktown. This position is for 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday, with working hours from 9am to 4pm. This role offers a unique opportunity to support the mission of the Church in Western Sydney.

For job description and details, please email [admin@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:admin@mqofblacktown.org.au)

## The Parish Prayer Chest

You are welcome to write a prayer and place it in the prayer chest located in the chapel; perhaps to give thanks or to pray for the world, to praise God or to ask blessing and care for God's creation, to mention a special intention or to remember a loved one.

All prayers will be read with love by volunteer parishioners at the Rosary prayer time or other parish prayer group times. The prayers will then be placed at the altar during a weekend Mass.

As you write your prayer, may you sense God's tender closeness in your journey!



### Important Notice

#### FRIDAY NIGHT ROSARY

Will recommence: **31 January 2025**

**BOXING DAY MASS** - 9.15am

**NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS** - 6.30am and 9.15am

### 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](http://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

## Parish improvements

You may have noticed that there has been changes when entering and exiting the parish office. This improvement allows staff, priests and volunteers to work safely and securely at all times of the day.

**TO ENTER** the parish office during office hours:

1. **PRESS** the silver button that says 'press here' located to the **LEFT** of the screen door.
2. **This will alert a staff member you are at the door. When you hear a voice telling you that 'The door is open'**
3. **TURN** the screen door handle to enter.

P: 9631 8135 | E: [parishoffice@olqp.org.au](mailto:parishoffice@olqp.org.au)

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Join us on...

[www.facebook.com/OLQPGreystanes](https://www.facebook.com/OLQPGreystanes) | [OLQPGreystanesYouth](https://www.instagram.com/OLQPGreystanesYouth) | [www.olqp.org.au](http://www.olqp.org.au)

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

PO Box 5035 Greystanes 2145 | 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes