



# ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH MARAYONG

## Parish Vision Statement

We are an active and welcoming Catholic community, where people of all ages draw closer to God. His love is expressed through each one of us by prayer, liturgy and reaching out in service to one another.



## THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

Please visit our Parish Website: [www.standrewsmarayong.org.au](http://www.standrewsmarayong.org.au) Year C: Vol.51 No.03 14th December 2025

### THE PARRAMATTA WAY OF SAFEGUARDING IS TO...

Act with Justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person; ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

“This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8)



#### PARISH STAFF:

Fr. Kevin Redmond sm,  
Fr. Floyd Gatana sm,  
Fr. Lauro Arcede sm.  
Maria Hyson  
(Sacramental Coordinator)  
Merlinda (Merly) Generalao,  
Michelle Sultana &  
Joe Clemson  
(Office staff)

#### PARISH OFFICE:

**Phone: 9622 0817**  
40 Breakfast Rd, Marayong 2148  
[PO Box 4345]  
Email Address:  
**saapm@bigpond.com**  
Office Hours:  
Monday to Friday  
9.00am to 4.00pm  
**after hours 9671 5793**

#### PRESBYTERY:

41 Breakfast Rd, Marayong  
**FR. BYRNE CENTRE:**  
(Parish Meeting Rooms)  
38 Breakfast Rd, Marayong.

#### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

- After weekday & Saturday morning Masses.
- Before Vigil Masses Saturday afternoon 4:00~4:30pm
- Anytime by arrangement.

#### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Baptisms:** 1st & 3rd Sunday each month at 11:45am  
**Baptismal Preparation:** Second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the Fr Byrne Centre.  
*Please book for Baptisms with the Parish Office.*

#### PIETY STALL:

By asking for an appointment at the Parish Office.

#### WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday:  
Vigil 5.00pm  
Sunday:  
7.30am, 8.45am & 10.30am

#### WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday: 9.00am  
Tuesday: 9.00am  
Wednesday: 9.00am  
*Novena Mass: 7.00pm*  
Thursday: 9.00am  
Friday: 9.00am  
Saturday: 9.00am

#### PARISH SCHOOLS:

**ST. ANDREW'S PRIMARY**  
[www.standrewspsmarayong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.standrewspsmarayong.catholic.edu.au)  
Principal: Yvette McGowen  
Phone: 8869 6700  
Address: 36 Breakfast Road Marayong 2148

**ST. ANDREWS COLLEGE**  
[www.standrewscmarayong.catholic.edu.au](http://www.standrewscmarayong.catholic.edu.au)  
College Principal: Stephen Kennaugh  
Phone: 9626 4000

**Campus - JUNIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 7-10)**  
Address: 116 Quakers Road Marayong 2148  
**SENIOR CAMPUS (YRS. 11-12)**  
Address: 50 Breakfast Road Marayong 2148



## Christmas at St. Andrews

#### MISA DE GALLO

4:30am December 16 ~ 24  
Nine Dawn Masses with  
Mary, Mother of God

#### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Wednesday, 24th December

6:00 pm & 8:00 pm  
(Christmas—Vigil Masses)  
Carols at 11:15 pm

#### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Thursday, 25th December  
Midnight Mass - 12:00am  
7:30am, 8:45am & 10:30am.  
(Christmas Morning Masses)

#### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

After 9:00 am Weekday &  
Saturday morning Masses  
Before Vigil Mass 4:00-4:30pm  
Saturday afternoon  
Or by appointment

#### SECOND RITE

Parish Reconciliation  
9:30am Saturday, 6th December  
9:30am Saturday, 20th December



# Be patient and have courage

My friends, we are now in the Third Week of Advent. Our readings this Sunday, especially the first reading from Isaiah and the second reading from James, speak about the theme of patience and courage.

The book of Isaiah reveals what God can do for us. He will bring joy into our lives. He will change our struggles to joy and peace. As Christians, we are called to put our hope in the Lord and to take courage in all that we go through in life, knowing that God will always transform our lives.

In the second reading from James, we are reminded to be patient with ourselves and not to lose hope. James addresses a fundamental issue which we humans struggle with. We easily lose heart and are so impatient with ourselves when we face challenges and difficulties. The readings once again remind us about God's goodness to us.

As we look forward to the coming of our Saviour this Christmas, let us prepare our hearts. The testament for Christmas brings a message of peace and joy. We are encouraged to look with hope and courage for the joy and peace of Christmas, which transforms all the hardships and turmoil of life.

Let us open our hearts and desire transformation in our lives. The Advent season allows us to grow more deeply into ourselves. It is a season that shifts our focus to what really matters. Advent allows us to identify within ourselves what needs to be changed and what I must acquire that will prepare my path to meeting the Lord this Christmas. So, let us not lose heart and be patient with ourselves and wait in hope to receive Jesus in our lives.

..... from Fr Floyd Gatana SM

13th & 14th December 2025		LITURGY ROSTER			[2nd Sunday of the Month]
MINISTRIES	5.00pm	7.30am	8.45am	10.30am	
<b>MINISTERS AT THE ALTAR</b>	Myles Anderiesz	Aileen Dela Cruz Joanel Dela Cruz	Derica Elogious Joy Kakodkar	Ferdinand Chin Noe Adan	
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Nenette Gapud		Josephine Daly	Maricor Espinosa	
<b>FIRST READER</b>	Mariyam Wijeyaratnam	Lewis Manalili	Connie Reyes		
<b>SECOND READER</b>	Theodora D'Lima	Maryse Pereira	Christine Monteiro	Jay Ilagan	
<b>PROJECTIONIST</b>	Demaiyrah Desouza, Evelyn Moras		Jeremy Portelli	Clare Manu,	
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Monica Desira, Honorio Domingo, Maria Webb, Merlie Domingo.	Maurice Pereira, Agnes Zabala, Luz Tiqui.	Rittarina Reay, Julieta Pareme, Salve Gatchalian, Sam Cassar, Aradhana Hyson.	Bessie Mojica, Brenda Payne, Anna Amos, Virginia Salom, Socorro Amos. Merlie Domingo	
<b>USHERS/ WELCOMERS</b>	Henryka Ogrodniczek, Janine Wheeler	Claire Blunt, Anthony Culbert			
<b>MUSIC</b>	Hearts of Jesus & Mary	NO Music Mass	Praise and Glory	Couples For Christ Australia	

20th & 21st December 2025		LITURGY ROSTER			[3rd Sunday of the Month]
MINISTRIES	5.00pm	7.30am	8.45am	10.30am	
<b>MINISTERS AT THE ALTAR</b>	Romeo Gapud,	Elvie Clark John Blackford	Aileen Dela Cruz Joanel Dela Cruz	Ding Mojica, Morie Balisbisan	
<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	Erna Ferrer	Julie Nunez	Donna Ison	YouthWorks	
<b>FIRST READER</b>	Joyce Vincent	Sharmali Perera	Melvina Vaz	YouthWorks	
<b>SECOND READER</b>	Mariyam Wijeyaratnam	Agnes Zabala	Elizabeth Abbey	YouthWorks	
<b>PROJECTIONIST</b>	Demmfyrah Desouza, Evelyn Moras		Jeremy Portelli	Louisa Velasco	
<b>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</b>	Nenette Gapud, Cezare Estrera, Christiane Zammit, Mary-Ann Zammit.	Suzanne Daniels, Anthony Culbert, Maryse Pereira.	Maryanne Parsons, Rittarina Reay, Henrietta D'Sa, Estrellita Viola, +1	Aida Jamolin, Therrie Chin, Jay Ilagan, Vicky Ilagan, Maricor Espinosa. Bessie Mojica.	
<b>USHERS/ WELCOMERS</b>	Henryka Ogrodniczek, Janine Wheeler	Claire Blunt, Anthony Culbert			
<b>MUSIC</b>	Lorraine's Group	NO Music Mass	St Andrew's Family Choir	Fresh in Faith Youth Choir	

# LITURGY ROSTER FOR CHRISTMAS



If you are available to help with any of the ministries for the Christmas Masses please express your interest to the Parish Office.

*It would also be helpful if you were able to inform us of your availability, or non-availability, for the month of January 2025.*

December 24th - Christmas Vigil & Midnight			
MINISTRY	6.00pm	8.00pm	Midnight Mass
<b>Acolytes Ministers at the Altar</b>	Ferdi Chin Jacob Chin	Romeo Gapud	Joy Kakodkar
<b>Commentator</b>	Therrie Chin	Nenette Gapud	Vinetta Lobo
<b>First Reader</b>	Josephine Daly	Erna Ferrer	Nila Mangona
<b>Second Reader</b>			
<b>Projectionist</b>	Abigail Chin		
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Luke Binny		Linda Raneer
<b>Ushers/Welcomers</b>			
<b>Music</b>	Fresh in Faith Youth Choir	Choir & Rondalla Group	Combined Choir
December 25th - Christmas Day			
MINISTRY	7.30am	8.45am	10.30am
<b>Acolytes Ministers at the Altar</b>		Joy Kakodkar	
<b>Commentator</b>			
<b>First Reader</b>		Rose Rotik	Linda Raneer
<b>Second Reader</b>		Felix Villamarin	Maria Carpio
<b>Projectionist</b>			
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>		Rose Rotik Mariyam Wijeyaratnam	Vicky Ilagan,
<b>Ushers/Welcomers</b>			
<b>Music</b>		TBC???	Mafi Family



## MASS READINGS -YEAR A

### THIS SUNDAY:

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6. 10  
Psalm: Ps 145:6-10  
Second Reading: James 5:7-10  
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

### NEXT SUNDAY:

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm: Ps 23:1-6  
Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

### ***During the week prayers have been requested for.....***

Raul Abela, Guilherme Alvares, Josephine Alvares, Conception Bandola, Janette Barreto, Christian Raymond Barrios, Apolonina Boniba, Joseph & Irène Bouquet, Nancy Cabral, Mark Caruana, Regina Castelino, Sonny Castelino, Julie & Paul Clemson, Arsenio 'Sonny' Cortez, Mary Cumbo, Elvira De Leon, Aurora Dizon, Marguerite Doyle, Emma Gacusana, Dr Luisito Guanlao, Elizabeth Hales, George Kitney, Simeon Ledesma, Virgilio Malaluan, Amalina Martyris, Benjamin Martyris, Joseph Martyris, Sr. Alice Martyris, Graciano Menezes, Gregory Menezes, Maria Menezes, Marvin Monzon, Gerardo C Palma, Daisy Pangilinan, Adelwisa G. Pelayo, Randolph Persich, Phillip Rodriques, Joan Slater, Alfred Storey, Ralph Vaz, Aeldred & Riolene Weber, Teresa Xerri, Joseph Zammit, Stella & Felic Zammit, Duchenne & Farla Families, Collins & Quinn Families, McCabe & Fitzgibbon Families, All Souls in Purgatory

***Please remember in your prayers***

Sunday	14-Dec
	<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> Counters: Group 10 Bethlehem Olivewood Mission <b>07:30</b> Mass <b>08:45</b> Mass <b>09:30</b> Choir Practice CFCA <b>10:30</b> Mass
Monday	15-Dec
	Monday of the 3rd week of Advent <b>09:00</b> Mass <b>15:30</b> Jnr Legion of Mary <b>19:00</b> Mass Graduation SAP Yr6
Tuesday	16-Dec
	Tuesday of the 3rd week of Advent <b>04:30</b> Misa de Gallo <b>09:00</b> Mass <b>19:00</b> Legion of Mary <b>19:30</b> Music Practice combined choir
Wednesday	17-Dec
	17-Dec Fr Byrne - Anniversary of Death <b>04:30</b> Misa de Gallo <b>09:00</b> Mass SAC staff <b>19:00</b> Novena & Mass <b>19:30</b> Music Practice Lorraine's Choir <i>Last day for students</i>
Thursday	18-Dec
	18-Dec <b>04:30</b> Misa de Gallo <b>09:00</b> Mass <b>19:00</b> RCIA
Friday	19-Dec
	19-Dec <b>04:30</b> Misa de Gallo <b>09:00</b> Mass <b>15:30</b> Jnr Legion of Mary <b>19:00</b> Music Practice Fresh in Faith Youth Choir <b>19:30</b> Music Practice St Andrew's Family Choir <i>Last day of term</i>
Saturday	20-Dec
	20-Dec <b>04:30</b> Misa de Gallo <b>09:00</b> Mass <b>09:30</b> Parish Reconciliation <b>09:40</b> Legion of Mary <b>10:00</b> Church Cleaning LoM P2 <b>14:00</b> Holy Trinity Prayer Community <b>16:00</b> Jnr Legion of Mary <b>17:00</b> Vigil Mass <b>18:00</b> Holly Jolly Christmas event

## Acknowledgement from the Diocese for SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP -St Andrew's Marayong.

The Certificate of Acknowledgement presented with gratitude to the Parish for the extraordinarily generous support and hospitality towards Refugees and People Seeking Asylum, especially through participation in the community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP)

The certificate signed by Fr Fernando-Mentano Vicar General and Episcopal Vicar of Social Welfare DoP, Advisory Board Member Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains is published in the news section on our website.

## MISA DE GALLO



Our parish here at St. Andrew-Marayong, will celebrate **Misa de Gallo** at 4:30 am each morning from 16 to 24 December 2025.

Misa de Gallo, which literally means "Rooster's Mass," is a centuries-old dawn tradition in which the faithful rise before sunrise to keep vigil in hopeful anticipation of Christ's coming. Celebrated as a nine-day Masses at dawn or early morning, it expresses Advent watchfulness, Marian devotion, preparation for the celebration of the mystery of Incarnation, Eucharistic commitment, and communal solidarity as the Church joyfully prepares for Christmas.



### Christmas Offering Envelopes

These envelopes provide funding to supplement our first collection and they go to the support of our clergy throughout the diocese. We do need to ensure that we can provide for our current priests and also for our retired and housebound priests.

*Your generosity would be appreciated - envelopes at the doors of the church.*



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*Christmas Appeal good works*

Vinnies Christmas Appeal continues this weekend and we again ask for your donations of gift vouchers.  
*(pref. Coles & Woolies)*

The vouchers along with a Christmas hampers will distributed to needy families in our community so they can enjoy the love, the joy and the peace of Christmas.

Please leave your donations of gift vouchers or cash in the box next to the the Vinnies banner in front of the church or you can leave them at parish office.

***We thank in advance for your generosity. SVdP Marayong Conference.***

## LITURGICAL MINISTRY COURSE 2026

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone 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 the Parish Office. Registrations close 23rd January, 2026 but **spaces are limited so enrol now to avoid disappointment.**

### SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE (RECONCILIATION)

*The Sacrament of First Penance Program will take place in Term 1 for children in Years 3 & above who have been baptised.*

**Registration Forms may be collected from the Parish Office  
from Tuesday 27th January 2026**

[These forms may also be collected from the Parish Office  
on Sundays 1st February and 8th February 2026 between 9.30 and 11.30am]

**Registration Evening:  
Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.00pm in the Church**

**Classes:**

**Sundays 22nd February, 1st March and 8th March 2026**

[Classes begin with 8.45am Mass and conclude at approximately 11.30am]



**Sacrament of First Penance will be celebrated on :**

**Saturday 14th March (9:30 am) and/or Saturday 21st March (9:30 am) 2026**



**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen** OFM Conv DD STL  
Bishop of Parramatta

Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, Parramatta NSW 2150, Australia  
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ [bishop@parracatholic.org](mailto:bishop@parracatholic.org)

🌐 [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org)

8 December 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

After prayerful discernment and broad consultation which has taken several years, I am writing to you today to announce a decision of great significance to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

You may be aware that Blacktown City Council and Walker Corporation are developing what is to be known as Blacktown Quarter – situated in the heart of the Blacktown shopping precinct. The Diocese of Parramatta has purchased land within Blacktown Quarter, with a view to creating a Catholic presence, including a new Church for Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown, thus bringing together its two communities of St Patrick's and St Michael's into the one place of worship.

Blacktown is a significant parish in one of Australia's fastest growing areas. As the geographical centre of our Diocese, one of the most multicultural areas, and the largest local government area in NSW, Blacktown will continue to grow naturally with urban development, population growth and its proximity to the new Western Sydney airport and Aerotropolis.

The Catholic Church in Blacktown has had a rich and proud history. From St Brigid's at Prospect to the growth and establishment of St Michael's Parish and St Patrick's Parish, which itself was originally located in the centre of the civic, commercial and retail life of Blacktown. Since then, the thriving, diverse congregation of Mary, Queen of the Family has been involved in many areas in the community – from health, education, social services to welcoming migrants and refugees and helping those on the margins.

The redevelopment of Blacktown City Centre over the next 5 – 10 years creates a unique opportunity for our Catholic Church to be at the heart of where people gather – near transport links, public services, retail, workplaces and community spaces. Purchasing land in this central location ensures that our Catholic community will remain visible, accessible, and engaged in the life of the city for generations to come.

Being in the centre of civic life is a providential opportunity for evangelisation, mission and service. Jesus tells us "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden." (Mt 5:14). By situating the parish in a visible and accessible location, we seek to shine Christ's light where people naturally gather.

From this new spiritual home, we will be able to welcome new families and reach out more effectively to those on the margins; strengthen liturgical, catechetical, and community life; deepen partnerships for service with organisations in the civic centre; and be a daily visible sign of God's presence in the heart of the city.

By consolidating two historic churches into one new parish community, we are not closing churches. We are building a stronger, more vibrant spiritual home capable of meeting modern pastoral needs. This decision allows us to focus our resources on a mission-driven presence in the heart of civic life.

Both existing churches have been sacred places where countless baptisms, marriages, funerals, confirmations, and daily encounters with Christ have taken place. Their history will not be forgotten. As bishop, I reaffirm that the life and witness of the faithful who built and sustained these communities remain foundational to our future.

Brothers and sisters,

Change is never easy, especially when it touches places we love deeply. Yet throughout our history, the Church has grown stronger when we have listened to the Holy Spirit and courageously responded to the needs of the time.

I ask all the faithful to enter this new chapter with patience, trust and courage. Let us remember:

- We are not abandoning our past - we are carrying it forward.
- We are not losing our identity - we are renewing our mission.
- We are not closing communities - we are uniting as one body in Christ.
- We are responding to the signs of the times and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The return to the heart of this important city is a unique opportunity for us to be the Church in mission, for the parish and for the whole Diocese.

I thank all who have eagerly participated in this endeavour, in particular our partners at Blacktown City Council and Walker Corporation who recognised the need for the Diocese of Parramatta, its people and ministries to be present and involved in the heart of the new Blacktown City Centre. We willingly accept this involvement.

With this development, may Mary, Queen of the Family Parish continue to be a haven of welcome, a centre of mission and outreach, and a beacon of Christ's love in the heart of our civic community. I entrust this endeavour to the intercession of Our Lady under her title of Mary, Queen of the Family, the saints who have guided our diocese, and the faithful generations whose prayers have brought us to this moment.

With gratitude for your faith and collaboration.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in green ink, reading "Vincent Long Van Nguyen".

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL**  
Bishop of Parramatta

# **MISA DE GALLO** **2025**

**Nine Dawn Masses with MARY, Mother of God**  
**in joyful preparation for CHRISTMAS**  
**at ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH**  
**MARAYONG**



**“The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here... *cf. Romans 13:11-12***

**4:30 AM EACH MORNING**  
**FROM 16 TO 24 DECEMBER 2025**

**ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE CHURCH**  
**40 BREAKFAST ROAD, MARAYONG, NEW SOUTH WALES 2148**