



DIOCESE of  
PARRAMATTA

# MEDIA RELEASE

8 December 2025

## **Diocese of Parramatta to build state-of-the-art Catholic precinct and Church in fastest growing city, Blacktown.**

The Diocese of Parramatta has purchased land in the centre of Blacktown City, directly adjacent to the soon to be developed, Blacktown Quarter – a \$2 billion redevelopment vision from Walker Corporation and Blacktown City Council that will create a vibrant new heart for one of the largest and fastest-growing cities in Australia.

The Diocese will build a new Church and state-of-the-art Catholic precinct in the heart of the new city. From this new spiritual home, the local Parish 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. It will ensure our Catholic community will remain visible, accessible, and engaged in the life of the city for generations to come.

Upon completion, the Parish of Blacktown – Mary, Queen of the Family – with its strong and diverse history and faith community will be relocating its two sites (St Patrick's and St Michael's) to return to the civic centre where St Patrick's Parish was originally located. The Parish will be a vibrant space where faith, community and city life come together for over 10,600 Catholics and all who call Blacktown home.

The announcement was made to parishioners after a special Mass on Sunday 7 December 2025 with special guests Blacktown Mayor Brad Bunting, CEO of Blacktown City Council, Kerry Robinson OAM and CEO of Walker Corporation, David Gallant. A [full story is found here](#).

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, today shared his pastoral letter reflecting on this new chapter for the parish community.

### **Bishop Vincent's pastoral letter**

*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,  
Bishop Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv  
Bishop of Parramatta*

**For more information or to sign up for project updates, visit**  
[mqofblacktown.org.au/BlacktownProject](http://mqofblacktown.org.au/BlacktownProject)

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#### **About the Diocese of Parramatta**

The Diocese of Parramatta is the Catholic Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains and is home to over 320,000 Catholics with 45 parishes and churches. The Diocese educates more than 43,000 students across its 80 schools, employs more than 5,500 people and cares for thousands of people in need through its social services arm, Catholic Care. Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv was appointed the fourth Bishop of Parramatta in 2016. He is Australia's first Asian-born Bishop, and the first Vietnamese-born Bishop to lead a Catholic Diocese outside of Vietnam. You can read more about [him here](#).