

T
O
D
A
Gen 18:1-10; Col 1:24-28;
Lk 10:38-42

Psalm Response: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Servers
21 July Michelle Davis
28 July Grahame Adams

Readers
21 July 1st Reader Breda Seamons
2nd reader Barbara Grieves
Welcome/Intercessions Patricia Dee
29 July 1st Reader Claire Maguire
2nd Reader Frances Huckstepp
Welcome/Intercessions Marilyn Rowe

Communion
21 July Elizabeth Doolan & Grahame Adams
28 July Paul Harris & Ray Wood

Counters
21 July Julie & Lance Hodgkinson
28 July Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea
21 July Dave Harris
28 July Monica Bright

Church Care
26 July Pat & Phil Wicks

St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley

Entrance Ant: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Communion Ant: The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Saints Days of the Week (22 July- 27 July)

22nd	St. Mary Magdalene	friend of Jesus
23rd	St Bridget	religious
24th	St Sharbel Makhluf	priest
25th	St James	apostle
26th	Sts Joachim & Anna	Mary's parents
27th	St. Malchus	martyr



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 21/7/19

We can never be sure under what guise God will come to us. God comes unexpected ways and we must have an open attitude of hospitality if we are to receive the blessings that might come with such visits. We know that we cannot lay aside the responsibilities of our lives in order to sit with Mary at the feet of Jesus. However, we cannot allow ourselves to be held captive by these responsibilities, regardless of how legitimate they may be. So we continue to struggle; to carry the burdens that are ours for the sake of the people that we serve; to serve the people in our care realising that we will probably not be able to accomplish all of our tasks well as we would like. It is in this way that the reign of God struggles to be born.
© Dianne Bergant CSA

Next Week:
Gen 18:20-32; Col 2:12-14;
Lk 11:1-13

PARENTS' ROOM:

The Sacristy, which contains a few books and toys, is available for parents to use when young children are restless. We hope this makes it a little easier for you and your littlies.



Sacred Heart Parish

Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

As a community bonded together through faith, we are called to share our experience of God with those we meet each day, in particular, those in our local community.

We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders past and present, including those who may be with us today.

Blackheath	Sunday Mass	9.30am
Evening Mass	Tuesday	6.30pm
Morning Mass	Wednesday, Friday and Saturday	9.00am
	Thursday	8.00am
Benediction	2nd Saturday after 9.00am Mass	
Exposition	All other Saturdays after 9.00am Mass	
Reconciliation	Saturdays	9.30am
Healing Mass	1st Saturday of the month	9.00am
Mount Victoria	Vigil Mass (1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays)	5.00pm
Megalong Valley	Vigil Mass (2nd and 4th Saturdays)	5.00pm

Administrator: Father Bob Sheridan OAM **Parish Office:** 02 4787 8540
Parish House: 0455 104 994.
Parish Mobile: 0417 355 479 **Office hours:** Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
(Emergency only) **Thu** 9.00am - 12.00pm
E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org **Fri** 12.00 - 3.00pm

Parish House: 18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath. 2785
Sacred Heart Church: 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath.
St Paul's Church: 65 Great Western Highway, Mount Victoria.
St Joseph's Church: 1270 Megalong Road, Megalong Valley.

For Baptisms, Marriages and sick calls, please contact the Parish House.

Parish Pastoral Council meets the 4th Sunday of each month. If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Fr Bob; Diana Landsberg (Chair); John Barclay (Deputy Chair) or Patricia Dee (Secretary).

Sacred Heart Care Group (helping parishioners in times of need) call Monica Bright 4757 3943.

BULLETIN ITEMS: Please contact the Parish Office on Wednesday or Thursday during office hours on 4787 8540 or email blackheath@parracatholic.org

Website: <https://sacredheartblackheath.org.au/>
www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/

One of the things I find reassuring about today's Gospel is that the Church seems to have been wrestling with women's leadership since the very beginning. It's the issue that will not go away.

When it comes to interpreting scripture, I am always pleased that I'm a Catholic. We're not fundamentalists or literalists. We believe that the truth of the scripture lies not just in the words themselves, but also in the careful interpretation of the text in history. The story of Martha and Mary is a complex narrative. It can be read on at least two levels.

The first level is extraordinary enough: it focuses on Mary who assumes the position of the Rabbi's student and is defended against any attack on her right to be there. In first century Palestine, Jewish women were 'not permitted to be taught the Torah, but only instructed about how they should live their lives in obedience to its demands. They were not permitted to touch the scriptures nor to take part in public debate or official liturgical ritual.' (Fitzmyer, Luke p.892) From this context we can see the sort of freedom Jesus envisaged for women, against the practice of his own day.

On another level, however, this story focuses on Martha. The writer of Luke's Gospel tells us that we are in Martha's home and, that with Jesus as special guest at table, she is serving the members of her household with care and devotion. Martha comes across as strong and outspoken. Mary, meanwhile, is passive and silent. It is likely this story is criticising a call in Luke's community for women to move away from the leadership Jesus gave them and to adopt again the traditional roles to which the Jewish/Christians were more familiar.

At the Vatican on 21 May 2000 the Pope told a group of Bishops from the USA: 'The genius of women must be ever more a vital strength of the Church of the next millennium, just as it was in the first communities of Christ's disciples.'

To that end today's story from such a community holds a key to our own dilemma. Just as Jesus broke through the gender boundaries of his own day, so too must we. We must renew our commitment to ending anything that degrades, exploits or dehumanises women throughout the world.

But more, it's time for the Church to take some strong symbolic and practical steps to defend the leadership of women within our own Catholic community. For example, Church teaching does not stand in the way of re-admitting lay people, and this time lay women, into the College of Cardinals; women could continue to assume high profile positions in each Diocese and also leaderships roles within the Roman Curia, starting with those departments that deal with instructions and decisions that directly affect them; and the Church could welcome the ordination of women as Deacons.

These avenues would enable women to have even more options for them to demonstrate and realise the full extent of their genius, as the Pope puts it.

At this Eucharist, then, let us recommit ourselves to using, in the best possible way for the mission of the Church, the gifts, talents and strengths of over half our community. May we learn from the earliest Church, described in today's Gospel, 'that which is the better part' and never 'take it away from her.'

© Richard Leonard SJ

PLEASE NOTE ~ Parishioners are welcome to open windows during Mass, but it is VERY IMPORTANT that the windows are securely fastened again after Mass.

EARTH MINISTRY PROJECT
Sunday 28 July, **NATIONAL TREE DAY**, Australia's largest community tree planting and nature protection event. The goal is to plant one million new native trees and shrubs across the country this year! Find out how to be involved <https://treeday.planetark.org/>

There will be a meeting for the Earth Ministry Project on August 4 from 11.00am-12.00noon to review our goals and discuss further direction

PLASTIC FREE JULY

Join the millions around the world supporting this Australian initiative aiming to reduce plastic consumption and plastic waste. <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/>

LAUDATO SI' - CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME ~Presenters: Winton Higgins and Michael Whelan PhD
Where: Aquinas Academy, Level 5, 141 Harrington Street, The Rocks, Sydney
When: Four Thursday mornings 10am - 12noon, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2019
Cost: \$150/person (including notes)

For further information please telephone 02 9247 4651 or email secretary@aquinas-academy.com

NATIONAL VOCATIONS

AWARENESS WEEK: 4 - 11 August
National Vocations Awareness Week runs nationally from 4 to 11 August. The concept of 'vocation' applies to every person's life, for if we listen well, we discover that God calls each of us to play a part in his mission here on the earth. For more information about Vocations in the Diocese of Parramatta, please visit www.parracatholic.org/vocations/

Please pray for the sick and their carers:
Barry Bowden, John & Marion Crowley, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Pat Frazer and Tatiana Schultz and Elizabeth Farrar's sister Mary Rose.

CHANGED MASS TIME ~ Fr Anderson will not be available for Mass on Wednesday 24th July for the morning Mass.

VINNIES CLOTHING BIN TO RETURN ~ Soon, we will again have the convenience of a Vinnies clothing bin in the church grounds. For various reasons it was necessary to remove the bin that we had last year. The new bin will be placed at the far western end of the church car park, near the exit driveway.

SERVING AT THE ALTAR: 3 August

The Office for Worship is organising a formation day for Adult Servers and Acolytes. The formation day will be held on Saturday 3 August at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown, from 9.30am until 2.30pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. To RSVP, please contact the Office for Worship team on 02 8838 3456 or ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES ~ The Office for Worship is taking enrolments for its Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses for those who are interested in being Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion or Bringing Communion to the Sick and Dying. The course will be at the Institute for Mission (Downstairs Hall). **NOTE: Introduction Session on 12 August is compulsory. Enrolments close on 5 August 2019.** Please see your Parish Office for a form or for more information, contact

0288383456 or ingrid.vergano@parracatholic.org

Happy Birthday !

27th Laurie Noyes



22nd Nikola Sandor
23rd Bert Carlon
24th David Ridoutt
25th Jean Pye

