

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION
~ There will be no Second Rite of Reconciliation on April 1.

PLEASE PRAY for the sick and their carers: John & Marion Crowley, Shielagh Kirkham, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, Ray Wood and Elizabeth Farrar's daughter Emma



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT YR A
29.3.2020

On this last Sunday in Lent Lazarus is given to us to help us think about the tombs in which we lie hidden and the life to which we are called. The bad spirit seduces most of us into having some form of secretive life. It might be a secret we can't tell, a sin we can't confess or a memory we want to bury. At its worst it can be a lifestyle or a pattern of unethical behaviour we have divorced from the rest of our lives. We may even con ourselves into believing that all of this is normal and 'not so bad'.

But this Sunday Jesus stands at the entrance of our tombs and calls us out of them. We're asked to face down the bad spirits that keep us locked in secrecy, to move away from shame, embrace repentance, recognise the price to be paid for being true to what's best in ourselves and we're invited to know the light and life of Christ's healing and forgiveness.

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POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,

who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of all People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.
Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

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.*

There are no masses being celebrated here at this time. Live streaming of Masses, prayer resources etc can be found on parracatholic.org. They can also be found on our Parish website

Administrator: Father Bob Sheridan OAM Parish Office: 02 4787 8540

Parish House: 4787 8811

Office hours Wed 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Parish Mobile: 0417 355 479

Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm

E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org

Fri 11.30am - 2.30pm

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 **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; Brian Bright (Chair) or David Buckley (Deputy Chair)

Sacred Heart Care Group (*helping parishioners in times of need*) Monica Bright 0420 937 690

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/

SAINTS DAYS OF THE WEEK (16 Mar - 21 Mar)

30 Mar	St. Osburga	Abbess
31 Mar	St. Daniel	German hermit
1 Apr	St. Hugh of Grenoble	Benedictine bishop
2 Apr	St. Francis of Paola	Franciscan hermit
3 Apr	St. Richard of Wyche	English priest
4 Apr	St. Hildebert	Benedictine abbot and martyr

SPECIAL EDITION

INTRODUCTION: Hello, everyone! Worldwide, as we enter into the unique uncharted waters of the second quarter of this year, particularly for us in the Parramatta Diocese and locally, Sacred Heart Blackheath Parish, we are denied access to the very heart of our Catholic faith, our beliefs – Jesus’ Eucharist, the Mass! This has ever only occurred once before (at the very beginning of this colony), but never, ever on such a universal scale that we must now accommodate. We will need a strong faith indeed to survive this challenge unscathed, or with a minimum loss of love and commitment to God and each other. Prayer is the answer, especially in community within households and wider groups. We have to find a way to come together, be together, remain together during this testing time!

Mass is the common denominator that binds us together as Catholics, and keeps us together! In every other respect, there are many ‘differences’ between each of us – even within families. We each have different strengths, and different weaknesses. We support each other’s weaknesses with our strengths (and vice versa) – that’s what makes us the wonderful community we are here at Blackheath! Let’s never lose that friendly ‘family’ togetherness which so appeals to all! I beseech you never to willingly give up your attendance at Mass, because that is the critical source of our togetherness with Jesus and each other.

“Love God, love neighbour”

THE CURRENT POSITION: I have delayed penning this edition for over a day because of the many (sometimes hourly) variations to earlier instructions. It seems to me that a number of organisations have authority to make those changes, a bit disjointed on many occasions - Government, Vatican and Diocese (several sources) – with us in the middle trying to make sense of it all, and to bring together all that we seek to be and do. Example: Wedding; long term arrangements for 28/3 (Saturday); 24/3 (early Tuesday) was told all churches to close at midday that day; wedding couple advised of position and married in time for church closure. Now happily married! Much unnecessary heart-ache, in my view!

A few useable suggestions from the USA: Watch/listen to the Mass; read the daily Mass Readings; pray the Rosary and Chaplet; make your own ‘spiritual’ communion; set-up your own religious tableau for Adoration and Holy Hour; pray for those who have ‘Coronavirus’; pray for all who are dying; open your Bible and read it, preferably every day!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER (Vatican 25th March) (summary): Priest only (no people) to celebrate rites of Holy Week without concelebration. Note: “The faithful should be informed of the beginning times of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes”.

Palm Sunday: Blest Palms available in box outside door at Blackheath church after Mass. Help yourself!

Chrism Mass: Postponed to another date!

Holy Thursday: No feet washing. No Altar of Repose. May be held at another site without people!

Good Friday: No Stations of the Cross. No Megalong. Celebrant only to kiss Cross. No sunset meditation at Mt Blackheath

Easter Vigil: No fires. Otherwise light Paschal candle. Only in parish church (no outside service). Baptism promises only.

Easter Sunday: One Mass only in Parish Church. No dawn gathering at Govatts leap.

And for the last time - God Bless you! You are forever in my thoughts and prayers!

Fr. Bob

FIRST READING Ez 37:12-14 *A reading from the prophet Ezekiel*

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live. The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

SECOND READING Rom 8:8-11 *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans*

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

GOSPEL Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38 *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored. As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ The man himself said, ‘I am the man.’ They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’ Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man. ‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.