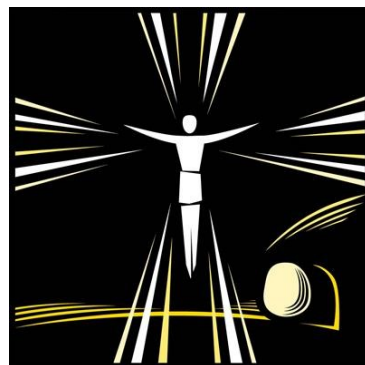


# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

12th April 2020



For many of our children the bunny and its eggs are the most important thing about Easter. Over the millennia, Christianity has had a gift for domesticating local traditions and festivals, bringing them on board and making them our own. The name Easter comes from the Anglo Saxon spring festival in honour of the goddess Eostre. Her symbol was the rabbit and the giving of eggs were signs of new life bursting forth as winter withdrew. These associations only make sense in the northern hemisphere, but we can see why the early Christians could be so adaptable and inculturated with this local festival.

In both hemispheres Christians today celebrate Jesus being raised from the dead. In the New Testament there are two traditions about how the disciples come to know about Jesus' resurrection: the empty tomb and the apparitions of Christ.

Today's Gospel belongs to the empty tomb tradition. On Magdalene's urging, Peter and John run to the tomb, find it empty and come to at least an initial belief about the resurrection of Jesus.

We do not believe that God simply revived Jesus' corpse in the tomb. Easter Sunday does not celebrate the resuscitation of Jesus, but his Resurrection. We know his 'glorified body' was not the same as his human body because Jesus' presence could be encountered in several places simultaneously and he is reported to walk through walls and to vanish. The link between both resurrection traditions is the importance of Jesus' death. In the empty tomb accounts, as in today's gospel, the writers give us extraordinary details about the grave clothes. In the apparition narratives there are usually references to Jesus' wounds. Whatever way they came to experience the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples knew that this was Jesus who actually died and was buried and that their personal encounter was with the one who was crucified.

What God did through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what Christians have done with local customs and festivals ever since: he entered into it, understood it, took it on board, domesticated it and vanquished its power. As a result we believe that God empathises with the full limitations of our human mortality and promises to remain faithful to us in death as he remained utterly faithful to Jesus.

That is why on this day 1,600 years ago St John Chrysostom could say on behalf of us all: 'Hell took a body, and discovered God. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are destroyed! Christ is Risen, and evil is cast down! Christ is Risen, and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and new life is set free! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruit of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen!' © Richard Leonard SJ

# 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](http://parracatholic.org). They can also be found on our Parish website**

**Glenbrook Parish:** 0417 541 637

**Parish Office:** 02 4787 8540

**Parish Mobile:** 04278 878 810

**Office hours** Wed 12.00pm - 3.00pm

**E-mail:** [blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

**Thu** 9.00am - 12.00pm

**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 Katoomba Parish 4782 2804

**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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

**Website:** <https://sacredheartblackheath.org.au/>

[www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/](https://www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/)

<b>SAINTS DAYS OF THE WEEK</b>		<b>(6 Apr - 11 Apr)</b>
13 Apr	St. Caradoc	Welsh hermit
14 Apr	St. Lydwine	Dutch saint, patroness of illness
15 Apr	St. Mundus	Scottish abbot
16 Apr	St. Bernadette Soubirous	visionary of Lourdes
17 Apr	St. Robert of Chaise Dieu	Benedictine abbot and founder.
18 Apr	St. Athanasia of Aegina	Greek widow and abbess

HAPPY EASTER! Jesus is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Despite all of the difficulties in this first quarter of 2020, today we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the death which he experienced three days earlier. Renewed! Revitalised! Refreshed! That's us! Perhaps a little lighter too for those who practised a Lenten diet these past forty days. We have given much during Lent, helping others (and ourselves) for our mutual self-benefit, spiritually as well as physically. We have emerged from our Lenten sacrifices to a new dawn of Christian life with today's commemoration of Jesus' Resurrection.

This year hasn't exactly been the Holy Week that we yearly look forward to, and it is certainly not what we wanted! It's missing so many of the things – and people – we love. But if God has permitted it, it means that he can use these activities to bring about an even greater good. When he did that with the first-ever Holy Week – bringing the greatest imaginable good out of the greatest imaginable evil – then he can do the same with this Holy Week, too!

That makes being alive during this particular Holy Week a privilege. It is a wonderful gift – to fully enter into the spirit of Holy Week, to live it in a way we never have before, but knowing all the while that this week will eventually end and Easter morning will dawn. That's God promise to each of us! That is our hope!

**PROJECT COMPASSION:** As always for us in Lent, there are plenty of empty coin boxes and envelopes outside of the main entrance to the Blackheath Church, just waiting for you to make your last minute donation to the welfare of so many destitute/needy people who live both here and in other parts of the world. Today is also the day when you may return those filled coin boxes you earlier took home, to us. (Contact the office on Thursday morning) Huge thanks for supporting all those desperate people/families whom you will never meet, through the good offices of the Caritas' network.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** Next Sunday is that extra special Feast of the Divine Mercy, proclaimed for us by Pope Saint John Paul II at the canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska on the 30th April 2000. The readings on that Sunday are all about mercy, trust and the forgiveness of sins. The daily recitation of the Divine Chaplet and other St. Kowalska prayers/meditation is recommended to you under the present constrained circumstances particularly on that day.

**PPC VACANCIES:** The Parish Council presently has three vacancies for interested parishioners to occupy. Should you be interested – and we all should be because important Sacred Heart Parish decisions are discussed and acted upon via this council – then kindly see Brian Bright (chairman) or others already on the Council. You, too, can be part of the decision-making (progress) of this your parish. So, give it a go!

**TIME FOR A CHANGE:** This is my last day as Administrator of the Sacred Heart Parish of Blackheath – a position that in several forms I have occupied over the past ten and a half years. I will miss the many challenges, friendships and support that have so often been unworthily mine (in my opinion) these past years. I really am going to miss every one of you in the time that lies ahead for both you and for me. Indeed, you are my 'family!' However, we cannot live in the past. I/we did the best we could for you and your parish, and I pray that you will build on that base in the years ahead. We are God's children! And he will take care of us all so long as we place our faith, trust and hope in him. Support those who lead you, and those who work for you and with you. As of tomorrow, allow me to introduce to you your new leader – Rev. Fr. Jolly Chacko, a close friend of mine and a first rate priest. He has fresh ideas and a fresh approach in his administration of this your parish. I know that he will be good for you, for this parish and for our wider Catholic world. If you look after him half as much as you did me, he'll also be very spoilt! For the last time,  
God Bless you! Fr. Bob

## OPTIONS FOR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS

1. If you already use electronic banking to pay your bills, the electronic bank transfer option is a way that you can make ongoing contributions to the Parish on a weekly or monthly basis.
2. Please email or phone me at [john.tweedie@gmail.com](mailto:john.tweedie@gmail.com) or 0407 288 957, or the Parish office at [blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org) or 47878540, if you don't already contribute in this way and wish to start. You will be given a contributor number – for those currently using the envelopes, this will be your envelope number. We will also advise you of the Parish bank account details.
3. All you then need to do is to go on-line to your bank or other financial institution, and set up a weekly or monthly transfer of your desired contribution. You will be in control and can cancel at any time.

### Happy Birthday !

15th Francesca Huckstepp  
15th Frank Portelli



### In Memory !

12th Mary Hart (d 2014)  
12th Andrew Ziolkowski  
(d1994 – Marjanna Gilchrist's only sibling)  
14th Una Woods  
15th Terrence Bucknel (2018)  
16th Lila Anthony  
17th Daisy Lillian Perriam (d 2010)  
18th Kenneth Vandenberg (2018)



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

## EASTER TRIDUUM LITURGIES

You are invited to watch the Easter Triduum Liturgies with Bishop Vincent. Please see below for details of dates and times. Please visit the Diocesan website ([www.parracatholic.org](http://www.parracatholic.org)) or the St Patrick's Cathedral website (<https://stpatscathedral.com.au/>) for details on how to watch the services. These can also be viewed on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese](http://www.youtube.com/user/ParramattaDiocese)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/parracatholooic](http://www.facebook.com/parracatholooic)).

Channels 7 and 72 will also be broadcasting the Good Friday Liturgy at 3:00pm on Friday and the Easter Sunday Mass at 10:30am on Sunday

## READINGS FOR THE EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Holy Thursday	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Good Friday	Is 52:13 – 53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 – 19:42
Holy Saturday Vigil	Gen 1:1 – 2:2; Gen 22:1-18; Ex 14:15 – 15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32 – 4:4; Ez 36:16-28 Rom 6:3-11 Mt 28:1-10
Easter Sunday	Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9