

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Year A

26.4.20

**this week: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21;
Lk 24:13-35**

**next week: Acts 2:14, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20-25;
Jn 10:1-10**



With very good reason, the story of the road to Emmaus is thought to be the best parallel we have in the New Testament to our weekly celebration of the Eucharist. This idea could be a little surprising for some who might think the Last Supper would hold more similarities. Luke, however, reminds his community, who are like us, that even though they, like us, are prevented from seeing Jesus, they can still have a life-changing experience of his presence.

The disciples are on a journey of faith and Jesus meets them where they are, as they are. This is a critical detail in the story. Jesus listens to their expectations, hopes and disappointments and only after they have expressed the reality of their situation, does Christ open the scriptures to them. In doing so he takes their disillusionment and enables them to see the connections with the story of salvation. This leads them to hope.

Every Sunday as part of our journey of faith we embark on our road to Emmaus. God sees our hearts and minds and wants to meet us in the midst of our lives, whatever they may be like. The Emmaus story teaches us that Jesus firstly wants to listen to us before he wants us to listen to Him.

You are invited to 'ALPHA ONLINE' Information and Training

Our call to invite others to know Jesus is as important as ever. Alpha is a tool that can introduce people to Jesus in a safe and comfortable environment. It can assist in creating and engaging your community – even online.

To find out more information about Alpha online, either to host within your own parishes or to be part of a Diocesan team, you are invited to attend a workshop on how to bring Alpha Online to life.

Monday 27th April, 10am – 11am Register at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltcOyqqzoiEt0u3G91lcUmCFc59H-MprPl>

Registration essential.

For any enquires contact Lisa Bright at lisa.bright@parracatholic.org or 0448 652 720

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Many parishes in the Diocese are now offering livestreamed Masses. These include daily Mass and Sunday Mass. You can see which parishes offer online Mass on our Diocesan website (<https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online>).

Sunday Mass will be also be streamed live on YouTube (<https://www.yuotube.com/user/parramattadiocese>) and Facebook (<https://facebook.com/st-patricks-cathedral-parramatta-1590485624520954/>) from St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

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**

Parish Mobile: 0417 355 479

Parish Office: 02 4787 8540

E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org

Office hours Wed 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Fr Bob: 0417 355 479 emergencies only

Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm

Fri 11.30am - 2.30pm

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.

Parish Pastoral Council: If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Brian Bright (Chair) (bbright45@bigpond.com) or David Buckley (Deputy Chair) (dbuckley45@bigpond.com).

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		(27 Apr - 3 May)
27 Apr.	St. Louis Mary Grignon	French Jesuit priest
28 Apr	St. Peter Chanel	priest, martyr
29 Apr	St. Catherine of Siena	virgin, doctor
30 Apr	St Pius V	pope
1 May	St Joseph the Worker	
2 May	St. Athanasius	bishop, doctor

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Joseph's

Jesus once walked on the earth and his walking was important. Today, we his disciples walk on the path he has set for us. With the Psalmist, each of us can say, "you have shown me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence" (Ps 16:11:cf acts 2:28). We are on a journey towards eternal life with God. We will one day reach our destiny. As long as we keep our sense of direction, take time out to consult our guide and observe the road signs, concerned for other travellers giving support to them, making it a regular practice to pray, we are sure to reach our goal. However, our Christian journey will not be exempt from the challenges of simply being human. The Gospel is Good News, but Jesus never said it was easy news. We will encounter the harsh realities of our personal and social lives. We are all facing such a big challenge at this moment and we must persevere in our journey and our set path. Life always seems better on the other side of the hill. The grass always looks greener in another field. After the crucifixion of their master, two of his disciples, disappointed because all their hopes had been dashed by his death, left Jerusalem and were on their way to Emmaus in search of the other side of Calvary (Lk 24:13). We can't act like them. "In prayer, you call God a Father, so then, live out the time of your sojourn here in reverence for God" (1Pet 1:17). This means that, when we are faced with difficulties, as we face them at this moment, we must not give up on God. We cannot always trace God's hands, but we can always trust God's heart, because God's goodness is equal to his greatness. God never abandons us. He always comes to help. Many times, in our journey we find ourselves immersed in trials and troubles, but if we remain calm and wait on God his gentle tug will pull us in the proper direction. Our "life jacket" may be other Christians or Scripture and the Eucharist as it was to Emmaus disciples. Like those disciples, we too can experience God as we listen to his Word. God knows that we need spiritual nourishments for our daily journey. In our journey we are not alone. Jesus walks with us. He walks with us in our lack of understanding, our hurts and our bitterness and in the middle of Covid19, as he did with the two disciples. He asks us to surrender our difficulties, worries about our lives, children, family, parents, friends, economy, jobs, country and the world into his hands and continue our journey. Remember the Lord walks with us. It is always better to have a guide himself with us walking, though maps and road signs are useful. He knows the way, because he has been there before.

Let us continue walking with our guide trusting that we never be lost.

**May God bless you all and keep you safe.
Father Jolly Chacko, MS**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Pastoral Council met with Fr Jolly via video link on Wednesday 22 April. Among other parish issues it was resolved that:

- i. The Chair of the Finance Committee (currently John Tweedie) form part of the PPC Executive.
- ii That the PPC Executive be further expanded to include two (2) Deputy Chairpersons and to the extent possible, a level of gender balance be sought in making these appointments.

The rationale behind (i) and (ii) above reflecting the importance of our Parish Finances, as well as, the expanded workload and responsibilities of the PPC as we move towards our new model of leadership.

FINANCIAL WELLBEING OF THE PARISH DURING THE COVID19 CRISIS

With the closure of churches to public Masses, the parish income has taken a severe hit. All expenditure has been suspended unless it is essential (such as paying for insurance, power, water and other services and for wages and urgent maintenance). But we still need you to continue your regular contributions to the Parish so we can meet these essential expenses.

Also, we usually have significant contributions from visitors at both Christmas and Easter, but our Christmas Mass attendances were badly impacted by the bushfires and of course there were no Easter Masses due to the lockdown.

Since our last Sunday Mass on 22 March, our only Parish income has been from those Parishioners who have been paying their regular contributions by electronic bank transfer. A number of Parishioners have changed over to this option in recent weeks. Thank you so much to all those Parishioners who have continued their contributions in this way.

What are my options to help maintain the financial viability of the Parish during the Covid19 crisis:

1 Electronic bank transfer option for those with internet banking - Finance Committee Chairman John Tweedie (contact details below) can provide you with the parish bank account details and can arrange for the necessary reference details to set up your transfer.

2 If you don't currently use internet electronic banking, the electronic bank transfer option may still be available to you with the assistance of your bank branch. Again, contact John for details.

3 If you normally contribute by envelope, and do not wish to use the electronic option, contact John to make arrangements for collection of your weekly and Special Easter collection envelopes.

4 If you don't contribute by envelope or electronic banking and would like to explore how you can still make a financial contribution to the Parish during this time, please contact John to discuss.

Please help keep the Parish financially viable during this difficult time. Contact John Tweedie on john.tweedie@gmail.com or 0407 288 957 to discuss any of the above.

NEXT PARISH WORKING BEE

SATURDAY 2 MAY COMMENCING 8AM.

Help needed!



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, Elizabeth Farrar's daughter Emma and Fr Mick Callaghan – former PP of Glenbrook Parish and former Dean of the Blue Mountains Deanery

Parish Council Vacancies – a Reminder

Closing Date: this Wednesday – please contact Brian (0401 768 688) or David (4787 5105 or 0400 208 707).

Happy Birthday !

26th Sue Gracey
28th Paula Schreiber (b 1922)
29th Sheilagh Kirkham

