

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.5.20

this week: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9;
Jn 14:1-12

next week: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pt 3:15-18;
Jn 14:15-21



The Way we follow is about justice, development and peace for all people everywhere and not just the select few who can build the biggest mansions on earth. We are invited to keep speaking the Truth even if that makes us unpopular or different or at odds with the majority. And we have to keep living the Life which sees that our greatest joy comes from human dignity being celebrated everywhere.

If all Christians lived out this Way, Truth and Life we would, by His grace, fulfil Jesus' extraordinary prophecy that we could do greater works than He did. Now that's a challenge to take with us into the coming week! © Richard Leonard SJ

PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF OUR LORD FOR ALL MOTHERS

Mary, on this day when we honour all mothers we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood, Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own "Fiat". May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love - the very heart of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son. On this Mother's Day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you....



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.youtube.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

E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org

Fr Bob: 0417 355 479 emergencies only

Parish Office: 02 4787 8540

Office hours Wed 12.00pm - 3.00pm

Thu 9.00am - 12.00noon

Fri 9.00am - 12.00noon

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 OF THE DAY

(11 May - 16 May)

11 May	St. Francis Jerome	Italian Jesuit preacher
12 May	St. Dominic de la Calzada	Spanish hermit
13 May	Our Lady of Fatima	
14 May	St Matthias	Apostle
15 May	St. Dymphna	Irish martyr
16 May	St. Andrew Bobola	Polish Jesuit

Everyone in the world experience some manner of trouble. None of us are free from it. Trouble appears to crush people. Some people invite trouble unaware that, it will welcome and accept our invitation at any time. A lot of trouble in the world is caused by people trying to reform other people first. We are not so much talking here about such troubles; We talk here about real troubles. One is afraid of unemployment; parents are fearful about their sons and daughters going through great worries, Someone afraid of not being able to find a place to live or his freedom taken away, children afraid of losing their parents. Apart from such personal troubles, we are all afflicted by the fear of Covid-19. To add to all these, we have our imaginary troubles. We live in a time where in we all feel great fear. Fear is of two kinds. One is constructive fear. This is the fear that can lead us to deeper constructive and creative action. Many of our progress has been a result of fears of starvation, sickness and the like. One of these days I was listening to a press conference of the Kerala Chief Minister in India ,where in he expressed his fear of the consumer state, people with the most educational average, white collar jobs not having enough food supply, if the Covid-19 continues for another few months, due to the inability of food supplies delivered to the state from other parts of India. He asked every family to plant vegetables and fruits to be self-sufficient. It can be an instruction to create a vegetable revolution to that state.

There is another kind of fear which is destructive. This fear leads one to deterioration of emotional state, to increased nervousness, impotence and unreasonable behaviour. We should not become victims of this destructive fear but act with an attitude of calmness and have a strong trust in our own inherent power to face it. We should move towards a constructive action knowing that we are all in God's hands. It was this kind of trust in God that Jesus was referring to when he said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me" (John 14:1). We must believe that God is with us in our trouble. We may not see him, but he is there. Jesus promised us that God is always with us and will save us in spite of our troubles. Yes, we are believers in God, and he created each one of us. Then we ask the question why is there so much suffering? Does he not notice us? Albert Einstein, a scientist who believed in God, once said "Mind and reason do not give answer to our suffering. We have to find answers elsewhere. We have to give up our idea of a God who always does what we think is good for us and others". "We have to accept that God's ways are not our ways, yet He is infinitely good". We trust Him as Job and Jesus did. We do not promote suffering. On the contrary we try to eliminate every suffering. But if suffering comes, we accept it as a sign of our trust in and fidelity to God. Jesus was aware of the existence of suffering and evil all around Him. The midst of suffering Jesus is our model: Many presume that Jesus, accepted suffering as suffering. But Jesus considered suffering as negative and life crippling. He fought against it and its causes. That is why He directed His ministry to remove suffering and helping those who were suffering. Jesus healed the lepers, the deaf, the blind, the lame and the sick. He accepted suffering only when it was unavoidable without making compromises on life-giving principles. We too shall suffer while living the life-giving values of the Gospels, but if we keep ourselves united with Jesus, we shall experience what St. Paul experienced and say what he said "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed" (2 Cor 4:8-10). To be able to follow the model of Jesus, we should be people of prayer. Like Paul, we must call upon God and pray to him in our troubles. Not just in times of troubles a Christian should pray; prayer should be the soul of our faith life. The Early Church realised the importance of prayer so well that when the Apostles found that they had no time "for prayer and the service of the word" (Acts 6:2) they appointed seven Deacons to care for the material needs of the community so

they themselves could devote all their time to prayer and preaching the word. Therefore, let us become prayerful people. The Lord will encourage a prayerful Christian to have a calm appraisal of the problem that is causing fear and motivate us to use the available resources to overcome our difficulties. The Lord will give us the ability to bear it. Yes, the Lord is good; as someone has said: "Happiness keeps you sweet, trials keep you strong, sorrow keeps you human, failure keeps you humble, success keeps you glowing, but only God keeps you going".

Let us be aware of his presence with us all the time to keep us going and doing the good works we can do.

Parish Pastoral Council Update

Appointments to Parish Pastoral Council ~ A big thank you to Christine O'Grady, Elizabeth Giddey and Julie O'Keefe for nominating to fill the current vacancies on our Parish Pastoral Council. These appointments were confirmed at a Special meeting of the PPC on 30 April. The PPC is now at full strength and the obvious gender imbalance that had evolved through resignations has been addressed.

'State of the Nation – Parish Finances' ~ A further special meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council was held on Wednesday 6 May to receive a comprehensive 'state of the nation' report from the Finance Committee. As clearly outlined in previous submissions to our Parish Bulletin, our Parish finances are under acute stress. The problems of reduced income, dating right back to the severe fire situation in the lead-up to Christmas and New Year, have been greatly exacerbated since the Covid-19 shutdown of our churches. Missing out on the usual abundance of visitors impacted on our collections and on our usual cake sale. For many, we have not had the opportunity to receive your generous financial support since mid-March – nearly eight (8) Sunday's ago - but the bills keep coming in!!

A big Thank You to those who have already switched to making online contributions. But we desperately need more parishioners to take up this option – please! Any questions in relation to the various options available, please contact Finance Committee Chair, John Tweedie on: 0407 288 957 or email at: john.tweedie@gmail.com.

WORKING BEE – THANKS to Lance Hodgkinson, Paul Harris, John Tweedie and Lindsay Inman for your hard work last Saturday. And a thank you to Diane and Murray Stewart for looking after St Paul's at Mount Victoria and to Norma Carlon for keeping an eye out at St Joseph's in the Megalong Valley !!



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

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please contact Cate Mitchell cathleenm2014@gmail.com or 0435861006 and collection can be arranged.

Rest in Peace!

- 10th Kathleen Columbine
- 12th Leonard Kirkham
- 14th Dawn Sheridan
- 15th Ken Austin



Happy Birthday!

13th Margaret Davis



Happy Anniversary!

13th Pat and Carol Drummond

