

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
24.5.20

this week: Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23;
Mt 28:16-20

next week: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13;
Jn 20:19-23



**Our Lady help of Christians
pray for us and for our
country**



Whether we realise it or not we are commissioned to go out to the world at the end of every liturgy, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' This changes our worship. We are not here just for ourselves. Mass, which comes from a word meaning 'to be sent', indicates that our liturgy is about celebrating what God has done in the world in and through us, and is a preparation for what God still wants to accomplish.

We continue to experience the abiding presence of Christ in our daily lives or else we wouldn't be here. God, as revealed in Jesus Christ, is not distant to our lives or impervious to our needs; we believe in a Companion-God who seeks our company as much as we need his.

Let's thank God for the mountain top of Christ's Ascension that lifts us up out of our everyday life to celebrate that we are creatures, not the Creator. Let us hear again Christ's call to each of us to move away from the complacency of a spiritual cafeteria to a church moving out to change the world. And let's rejoice in Christ's presence which abides before us, behind us, over and in us, within and without, now and forever. Amen.

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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: 0428 878 810

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

(25 May - 30 May)

25 May	Our Lady Help of Christians	
26 May	St Philip Neri	priest
27 May	St Augustine of Canterbury	bishop
28 May	St. Paul Hanh	Vietnamese martyr
29 May	St Paul VI	pope
30 May	St. Joan of Arc	martyr

FR JOLLY'S REFLECTION ON THE READINGS ~ Ascension is the celebration of Jesus's accomplishment and fulfilment of the greatest act of love and the redemption of all time and people. Life is the most precious gift we have from God, the author of life. All of us value our life very much. We all want to be happy and contented in life. Logically, as we grow older, we have to find ourselves happier and living a fuller life. Our joy and happiness must be ever on increase. Certainly, it should not be on the decrease. But in truth, the opposite is true for many of us. Many as they grow older, get stuck in the struggles that come their way of life. Suffering is often related to love and life. Love involves sacrifice, pain and suffering. A father who loves his family is ready to work hard and make many sacrifices for the sake of his family. He does not regard it as 'pain' or 'suffering' but an act of 'love' for his family indeed, it is his love for his family that gives meaning to his hard work and sacrifices. A mother who gets up a half a dozen times at night to nurse her baby does not call those actions 'suffering'. Hence, if we live in love we become loving persons. Many times we hear that Jesus' suffering and precious blood saved us once for all. How inaccurate; The fact is, it was the love of Jesus that had saved us and not his suffering and precious blood. Of course, because he loved us, he had to undergo the pain of being misunderstood and persecuted, shed blood and put to a brutal death. But it is purely His love that saves us. All of us are fruits of love, long for love and search for love. Hence Jesus would ask us to make love the rule and motive of our lives whereby we shall be happy always. Love is the passport to a state of abiding Joy, Peace and Freedom. The feast of Ascension tells sacrificial love never ends in failure but total freedom and salvation. As I reflect on the Ascension of Jesus, I feel that he ascended into heaven to lead us in love and celebrate the meaning of the freedom that sacrificial love offer. He is the leader of love. From heaven as the leader he has been giving an endless supply of workers to his church on earth. He wants all of us to be involved in the work of the Kingdom. That is why Jesus said to his disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you and remember, I am with you always, to the end of age" (Matthew 28:19-20).

The mission of the apostles was simple to understand, but difficult to carry out. It was to teach others all that he had taught them through his words and actions. Just as he asked his disciples to obey him, they were to ask that others should obey his directions and instructions and live the life of love. The programme of redemption and salvation (The mission of love) must continue from generation to generation, person to person until the end of time. We had many changes in the church and in society and we still continue to change. For example, we experience lots of changes in our behaviours, our way of worship and social living now, due to Covid-19. But the two things that have not changed are Jesus himself, and every word of his message. The message and the messenger have never changed and will never change.

Pope Francis says: "I want the church to go out onto the streets, I want us to resist everything worldly, everything static, everything comfortable, everything to do with clericalism, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves. Our Parishes, schools and institutions are all made for going out if they do not, they become an NGO, and the church cannot be an NGO". He continues to say, "you are bearers of hope You are the protagonists of the future, artisans of the future Make the future with beauty, with goodness and truth.... have courage. Go forward. Make noise."

Dear friends, let us remember, we write a new page of the gospel each day, through the things that we do and the words we say. Therefore let us listen to Jesus words and make disciples of him. Disciples of Jesus through our examples. Disciples who obey everything that he has commanded us. And remember, he is with us always to the end of age.

RESUMPTION OF MASSES ~ As detailed in a letter sent to all parishioners earlier this week, celebration of Mass has been able to resume this week – in full compliance with government and diocesan guidelines.

Please be reminded:

Numbers attending are limited to 10 persons attending in addition to Fr Bob;

It is essential that those coming to Mass register at: www.massregister.com.au;

Please follow guidelines posted in the church; and Stay Safe!

**PLEASE NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE PANDEMIC, CHURCH TOILETS ARE LOCKED
THEY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR USE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

LAUDATO SI WEEK ENDS THIS SUNDAY! ~ This Sunday, make some time at 12pm to join the globe in a moment of prayer. To finish Laudato Si week people all around the world will say this common prayer at 12pm in their local time. This link takes you to a great video put together by diocesan students saying the common prayer and below is the text - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OdPIYtiT80&feature=youtu.be>

If you like, take a photo of you or your household, parish getting together on Sunday to say the prayer. Post it to social media and use the hashtag #LaudatoSi5.

Some parishioners are gathering in small groups (keeping within covid-19 guidelines) down in the forest below the church at 12 noon on Sunday to mark this special occasion and say the Laudato Si Prayer (copy with last week's Parish Bulletin) - can also be found at: <https://laudatosiweek.org/prayer/>

CARITAS – PROJECT COMPASSION

2020 ~A big thank you to all those who so generously supported our Project Compassion Appeal this year – despite all the difficulties imposed with church shutdown!

A total of \$814.90 has been banked and at least \$200 sent direct to Caritas – again, more than \$1000 – a great effort once again from the smallest parish in the diocese. Sincere Thanks once again!!

Rest in Peace!

25th Lorenzo Fusina
26th Thea Ellis
27th Rosemary Davis
29th John Pye MSC
30th Geoff Cliff



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 Deanery

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE DESPERATELY NEEDS OUR HELP ~

Parishioners are reminded of the special food drive we are conducting for Jesuit Refugee Service – it is not too late to leave your donations in the bins provided outside the church – these are emptied daily. JRS are assembling 80 hampers each day for families in desperate need – your help is urgently needed - please.

A detailed list of what is needed can be found at: <http://www.jrs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/single-page.pdf>

WORKING BEE SATURDAY 30 MAY 8AM

Our next Parish working bee is on Saturday morning 30 May from 8am.

Call Lance on 47878096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information. All welcome to come and help.

