

Today Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23;
Mt 13:1-23
Next week Wis 12:13.16-19; Rom 8:26-27;
Mt 13:24-43

Psalm Response: The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

COUNTERS

12 Jul Pamela & John
19 Jul Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

READERS AND SERVERS: If you are planning to attend Sunday mass could you please volunteer to read or serve on the day as no rosters can be done at the moment. Thanks.

FAREWELL and THANK YOU

All parishioners are invited to gather in the Hall (and outside of, to keep our social distancing) on **Sunday 19th July** after mass to farewell Diana and Joe Lansberg who are leaving us after all these years to start a new life in Melbourne.

You are asked to bring a small 'plate' to share. Any queries phone Christine O'Grady 0417 234 875

ATTENTION: The brass alter book-stand and a small statue of Mary seem to be missing from the sacristy since approximately 10th of June. We are anxious to get them back, so if you know where they might have gone could you please return them, or leave a message on the office phone (4787 8540). Thank 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.



**15TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME
YR A**

In recent years the Church has regularly reminded us that the issue of caring for the environment is an important part of our Christian commitment for justice. We have been reminded that while the earth has been entrusted to us as stewards, to be preserved, it is also given into our hands to be developed in such a way that there will be a productive earth for future generations to inherit. We believe the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which we say are 'the fruit of the earth and the work of human hands', are changed into Christ present among us. May these Eucharistic gifts rooted in our soil, effect in us a change that might enable us to have ears to hear the groan of creation as it calls for us to be careful sowers and responsible reapers. May our stand for justice always take into account the care our earth requires so that we have a productive planet to hand on to our children.

By how we choose to live now, may we hand it on to them in better shape than we found it.

© 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.

THIS COMING SUNDAY THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE MASS - AT 9:30AM SUNDAY at Blackheath Attendance is still limited to 50 – Please 'book in' no later than 10am this Saturday. Please email Brian – bbright45@bigpond.com - with cc to - dbuckley45@bigpond.com
Or simply telephone/text: 0401 768 688 (Brian) or David on 0400 208 707.

Parish Mobile: 0428 878 810
E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org
Fr Jolly: 0417 541 637 and
email: jollyms20022000@yahoo.com

Parish Office: 02 4787 8540
Office hours Wed 12.00pm - 3.00pm
Thu 9.00am - 1.00pm
Address: PO Box 354, Blackheath

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 (13 July - 18 July)
13 July St Henry Bavarian emperor
14 July St. Kateri Tekakwitha Native American, patroness of ecology
15 July St. Andrew Nam-Thuong Vietnamese martyr
16 July Our Lady of Mt Carmel
17 July St. Marie Claude Brard Carmelite martyr
18 July St Camillus de Lellis priest

Father Jolly's Reflection for the 15th Sunday in ordinary time.

Logo therapy is the art of healing by giving hope and meaning to one's sufferings. Viktor Frankl, an Austrian neurologist, psychiatrist and author of many books, had discovered this method to treat his psychologically affected patients. It is a method of psycho-therapy evolved around giving hope and meaning to one's life. Our world seems to be trapped in a cycle of hopelessness threatening to destroy our capacity to imagine and wonder. How many of us ever spend time to imagine what it would be like if the whole world lives at peace? We do not look at the possibilities of peace, so invent reason to miss-trust and fight with one another. We invent weapons and words to keep away one another. It is because we do not really believe in the power of God's word. Yet we hear in the first reading the „Prophet Isaiah saying, “The word that goes from my mouth does not return empty” (Isaiah 55:11). Jesus himself being the Word of God sowed his words as seeds of life on earth, enabling the humanity to return to God with all creation. Through the power of the Word Jesus is active and alive in our midst. Like the sower in the parable God scatters the signs of his presence throughout his creation. He speaks to us in the quietness of our hearts. Do we meet the Lord of Peace? Are we able to silence many noises of war within us that destroy our capacity to allow God's voice to be heard? We can hear God's life-giving word in any of our life's experiences. We can hear God's words in pleasant and great events and experiences. But we could also hear God's word, and often more clearly, in unpleasant aspects of our lives if we are sensitive to creation. St. Paul says “Creation groaning in a great act of giving birth” (Romans 8:22). It means God can speak to us powerfully through our pains, problems, our weakness, fears and ambiguities of life. It is not enough to hear or just listen to the word of God. Like the sower's seeds in the parable, it must germinate in our hearts and they should become seeds of life. We must practice them. The word must bear fruit in our lives. Our effort in putting God's word into practice may be small like a seed but if we allow it everyday to grow in us, we may be able to see the miracles of growth happening all around us. Thus let us open our hearts and make it a fertile ground, so that the seed of God's words may grow well and we may produce hundredfold.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE: We have begun work on our Parish Plan for the coming twelve months or so. We are considering the development of the Parish Plan under three of the main themes from Plenary 2020:

1. Being a Jesus-inspired, humble, healing and merciful parish community
2. Being a missionary and evangelising parish community
3. Being a joyful and hope-filled parish community

This will involve drawing on our Plenary Council 2020 submissions and the associated documents and papers. We will involve parishioners in the process as we move along.

PARISH COUNCIL TO MEET WITH MINISTRY GROUPS: After mass on Sunday 26th July, the Parish Council members and Fr Jolly would like to meet with one or two members of each ministry group in the parish hall. The contact person and one other person are being invited to this meeting. We would love to have the whole group there, but we need to bare in mind the numbers. The purpose of the meeting will be to touch base and hear how groups are going, any particular needs at this time and what might be coming up for the remainder of the year. We will also talk about the new sacramental ministries group/s for preparation of those wanting to receive the sacraments and for those interested in leading communion services.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! 12th Dave Harris



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time –12 July 2020 – 9:30 am Mass

*** BOOKING IN IS ESSENTIAL ***

Given numbers attending Mass are increasing, it is essential that everyone books in please

IF YOU HAVE NOT BOOKED IN, YOU MAY WELL NOT BE ABLE TO COME IN – we must comply with the Health Departments guidelines – we are only able to seat 47 parishioners – maximum. Please contact Brian bbright45@bigond.com or 0401 768 688; or David – dbuckley45@bigond.com or 47875105 / 0400 208 707 – no later than Saturday 10am please.

To better allocate seats, we need to know if you need 1, 2, 3 or 4 seats

If you can't make it on the day, please let us know – in fairness to anyone we may not be able to fit in!

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY ~

In the wake of the death of George Floyd and the worldwide Black Lives Matter protests, Fr Frank Brennan SJ says a spotlight is shining on “the appalling statistics of Aboriginal deaths in custody” in Australia. Source: Crux.

Fr Brennan, who received the Order of Australia for his work for Aboriginal rights, was speaking during a Mass for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday, observed on July 5. In his homily, Fr Brennan referred to the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, where Indigenous representatives told the Australia people that their “sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or ‘mother nature’, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty.” The Jesuit said he hoped the statement would “change hearts, providing a more secure place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the life of the Australian nation.”

Fr Brennan noted that the preparatory documents for the upcoming Australian Catholic plenary council has called for forging deeper relationships with Australia's indigenous peoples.

“This Discernment Group has laid down the challenge: The Church in Australia must be shaped by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and spirituality for it to be authentically a Church of this land. When the Church sinks its roots deep into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, it will authentically be a Church in the land with a new vision and energy for mission,” he said

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS IN THE

CHURCH ~ The church will be open next week on Wednesday and Friday between 2:00 -3:30pm for private prayer. Social distancing, signing in and sanitising your seat will be required.

IN MEMORY !

12th John Forster
18th Keith Malkin
18th Fr Alex Sciberras
18th Ray Lee



EPIPHANY PILGRIMS

There is an opportunity to join the pilgrims this Saturday afternoon in Bell for a Vigil Mass at 3:30pm.

Numbers are strictly limited to 20 and filling quickly! Registration to attend is through the Epiphany Pilgrim email link epiphanypilgrim@gmail.com

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, John Hanna and Fr Mick Callaghan – former PP of Glenbrook Parish Deanery, Peter Gale, Doug - Connie and Graham's son-in-law, Adrian & Robyn Carroll