

Today Wis 12:13.16-19; Rom 8:26-27;
Mt 13:24-43
Next week 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12 ; Rom 8:28-30;
Mt 13:44-52

Psalm Response: Lord, you are good and forgiving

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

COUNTERS

19 Jul Julie & Lance Hodgkinson
26 Jul Cate Mitchell

CHURCH CARE

July Jim & Cathy McNamara

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 is still missing from the sacristy since approximately 10th of June. We are anxious to get it back, so if you know where it might have gone could you please return it, or leave a message on the office phone (4787 8540). PS Mary has returned. 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.



**16TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME
YR A**

Today we hear how the Spirit of God dwells in all of us, helping us in our weakness. The first disciples had Jesus to explain the parables; we have the Spirit to enlighten us. It is the Spirit who helps us to interpret the teaching of Jesus and to be receptive to the challenges that they pose.

There are two images of judgment in the readings. The one in the gospel is terrifying and decisive. The wicked are bound together into bundles and readied for burning. We must remember that this is a parable. In the first reading and in the psalm response the justice of God is said to be lenient, clement and kind. The power of God is demonstrated not in retribution but in mercy. God is said to be 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness and fidelity', and repentance is a very real possibility. This is the image that gives us hope.

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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.co.in

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

(20 July - 25 July)

20 July	St Apollinaris	bishop, martyr
21 July	St Lawrence	priest, doctor
22 July	St Mary Magdalene	disciple of Jesus
23 July	St Bridget	religious
24 July	St Sharbel Makhluf	priest
25 July	St James	apostle

Father Jolly's Reflection for the 16th Sunday in ordinary time. Our responsorial Psalm for today, totally describes God's attitude towards each of us. "O Lord. You are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call". God waits for our conversion to grant us his forgiveness.

Repentance, conversion, forgiveness and reconciliation are interconnected in the Bible. We find a total of 80 references to conversion in the New Testament. The main root used to express the idea of conversion is Metanoia which means to undergo a change of heart and the return to God. The Psalm continues to say to us that God is a God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, and abounding in love and truth. God gives us time for conversion. Conversion means a total change from all previous non-life ways to ways of fullness of life. It means adopting entirely new life-giving attitudes. God waits for our call to be freed from our obsession with sin. In today's First Reading St. Paul reminds us that "The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For we do not know what, we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself pleads for us with unutterable groanings" (Romans 8:26). God is with us. Repentance and change of heart are our response to the joyful discovery of the Good News. It is a turning to God. It is the discovery of the unconditional love and forgiveness of God. When we discover this love, it becomes easy for us to turn away from sin. Every person is capable of responding to God's unconditional love and forgiveness. There are no hopeless cases with God. God searches for all of us. God has become incarnate to seek all of us in our loss. God's love is so great that His forgiveness is unbelievable. It is our common experience that through a true and real loving encounter with a loving person that we realize what it means to be a loving and compassionate person ourselves and how much we fall short in this regard. Encountering a loving person reveals to us who we are and awakens our inner goodness to be better persons. It stimulates us to be better and transformed persons. The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness in this discovery. We are all in need of repentance and of being forgiven. This becomes possible because God loves us unconditionally. The parable of the bad seed or the darnel show us there will always be evil around us, but God gives us the grace to remain among them and produce the harvest. It also tells us God continues to give chances and waits until the end to see our conversion. God is patient and calls us to be patient with evil. Secondly, we must pray that the evil forces of darkness may not overpower us. If we find it difficult to pray, let us call the Holy Spirit to help. "The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness". Our patience with evil should not make us passive or indifferent to evil. We need to do our bit to remove evil wherever we can. It is always better to light a candle rather than cursing the darkness. In Hinduism, spirituality is known as the human search for the absolute God in all human limitations, while in Christian spirituality God searches for humanity and saves it with all its limitations and imperfections. But there is a beautiful prayer which the seekers of God prayed every day and is described as the perfect prayer in the Upanishad which all of us could pray all the time. "O Lord lead me from the unreal to the real, from darkness to light, from mortality to immortality or eternity". May we live for eternity and immortality with God. May we be able to join the Psalmist to sing the second part of today's Psalm for eternity. "All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God".

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.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE: Further to Richard McMahon's news in a previous report from the TWP, this week has been another busy week progressing the agenda to have a new **Pastoral Leader** in place for our parish by the end of this year. Last Thursday, we met with Peter Williams to begin the process of writing a **Position Description** for a person assuming this role in our parish. With considerable time spent drafting a document over the weekend, following the meeting and drawing on valuable help from Richard McMahon (Pastoral Planning Office), we now have a working PD document. Following expressions of interest by prospective applicants for the position, we can now walk them through what will be required in taking on this role.

As we engage with the diocese in discerning the best person for this position, we are very conscious of the fact that our Parish is committed to serving all of God's people in our local Community. There are 6,978 people living within the boundaries of our parish, comprised of Blackheath, Mount Victoria and the Megalong Valley. There are 1054 of these identifying as Catholic. Of these Catholics, an average of 100 (approximately 10%) currently attend services across our 3 Mass centres. We are all called through our Baptism to engage in spreading the Good News throughout our community. Supported and inspired by our **Pastoral Leader**, "*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.*" (Parish Mission Statement)

FAREWELL JOE AND DIANA LANDSBERG: We are so blessed to have had Joe and Diana among us over many years. We can be truly grateful for their active involvement in our parish community. Their hospitality in opening their home "Withercombe" to us for our annual Parish Picnic over many years has been a happy memory for many of us. Diana's contribution to our community particularly in her various roles on the Parish Pastoral Council and as part of our Music Ministry team will be greatly missed, as we farewell them. We wish them and their family God's blessing as they continue their journey to join their two daughters in Ivanhoe. Melbourne's gain is definitely our loss. - Brian Bright

Fr PJ, Chaplin at Penrith Hospital is leading us in our Mass this Sunday.

***** BOOKING IN IS ESSENTIAL *****

LAST SUNDAY WE HAD 36 PEOPLE ATTEND BUT ONLY 26 BOOKED IN WITH BRIAN OR DAVID. IF WE REACH OUR CAPACITY (45) AND YOU HAVE NOT BOOKED IN, YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO COME IN TO THE CHURCH FOR MASS. PLEASE BE SURE TO BOOK IN!

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 MEMORY !

- 19th John Briggs
- 20 Monica van
- 21 22nd Nikola Sandor
- 23rd Bert Carlon
- 24th David Ridoutt
- 25th Jean Pye



PLEASE PRAY for the sick and their carers: John & Marion Crowley, Shielagh Kirkham, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 19th Christa Buckley

