

Today Zec 9:9-10; Rom 8:9.11-13;
Mt 11:25-30
Next week Is 55:10-11; Rom 8:18-23;
Mt 13:1-23

Psalm Response: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

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

5 July Carla & Neil Endean
12 Jul Pamela & John

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

PROJECT COMPASSION UPDATE ~ Due to COVID-19, Project Compassion has been extended and parishioners can bring their boxes or envelopes to parishes, or if they are unable, can contact 1800 024 413 or go to lent.caritas.org.au. A video message from Caritas Australia on how they are helping around the world can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk7AvhdL0IM>.

For any further support, please contact Patrice Moriarty 0409 399 505

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.



**14TH SUNDAY IN ORD TIME
YR A**

Our faith is not about praying away our problems or fears and wishing it were otherwise. Our faith means we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ so that we never carry our burdens alone. God is our companion and guide and this parish Community is called to be the sort of place where we carry each other's burdens and rest with each other awhile. Jesus didn't come to us as a divine magician, waving a wand over our problems to wipe away all our tears. Rather, he accompanies us so he can show us that the gift of peace and a release from our life's burdens is often found in having the perspective for exercising the gift of right judgment. Making the best possible choices leads to the alleviation of our pain and difficulties.

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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@bigond.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 (29 June - 4 July)

6 July	St. Maria Goretti	virgin, martyr
7 July	Bl. Peter To Rot	Papuan martyr
8 July	St. Maria Chaira	Chinese martyr
9 July	St. Augustine T'chao	Chinese martyr
10 July	St. Anthony Pechersky	Ukrainian hermit
11 July	St Benedict	abbot

Father Jolly's reflection for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Malala Yousazai was shot on Tuesday 9th October 2012, by the Taliban. As the wounded Malala was taken to Peshowar by helicopter, Malala's mother who never knew how to read and write rushed up to the roof of the house and took her scarf off her head, an extremely rare gesture for a Pashtun women, and lifted it up to the sky, holding it in both hands as if it was an offering she prayed "God I entrust her to you, we didn't accept security guards, you are our protector, she was under your care and you are bound to give her back". Again at the hospital as doctor Junaid was cutting away some of Malala's skull her father prayed with the following words "O' God, please make Malala well, even if I have to live in the deserts of Sahara, I need her eyes open, I won't be able to live without her. O God let me give rest of my life to her; I have lived enough. Even if she is injured, just let her survive". Malala's mother interrupted him, "God is not a miser, He will give me back my daughter, let us go to him, He will give us the courage, He will give us rest". One of the doctors who witnessed that said, "I had never seen someone praying like her". I was sure God would answer such prayers".

In today's Gospel we hear Jesus telling us "come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and humble, of heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light". (Matthew 11:28-30).

In our lives we are anxious about many things that we may have to face this day. We long to know that we are not alone. Sometimes we feel abandoned, as if God has left us and forgotten us. We cannot feel his presence, and our lack of faith and trust get the better of us. Our human qualities keep us from being reminded of our constant connection to God. We feel lost, it is in these times we need to hear more and more the invitation of Christ, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest". We will be able to go to God only when we realise the blessings of God and are thankful enough to God for his blessings. It is a pity that human nature is such that we are slower to recognise blessings than evils.

Shakespeare writes "Blow, blow trouble winter wind, thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude". Ingratitude is an attitude that prevent us from going to God and finding the needed rest and comfort in the Lord. We need to thank God not only for big blessings but also, and especially, for small ones because our God has chosen to love and reveal himself especially to the small, the poor and the ordinary ones. "I bless you Father for hiding these things from the learned and clever and revealing them to mere children". (Matthew 11:25) prayed Jesus. When our lives become at its darkest and our journey becoming most frustrating and painful, we may wonder and shout in anger, "God, where are you?! It is a question for ages. It is a question that points to our deepest longings. It holds our greatest fear, our most profound need, and even our highest hope. It is the question that begs for the assurance that the Psalmist gave when he said confidently, "I will fear no evil". Why didn't he fear? The reason he gives summed up in five profound words of faith: "For you are with me". God's abiding presence is with us. It is only in humility that we can find this trust. The Lord tells us it is not our learning or wisdom that helps us to recognise the abiding presence of the Lord. It is our childlike attitude of humility and gratitude that makes us to live in his abiding presence all the time. Thus, when we feel burdened, let our prayer be:

Dear Lord, whom or what shall I fear when you walk beside me? Nothing can disturb me knowing that I am not alone. No matter how difficult I may feel, I have a friend, a confidante, and a loving mother and father in you. You are always here for me. I thank you for being beside me. I thank you for allowing me to come to you, and I praise you for allowing me to encounter you through the small and simple blessings I receive

every moment of my life. I ask you for the grace that I can carry my yoke with you and find rest in you. May I always find rest in your abiding presence and my burden be light and yoke easy.

PARISH COUNCIL: David Buckley and Brian Bright, together with Frances Huckstep from the Transition Working Group (TWG), met Bishop Vincent this week to talk with him following his receipt of the TWG's Report re the future leadership of the parish. Richard McMahon, the TWG chair, also attended the meeting and his report appears in this Bulletin. Further to his report, we can also report that we put our case to be involved in the selection of the person for the parish leadership position, once the bishop has decided on the model of leadership for our parish. It was, too, an opportunity to reflect with Bishop Vincent on current pastoral initiatives. He supported our request to organise our own roster of priests for Sunday mass and to conduct communion services. Our request for a further meeting to look at sharing resources such as a Youth Coordinator or Pastoral Associate across parishes of the upper Mountains was favourably received.

BLACKHEATH TRANSITION WORKING PARTY UPDATE: Last month, the interim report based on the consultation with this community was forwarded to Bishop Vincent. At the same time, it was circulated widely in this community for comment. Positive comments from parishioners affirmed the report as a good representation of the community's position and broader mission. Brian Bright, David Buckley, Frances Huckstepp and myself met with Bishop Vincent on Tuesday 30 June to discuss the future leadership of the community in light of the report. At this meeting, Bishop Vincent affirmed his gratefulness to the people of Sacred Heart Blackheath, and for the comprehensive report offered. He made it clear that a parish priest or deacon are not options for the community at this time, and is now considering options related to a priest moderator with either a religious or lay leader. He reinforced both his intent not to amalgamate, and to ensure provision of ongoing sacramental support to the community. Let us continue to pray for Bishop Vincent and all those involved in discerning the future leadership of not only our community of Blackheath, but the neighbouring parish of Upper Blue Mountains. Kind regards, Richard McMahon, on behalf of the Transition Working Party.

ATTENTION: The brass alter bookstand 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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2nd Philia Portelli
5th Kate Forbes (b 1960)
7th Christine Burke
7th Michelle Davis
10th Robyn Carroll



IN MEMORY !

1st James Keith Johnston
5th Matthew Gregan
6th Annie Cecilia Smith (Kate Forbes' grandmother)
8th Alma Birrell (d 2015)
9th Cecily O'Brien



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