



Today Is 56:1.6-7; Rom 11:13-15. 29-32;
Mt 15:21-28
Next week Is 22:19-23; Rom 11:33-36;
Mt 16:13-20

Psalm Response: O God, let all the nations
praise you!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus
preached the Good News of the kingdom and
healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Servers

16 Aug Paul Harris
23 Aug Pat Wicks

Readers

16 Aug 1st Reader Pat Wicks
2nd Reader Mary Roberts
Welcome/Intercessions David Buckley
23 Aug 1st Reader David Buckley
2nd reader Christa Buckley
Wlcome/Intercessions Brian Bright

Counters

16 Aug Laurie Noyes
23 Aug Diane Stewart

Church Care

August Lance & Julie Hodgkinson

Flowers

August Cate Mitchell

PLEASE PRAY for the sick and their carers:
Ron O'Brien, Peter Gale, John & Marion
Crowley, Shielagh Kirkham, Maria Slater,
Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana
Schultz, Trennah Portelli, Eliza-
beth Farrar's daughter Emma, John
Hanna and , Doug - Connie and
Graham's son-in-law



**20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME YR A**

This story tells us of the power of in-
tercessory prayer. The woman goes
through her ordeal not for herself but
for her daughter. Her faith in Jesus is
the vehicle by which someone else's
life is enriched. As Christians many of
us regularly tell others, whom we
know are in need, that we will pray for
them. Often these people, some who do
not share our faith, are touched by this
kindness.

When we make our prayer intercesso-
ry, either at home or in the Prayer of
the Faithful at Mass, it can be our fin-
est hour. It can be the time when we
forget about ourselves and our needs
for a while and ask for the needs of
someone else, even if we don't know
them. This type of prayer has the possi-
bility of helping us place our lives in
context and reminding us that while we
have a seat at the world's table, others
are at our feet scavenging for scraps.

The best prayer reminds us that we
have to work to raise up all of God's
children to the places of honour which
everyone deserves. © Richard Leonard

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Livestreamed Masses from across the Diocese of Parramatta are still available on the
Diocesan website <https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online>.

SAINTS OF THE DAY (17 Aug - 22 Aug)

17 Aug	Bl. Caspar and Mary Vaz	Japanese martyrs
18 Aug	St Helena	mother of Constantine
19 Aug	St John Eudes	priest
20 Aug	St Bernard	abbot, doctor
21 Aug	St Pius X	pope
22 Aug	Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	

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 SUN-
DAY 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 Buck-
ley (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/](https://www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/)

PARISH CALENDAR:

Wednesday 19th August: PPC Exec Meeting 4.30-.530pm
Saturday 22 August: Working Bee – Church Grounds – 8am – 11am
Wednesday 26th August: PPC Zoom meeting 4.30-6.00pm
Sunday 30th August: Social Justice Sunday
Tuesday 1st September: World Day of Prayer for Creation - Special Mass at 11.00am

Father Jolly's Reflection for the 20th Sunday in ordinary time.

Our adult human behaviour is formed very much by our early healthy or unhealthy upbringing. If people are brought up in happy family and their basic human needs are met, we can expect healthy adult behaviour from them. On the contrary, if one's childhood was spent in an unhealthy environment, our adult life could be fully of behavioural problems. Adult life is greatly conditioned by early childhood upbringing. These up-bringsings radically affect one's way of seeing, perceiving, knowing and relating to people.

Today's First Reading tells us to care for justice and act with integrity. Our Christian Faith and Journey should be an act of allowing God to bring us up and help us to grow in a sense of justice and integrity. Faithfulness is a gift given to us by God, but we need to grow up every day in the practice of integrity. Prophet Isaiah talks about the Lord leading the people into the mountain of holiness and encourages the people to serve him and love him by practicing justice and integrity of life. Then the Lord will make his people joyful. Just like in the Book of Isaiah, we see in the Second Reading St. Paul calling all people of God to lead a reconciled life and be obedient to God. God welcomes everyone without discrimination and shows his mercy. It is not our race that allows us to experience God's love and mercy but our faith in him. To live a reconciled life means to live in peace with oneself, others and God. It brings joy into our lives. It needs great faith. It is the expression of that kind of faith that we see in the Canaanite Woman of today's Gospel. Jesus healing of her daughter was a response to such a great faith. Through her deep faith, she becomes a model and example for our faith journey. She was a person of faith. It seems that nothing could discourage her. She first met a wall of silence then rebuff and insult but she threw herself at the feet of Jesus and she was rewarded. Let us ask ourselves, is my faith as good as this Canaanite woman? How persevering are we in our faith. We also see an irrepressible cheerfulness in the faith journey of this woman. Jesus uses the apparent insult when he called her "dog" but she won't let the rough side of life get her down. She turned the insult into a blessing and got what she prayed for. If our faith is strong, we would always be cheerful within. How can we be more cheerful and strengthen our faith? The only way is the constant practice of service and prayer.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE: The recent workshop with Sr Mary-Louise on the Liturgy of the Word with Communion Service and taking communion to the housebound was very informative. We will soon have the printed resources for our current acolytes to lead our community in this service, in the absence of a priest to celebrate Mass. We will also organise for others to complete their training in leading such a service and taking communion to parishioners who are not able to attend the Sunday Mass.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT PRIEST: We welcome the appointment of Fr Abraham Kunnatholy, a member of the Syro Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas Aquinas, currently residing at Toongabbie, as Assistant Priest at Katoomba as well as at Blackheath. He will take up this appointment on 15th September, and be available to administer the sacraments and serve the pastoral needs of our parish as well as Katoomba. We await the appointment soon of a Lay Pastoral Leader for Blackheath.

15TH AUGUST: MARY MACKILLOP – A Reflection for Today by Sr Colleen O'Sullivan RSJ Sr Colleen invites us to reflect on some of the qualities of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop as a saint very relevant for our world today. Like Mary, how are we called to be where we are fully?

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

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN: This plan will be based on 3 chosen areas from the 6 themes of Plenary Council 2020 and ideas voiced at our last AGM (2019). Parishioners are invited to join a Zoom session if interested in developing our plan. Please pick up a pack of materials after Mass on Sunday, 23rd August. We will have our first Zoom planning session on Wednesday, 26th August, from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. Please email me on bbright45@bigpond.com if you want to join in and I will send you an email with the Zoom link for this session, closer to the day.

SATURDAY SESSIONS: Register in advance for this meeting to receive the links for the presentation and ZOOM meeting:

<https://dioceseofparramatta.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwudeCvpjsiGtP7mLN2akpCygpGy-IHSPuU>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about the presentation for this week and a link to join the meeting.

SHARING OUR FAITH – OUR FUTURE

As we think about the future of our parish, it is becoming obvious that we need to encourage more young families to join us. At the moment the only way we can make contact with them is through the children in our SRE (Scripture) classes, BUT with only 3 scripture teachers (catechists), we barely have enough to take the classes at Blackheath and Mt Victoria. WE NEED MORE CATECHISTS to make sure we can continue with our SRE classes.

For more information contact: par-racatholic.org/ccd/#section-1
Claire Maguire: mob 0400786639, email: cmaguire269@gmail.com.

DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA COVID -19 UPDATE

Parishes across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have COVID-Safety plans in place requiring social distancing, maximum attendance figures and other safety measures.

On consideration of the most recent NSW Health advice, the Diocese of Parramatta highly recommends all worshippers at Masses in the Diocese to wear a mask to, during and from Mass and other services.

We understand the inconvenience that masks may pose, but the health of our parishioners and the wider community is our highest concern. We sincerely thank you for understanding, and for playing your part in keeping our community safe.

BISHOP VINCENT EDMUND RICE CENTRE WEBINAR: 19 August

Join Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv as he addresses the climate emergency in the Pacific and how Australia should respond during an online webinar on Wednesday 19 August from 6.30pm to 8pm. The webinar, hosted by the Edmund Rice Centre, will also feature the former President of Kiribati. Registrations are essential, so please visit <https://www.erc.org.au/events> to receive the link to the webinar.

EARTH MINISTRY PROJECT 11am Mass Tuesday September 1

World Day of Prayer for Caring for Creation. Register your attendance with Brian or David

Sacred Heart Gardeners ~ Enjoy gardens and gardening? Come along to the inaugural meeting of Sacred Heart Gardeners this Friday, August 14 at 2pm on the church veranda.

The aim of our garden group is to build biodiversity on the site through a variety of plantings, including veggie garden beds. Regular jobs will involve composting, weeding, watering, mulching, planting, harvesting and topping up the bird bath containers. Meetings will be weekly at 2pm on a Friday afternoon. Loving our glorious church grounds!