



Today 1 Kgs 19:9.11-13; Rom 9:1-5;
Mt 14:22-33
Next week Is 56:1.6-7; Rom 11:13-15. 29-32;
Mt 15:21-28

Psalm Response: Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

Servers

9 Aug Diane Stewart
16 Aug Paul Harris

Readers

9 Aug 1st Reader Monica Bright
2nd Reader Brian Bright
Welcome/Intercessions Paul Harris
16 Aug 1st Reader Pat Wicks
2nd Reader Mary Roberts
Welcome/Intercessions David Buckley

Counters

9 Aug Marilyn Rowe
16 Aug Laurie Noyes

Church Care

August Lance & Julie Hodgkinson

Flowers

August Cate Mitchell

54-DAY ROSARY NOVENA FOR THE CORONAVIRUS

The National Rosary Crusade 54-Day Novena invites you to join them in prayer for a nationwide 54-day rosary novena to Mary Help of Christians, the national patroness. The novenas will be run between 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption through to 7 October, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. For more information, visit the group's Facebook page.

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 (10 Aug - 15 Aug)

10 Aug St. Lawrence deacon, martyr
11 Aug St Clare virgin
12 Aug St Jane Frances de Chantal religious
13 Aug St. Hippolytus priest, martyr
14 Aug St Maximilian Kolbe priest, martyr
15 Aug Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YR A

Matthew's account is magnificent on its own terms, but we can see he is also interested in a theological message. Jesus, the Son of God and Lord of creation, remains faithful to the disciples, no matter how treacherous the seas or how great their fear. He has come to them so that they may be saved and recreated as the Church who recognises that he is the fulfilment of creation, the one whom Israel has been longing to see and embrace. And what does all this mean for us? We are inheritors of Matthew's faith. We're here because we believe that Jesus is the Son of God who has saved us from ourselves and from destruction. But it also means that in every storm that threatens our lifeboat Jesus comes to call us to faith, to catch us when we think we're drowning, to accompany us back to safety and to bring calm to the troubled seas of our life.

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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/

PARISH CALENDAR:

Tuesday 11th August Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge ABC 8:30pm

Wednesday 26th August: PPC Zoom meeting 4.30-6.00pm

Tuesday 1st September: World Day of Prayer for Creation

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

Father Jolly's Reflection for the 19th Sunday in ordinary time.

"The sea speaks a language polite people never repeat. It is a Colossal Scavenger Slang and has no respect" says Carl Sandburg: There are thousands of lives that the Oceans have destroyed. The raging waves of the sea are like the storms of human life.

In today's Gospel we see Peter almost getting drowned if Jesus would not have helped him. We see here Peter stretching out his hands to cling to Jesus, when he was ravaged by the turbulent waves of adversity.

Is our faith strong enough to stretch out our hands to cling to Jesus? What do we do when we are lashed by stormy situations in life?

At present we are all walking through stormy sea of Covid-19. In the midst of all our turmoil, like Peter we are able to cry out to him "Lord, I am drowning". When Peter was not able to continue his walk and was drowning, he turned once more to the Lord and cried out, "Lord save me" and the Lord immediately stretched forth his hand to help him. Clinging to Jesus, Peter walked through the stormy sea. It is when we are in the middle of the stormy sea that we must seek out the Lord more. It is easy to trust the Lord when everything goes right. But to trust him when everything in our lives becomes difficult is called faith. It is very sad and unfortunate that many of us run away from God, like Elijah did when he was most in need of God. We look for caves to hide in. Elijah, unable to face the opposition, gave himself up to despair and hid in a cave, but God called him out to meet him (1Kings 19:9). It tells us that we should keep our eyes focused on Jesus at all times. We should never lose our focus, but remain focused and cling to Christ in times of turmoil. We need strong faith in God's presence in our lives. Faith is more an encounter with Christ rather than just a belief about him. It is more an experience of his divine presence. Yes, faith in God would not take away or remove all the difficulties of life but it will give us the strength to cope with them. It is not an easy journey. At the beginning of today's Gospel for the disciples Jesus is a 'ghost' but at its close he is the 'Son of God'. This is not an easy transition; it is a dramatic and spiritual adventure. God comes to us and speaks to us in the silence of our hearts. We must listen to God and allow Him to hold our hands and cry out to Him asking Him to save us. This journey is a journey of deep prayer. Behind a great life there is a great deal of prayer and an effort to focus on the Lord. Prayer is not an easy job. Bernard Lonergan says, "prayer is being in love with God". It is easy to be in love with someone when things are light and joyful but when the storm is strong and turbulent, it is not easy. It is in those times that love is being tested. Real prayer is spending time with the one we love at a difficult time to be with that lover. It is spending time with the one we love and who loves us all so incomparably, and being open to Him, becoming aware of His omnipresence. Prayer is letting God love us, and allowing God to be God in us. Prayer is letting go and letting God hold us, just like Peter did when he was drowning.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE: The Saturday Zoom Sessions, run each Saturday morning by the Pastoral Planning Team, are a great way to tap into some excellent resources to help us reflect about our life as a Christian in today's world. Last Saturday they revisited Bishop Vincent's opening address to the Diocesan Forum in 2019, where he outlined his vision for our diocese:

In the exile, God's people experienced a profound loss. From being a great nation with all the status symbols of power, they were reduced to a stateless and dejected people. Yet, it was in that moment of utter vulnerability, they gained a new insight into what it meant to be God's people. There was a paradigm shift, a fundamental change in the way they related to God, to others and the world around them. They gradually came to a new understanding of the disorientation, dislocation and marginalisation that was forced upon them.

Through the prophets, Judaism was reimagined outside the Promised Land. They learned to witness to their faith by the core values of neighbourly solidarity, love and compassion. The exiled Church of ours must similarly learn to adapt to changing social and cultural conditions. It is time to be prophetic. The prophets did not simply reiterate the past. They reengaged the faith tradition with fresh insights distilled from lived experience. We must not be afraid to embrace new fresh creative ways of embodying and conveying effectively the message of the Gospel to the culture in which we live.

We cannot conduct "business as usual" because the ground under our feet has shifted. The Holy Spirit is speaking to us as Church through the challenges and signs of our times. The signs of our times demand a Gospel-inspired response. We need to work in partnership and embed the values and principles we want to embrace into the structures and practices of our diocese.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR RETIRED PREISTS - FATHER'S DAY APPEAL 2020

Owing to COVID19 pandemic and its social and financial impact on families, communities and Churches, the Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese of Parramatta will not be holding its Annual Bishop's Collection for Retired Priests, i.e. the Father's Day appeal, this September. Like many other organisations, the CSF will use its own resources to support the retired priests in this financial year. Donations will always be accepted, however, via our BPOINT portal at www.parracatholic.org/csf or electronic funds transfer to BSB 067950 Account No 00001691 Account Name CSF No 1 with Reference your name. IF you would like a tax deductible receipt for your donation, please send email to csf@parracatholic.org with your name and address details.

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: paracatholic.org/ccd/#section-1
Claire Maguire: mob 0400786639, email: cmaguire269@gmail.com.

EARTH MINISTRY PROJECT

Homelessness Week 2 August 2020 – 8 August 2020

Support St Vincent de Paul's Build Homes Build Hope campaign calling on the Government to build an extra 5,000 social housing properties per year for the next decade by signing the online petition: <https://socialjustice.vinnies.org.au/campaigns/build-homes-build-hope-2/>
Tuesday August 11

Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge

ABC 8:30pm

Tune into this informative 3 part documentary for ideas to support the beginning of our carbon neutral parish journey

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

10th Adrian Carroll
10th Marie Johnston
11th Phil Wicks



IN MEMORY !

15th Francis Doyle



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, Elizabeth Farrar's daughter Emma, John Hanna and , Doug - Connie and Graham's son-in-law

