

Today Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-24. 27;
Mt 20:1-16
Next week Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11;
Mt 21:28-32

Psalm Response: The Lord is near to all who call Him.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

Servers
20 Sept Pat Wicks
27 Sept Grahame Adams
Readers
20 Sept 1st Reader Christa Buckley
2nd Reader Monica Bright
Welcome/Intercessions Brian bright
27th Sept 1st Reader Claire Maguire
2nd Reader Connie Adams
Welcome/Intercessions Pat Wicks

Counters
20 Sept Barbara Grieves
27 Sept Marilyn Rowe

Church Care
Sept Noleen Cliff & Marilyn Rowe

Flowers
Sept Rosemary Kenny & Mary Batty

PLEASE PRAY for the sick and their carers:
Breda Seamons,, 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



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

(14 Sept - 1912 Sept))

21 Sept	St Matthew	apostle, evangelist
22 Sept	St. Phocas the Gardener	martyr
23 Sept	St Pius of Pietrelcina	priest
24 Sept	St. Gerard Sagredo	martyr
25 Sept	St Finbar	Irish bishop
26 Sept	Sts Cosmos & Damian	martyrs



25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YR A

Those people who have decided that God can only work in certain ways, places, people, institutions and times so often end up at the end of the line when it comes to religious wisdom. Michael McGirr in his excellent book, *Things You Get for Free* argues that there is a crisis of belief today, but that it's not the way we often think. In a brilliant turning of the tables, McGirr says that the crisis of belief is that people inside the Church sometimes cannot believe that people outside its traditional structures can experience the love of Jesus. God loves and guides the Church, but is not bound by it. God is busy about making sure those who might be last have a chance to come in first.

Rather than resent this, however, let's thank God for being bigger than we are and for being just to all of us, no matter when, or how, we get the Word.

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

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:

Friday 18th September Gardening 2pm

Monday, 21st September: Zoom session for Pastoral Plan at 4.30pm

Wed, 23rd September: PPC Zoom Meeting at 4.30pm

THANK YOU FR S JOLLY AND PJ: We have greatly appreciated your generous support of recent months following Fr Bob Sheridan's retirement. These times have not been easy, so we are really grateful for your coming to our aid and leading us in the celebration of the Eucharist on top of your usual engagements. The Parish Council has also enjoyed your guidance Jolly as priest moderator during this time.

IN THESE COVID-19 TIMES A deeper appreciation of the domestic church is emerging. Teresa Pirola

Like family ZOOM gatherings, there is something to be said for parishioners coming together online as Mass is celebrated. Many attest to finding solace and meaning in 'virtual' Mass attendance. There have also been thoughtful reflections on the meaning of 'presence', and technology's capacity to aid eucharistic communion in a time of 'absence'. These perspectives have something important to say and deserve serious consideration, in view of the Eucharist as 'the source and summit of the Christian life' (CCC, 1324).

That said, my own eucharistic instincts seek a different ecclesial response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Whatever the merits of live-streaming Mass as a means of spiritual support, one would hope that it does not become the dominant pastoral response to this crisis. A congregation-less Mass viewed remotely by a lay 'audience' seems contrary to the very participatory nature of the liturgy with its deep incarnational instincts.

Rather, in response to the alienating effects of 'social distancing', more than ever we need to find appropriate ways to embrace the gospel as intimate, 'enfleshed' presence, proclaiming 'what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, *what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life*' (1 Jn 1:1).

And where better to concentrate this focus than on the life of the domestic church and its home-based spirituality?

A summons to the communion of 'breaking bread' at the family meal table (including all its moments of spilt milk, toddler tantrums, and sibling arguments) is more urgent, more direct, more incarnational, and ultimately more sacramentally fruitful, than drawing families to an inaccessible altar viewed on a TV or computer screen.

Think about it: we are living through a moment in history when, in every parish and diocese around the world, the domestic space is the only place where most Catholics can be fully present to one another in celebrating their Catholic traditions. In fact, the terrible necessity of enforced home isolation has opened up an extraordinary opportunity: to call the faithful—family units of every kind and configuration—to rediscover their power to 'be' church, each within their unique domestic context.

The resounding message from our ecclesial leadership, surely, has to be:

Our public worship places are closed, but now is the time for our lay faithful to step up. Your home is a holy place; you are 'priest' in your own home; your meal table is your 'altar'; your family is the church in miniature, the 'domestic church', which, like the universal church, has all the marks of a priestly, prophetic calling to embody the reign of God.

Put simply, by St John Paul II: 'Family, become what you are!'

PARISH PASTORAL PLAN: You can still join the group of Parishioners developing our Parish Pastoral Plan. Please pick up a pack of materials after Mass this Sunday. We will have our next Zoom planning session on this Monday, 21st September, from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. We will be working on the third goal: Being a joyful and hope-filled parish community. If you want to join in, please email me on bbright45@bigpond.com and I will send you an email with the plan as it has been developed so far and the Zoom link for this next session, closer to the day.

Happy Birthday!

19th Basil Jackson (1928)
20th John Crowley
22nd Lindsay Inman
25th Andrew Waters



The Springwood East Timor Support Group is supporting this year's **TREK FOR TIMOR**, which is going online to provide a virtual experience in Timor itself. Many of our members are taking part, and we'd love you to join with, or sponsor us. Blue Mountains Trek for Timor is a biennial trekking event to raise funds for crucial education and development projects in Timor Leste. This year's physical event has been thwarted by fires, storms and COVID-19, so the event is going virtual.
www.trekfortimorbm.org.au,

Rest in Peace!

15th Elsie Carroll (Adrian's mother)
25th Ivan Naraj



VINNIES DROP-IN SUPPORT CENTRE

SACRED HEART PARISH HALL

167 WENTWORTH STREET

BLACKHEATH

From 09:30 to 12:00

On Monday and Wednesday

For practical low income support

For more information contact:

Vinnies Drop-in Support Centre

M: 0490 709 547

E: blackheath.conference@vinnies.org.au

OR contact Karen on 0419 123 744

WORKING BEE Saturday 19th September 8am ~

Our next Parish working bee is on Saturday morning 19th September from 8am. Call Lance on 47878096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information.

All welcome to come and help.



Season of Creation: The focus this week is **The Outback**

Activity for this week: Ecological Examen

Examen is a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us.

Ecological Examen by: Joseph Carver, SJ

All creation reflects the beauty and blessing of God's image. Where was I most aware of this today?

Can I identify and pin-point how I made a conscious effort to care for God's creation during this day?

What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation?

How can I repair breaks in my relationship with creation, in my unspoken sense of superiority?

As I imagine tomorrow, I ask for the grace to see the Incarnate Christ in the dynamic interconnections of all Creation.

Conclude with the prayer of Jesus:

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Encountering Nature

Send your photos to Frances H for posting on our Face Book page.

Reducing our Carbon Footprint tip for this week

Turn off lights and electrical appliances at the power point when not being used; switch to LED (Light Emitting Diode) and CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lights) energy efficient light globes

