

Today Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37
Next week Is 40:1-5. 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

Psalm Response: Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!



Servers
 29 Nov Grahame Adams
 6 Dec Paul Harris
Readers
 29 Nov 1st Reader Monica Bright
 2nd Reader Brian Bright
 Welcome/Intercessions Paul Harris
 6 Dec 1st Reader Pat Wicks
 2nd Reader Mary Roberts
 Welcome/Intercessions David Buckley
Counters
 29 Nov Diane Stewart
 6 Dec Pamela & John
Church Care
 Nov Jim & Cathy McNamara
Flowers
 Nov David Buckley

St Paul's Mt Victoria
Entrance Ant: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Communion Ant: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

**1st Sunday of Advent Yr B
 29 Nov 2020**

The Church has enshrined the experience of keeping vigil through the Vigil Mass on Saturday night, the Vigil Ceremony in the funeral rites and the most important one, the Easter Vigil. This tradition starts with today's Gospel where we are exhorted to be alert, keep awake and wait for the Lord to return. In a sense this is a strange Gospel to have as we prepare for Christmas. It is linked to the first preface of Advent which reads, 'Now we watch for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours, when Christ our Lord will come in glory.' Our attention is, therefore, directed to a great future event, not the future feast we are about to celebrate. And how does the Church ask us to approach this feast? As a vigil of hope where we wait and trust in a person, who has shared our lot, understands our frailties and loved us to death.

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SAINTS OF THE DAY (30 Nov to 5 Dec)
 30 Nov St Andrew Apostle
 1 Dec St. Edmund Campion Jesuit martyr
 2 Dec Bl. Maria Angela Astorch abbess
 3 Dec St Francis Xavier priest
 4 Dec St John Damascene priest, doctor
 5 Dec St. Gerald bishop

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.

MASSES: Attendance is limited. Please 'book in' no later than 10am this Saturday. Please email Brian – bbright45@bigpond.com - with cc to Julie O'Keefe (julesongodson@bigpond.com) Or phone/text: 0401 768 688 (Brian)
MT VIC VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM (every week for the time being)
BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUNDAY 9:30AM
Tues 6.30pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thurs 9.00am, Fri. 6.30pm Sat 9.00am
RECONCILIATION at 6.15pm Wed, after 9.00am mass on Sat.
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS PARISH MASSES
 Saturday morning 9am St Canice's Church Katoomba
 Vigil Mass 5pm St Bonaventure's Church Leura
 Sunday 8am Mass St Francis Xavier's Church Wentworth Falls
 Sunday 10am Mass St Canice's Church Katoomba
 Sunday 5pm Mass St Bonaventure's Church Leura

AH Emergency Number: 0428 878 810
 Calls only; no texts please.
 For all **Office** matters, please call 0247878540

E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org
 john.mcsweeney@parracatholic.org
 abraham.kunnatholy@parracatholic.org

Parish Priest: Fr John McSweeney
 Assistant Priest: Fr Abraham Kunnatholy
Priest-on-call phone number: 0428 878 810

Office hours Wed 12.00pm - 3.00pm
 Thu 9.00am - 1.00pm
Address: PO Box 354, Blackheath NSW 2785

Parish Pastoral Council: If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Brian Bright (Chair) (bbright45@bigpond.com) or Julie O'Keefe (julesongodson@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/

CORE QUALITIES OF HEALTHY CHURCHES: As we develop our Parish Pastoral Plan, it is useful to look at the qualities we should be trying to develop in our parish to make it a better parish. Listed below are core qualities of healthy churches measured by the National Church Life Survey. Of significant note in this survey was the finding that when parish leaders greatly encouraged their members to use their gifts and skills in their parish (No.5), it made a difference to their response to every one of the other Core Qualities listed.

1. Alive and growing faith

Over the last year, do you believe you have grown in your Christian faith?

2. Vital and nurturing worship

How often do you experience inspiration during church services at this parish?

3. Strong and growing sense of belonging

Do you have a strong sense of belonging to this parish?

4. Clear and owned vision

Does this parish have a clear vision, goals or direction for its ministry and mission?

5. Inspiring and empowering leadership

Have this parish's leaders encouraged you to find and use your gifts and skills here?

6. Imaginative and flexible innovation

Do you agree or disagree? This parish is always ready to try something new

7. Practical and diverse service

In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following?

- Lent money to someone outside your family
- Cared for someone who was very sick
- Helped someone through a personal crisis (not sickness)
- Visited someone in hospital
- Given some of your possessions to someone in need
- Donated money to a charitable organisation
- Contacted a parliamentarian or councillor on a public issue

8. Willing and effective faith sharing

Would you be prepared to invite to Mass or another church service here any of your friends and relatives who do not currently go to church?

Empowering leadership (No.5): Even if people felt only a little encouraged by leaders, it made a difference to their response to every one of the other Core Qualities. The more encouragement they felt they had received, the more likely they were to have selected each of the Core Quality responses. It indicates that creating an environment of encouragement is one of the most effective things that any parish can do to increase Core Quality scores and promote parish involvement. The efficacy of encouragement is illustrated by noting that people who come to Mass on Sundays but who have no other role or involvement are more likely to select the Core Quality responses than those who do not feel encouraged. Parish leaders often worry about the non-involved, but the **non-involved** contribute more to the parish's social capital than the **non-encouraged**. The non-encouraged have generally less positive views about the parish, and it is they who are more likely than the non-involved to convey a poor impression of the parish to the wider community. The ability to encourage people to use their gifts and skills in the service of the parish community is thus a crucial element of effective leadership, leading to a healthier parish. (From the article: *Ingenious Communities: Catholic parishes as creators of social capital* by Bob Dixon)

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

PARISH AGM: We encourage as many as possible to attend the AGM. To attend the AGM in person in the church, you will need to book in by 5pm on Friday 27th November, to ensure we stay within the 47 people allowed in the Church, under current Covid restrictions. Book by email, phone or text message (bbright45@bigpond.com - 0401 768 688). Parishioners may also attend via Zoom video conferencing and for this they will need to book in by Thursday 26th November, to allow for sending of the Zoom link and checking for successful video & audio access to the meeting.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL APPOINTMENT: Thank you Paul Harris for volunteering to serve on this Council and congratulations on your appointment. Paul now joins David Buckley on this council, which advises and assists Bishop Vincent on a range of matters including diocesan administration and evangelisation within the diocese.

FRIDAY FIESTA: An opportunity for prayer in the Church and a meal in the hall, please see the poster sent this week for further details. Anyone who would like to assist in the cooking or setting up on 11th December at 2pm, please see or email Fr Abraham. (abraham.kunnatholy@parracatholic.org)

PARISH CALENDAR:

Sunday 29th November Parish AGM at 11.00am
 Diocesan Christmas appeal
 Sunday 6th December Morning Tea in the Hall after Mass
 Friday 11th December Friday Fiesta 6.30pm Parish Church+Hall

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Thurs 24 Dec 6.00pm and 9.00pm
 Fri 25 Dec 9.30am
 Sat 26 Dec 9.00am Mt Vic 6.00pm
 Sun 27 Dec 9.30am

VINNIES CHRISTMAS CHURCH APPEAL 2020 - Saturday 28 November, Sunday 29 November.

At the 6:00 pm Mass at St. Paul's Mt. Victoria on Saturday 28 November and Sacred Heart on Sunday 29 November envelopes will be handed out for you to donate to Vinnies Christmas Appeal. In this time of Covid we have not been allowed to hold our usual Winter and Christmas Street Appeals in Govetts Leap Road. In 2020 we are relying solely on our Parishioners. We thank you for your past generosity and hope you can support our Christmas Appeal 2020. For more information contact Karen Hayward, 0419 123 744.

Friday Fiesta! : Food for the Soul – Food for the Body.
Every second Friday during summer. Come for shared prayer in the Church and afterwards, a light meal in the hall. Date Friday Dec 11. Time 630pm. See flyer for more details. Bookings essential. Paul (0411535316) or Julie (47875974)

PLEASE PRAY for the sick and their carers: Barbara Grieves, Peter Gale, John & Marion Crowley, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, John Hanna and , Doug Ford.



WORKING BEE
Saturday November 28
At 8:00am
Please come and make our grounds look great for Christmas. EVERYONE WELCOME

