

**Today** 1 Sm 3:3-10.19; 1 Cor 6:13-15. 17-20; Jn 1:35-42  
**Next week** Jon 3:1-5. 10; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20

**Psalm Response:** Here am I, Lord;  
 I come to do your will.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**We have found the Messiah:**  
**Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Servers**  
 17 Jan Server Grahame Adams  
 24 Jan Server Paul Harris

**Readers**  
 17 Jan 1st Reader Claire Maguire  
 2nd Reader Christa Buckley  
 Welcome/Intercessions David Buckley  
 24 Jan 1st Reader Frances Huckstepp  
 2nd Reader Pat Wicks  
 Intercessions/Welcome Adrian Carroll

**Counters**  
 17 Jan Julie & Lance Hodgkinson  
 24 Pamela & John

**Church Care**  
 8 Jan Noeleen Cliff & Maarilyn Rowe  
 22 Jan Phil & Pat Wicks

**Flowers**  
 Jan Pamela Scott

**St Paul's Mt Victoria**  
**Entrance Ant:** All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**Communion Ant:** You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



**2nd Sun in Ord Time Yr B**  
**17 Jan 2021**

Just as Samuel, Andrew and Peter could have no idea where their response to God's call would lead them, so we cannot either. All we know is that it will cost us something, maybe everything.

Responding to God's call in Christ is not for the faint hearted and we shouldn't pretend it is. It involves loving our enemies, working for peace, forgiving those who have wronged us, and making the world a just place for all God's children. If these charges make no claim on us in our daily lives, then, chances are, we are listening to voices that endlessly give us the runaround, rather than being hooked up to the source of life which makes sense and gives meaning to all our connections in this world and the next.

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**WORKING BEE**

**Saturday January 23**

**At 8:00am**

**Please come and make our grounds look great**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



# 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'Keeffe (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**  
**1st Friday Mass, Adoration & reflection 6.30pm**  
**2nd Friday: Friday Fiesta Contemplative prayer and meal (booking is essential)**

**RECONCILIATION at 6.15pm Wed**  
**PPER 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

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

**Parish Pastoral Council:** If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Paul Harris (Chair) (pauls\_harris@hotmail.com) or Julie O'Keeffe (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/](https://www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/)

## **Pope Francis: Ministries of lector and acolyte to be open to women**

Pope Francis changes the Code of Canon Law to institutionalise what is already allowed in practice: the access of lay women to the service of the Word and the Altar. With a Motu Proprio released on Monday, Pope Francis established that from now on the ministries of Lector and Acolyte are to be open to women, in a stable and institutionalised form through a specific mandate.

There is nothing new about women proclaiming the Word of God during liturgical celebrations or carrying out a service at the altar as altar servers or as Eucharistic ministers. In many communities throughout the world, these practices are already authorised by local bishops.

However, up to this point, this has occurred without a true and proper institutional mandate, as an exception to what Pope St Paul VI had established when, in 1972, even while abolishing the so-called “minor orders,” he decided to maintain that access to these ministries be granted only to men because both were considered to be preparatory to the eventual admission to holy orders.

Now, in the wake of the discernment which has emerged from the last Synods of Bishops, Pope Francis wanted to formalise and institutionalise the presence of women at the altar.

### **Shared baptism**

With the Motu Proprio Spiritus Domini, which modifies the first paragraph of Canon 230 of the Code of Canon Law, Pope Francis, therefore, establishes that women can have access to these ministries and that this be recognised through a liturgical act formally instituting them as such.

Pope Francis specifies that he wanted to welcome recommendations which have emerged from various synodal assemblies, writing that “a doctrinal development has been arrived at in these last years that has brought to light how certain ministries instituted by the Church have as their basis the common condition of being baptised and the royal priesthood received in the Sacrament of Baptism.”

The Pope, therefore, invites us to recognise that what is under discussion are lay ministries “fundamentally distinct from the ordained ministry that is received through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.”

The new formulation of the canon reads: “Lay persons who possess the age and qualifications established by decree of the conference of bishops can be admitted on a stable basis through the prescribed liturgical rite to the ministries of lector and acolyte.” The specification “lay men” qualifying the laity and present in the Code until today’s modification, is, therefore, abolished.

### **Part of Vatican II renewal**

The Motu Proprio is accompanied by a letter addressed to the Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal Luis Ladaria, in which Pope Francis explains the theological motivations behind his decision.

The Pope writes that “Within the spectrum of renewal traced out by the Second Vatican Council, the urgency is being ever more felt today to rediscover the co-responsibility of all of the baptised in the Church, and the mission of the laity in a particular way.”

And, citing the Final Document of the Synod for the Pan-Amazon Region, the Pope observes that “regarding the entire Church, in the variety of situations, it is urgent that ministries for men and women be promoted and conferred... It is the Church made up of baptised men and women that we must consolidate, promoting forms of ministry and, above all, an awareness of baptismal dignity.”

## **Lay people and evangelisation**

In his letter to the Cardinal, after recalling the words of Saint John Paul II that “regarding ordained ministries, the Church does not have the faculty in any way to confer priestly ordination on women,” Pope Francis adds that “regarding non-ordained ministries, it is possible, and today it seems appropriate, to surmount this reservation.”

The Pope explains that “to offer to lay persons of both sexes the possibility of accessing the ministries of Acolyte and Lector, in virtue of their participation in the priesthood of the baptised, the awareness will grow, through a liturgical act (of institution) as well, of the precious contribution that many lay persons, including women, have been offering for some time to the life and mission of the Church.” He concludes that “the decision to confer these offices even on women, which entails stability, public recognition and a mandate on the part of the bishop, will make more effective everyone’s participation in the work of evangelisation.”

### **Mutual collaboration**

This provision comes after extensive theological reflection on these ministries.

Post-conciliar theology has, in fact, recovered the relevance of the ministries of Lector and Acolyte, not only in relation to the ordained priesthood, but also, and above all, in relation to the priesthood of the baptised.

These ministries are situated within the dynamic of the mutual collaboration that exists between these two priesthoods, and their specifically “lay” nature has become ever more pronounced, in connection with the priesthood exercised by all the baptised in virtue of their baptism.

This entire article, including the citations attributed to Pope Francis, is a working translation from the Italian original.

With thanks to Vatican News, where this article originally appeared.

### **Dates:**

**Tues Jan 26: Parish Foundation Day Brunch.**

**Friday Feb 5: Mass and Adoration 6:30pm**

**Friday Feb 12: Friday Fiesta 6:30pm**

**Wed Feb 17: Ash Wednesday**

**Fri Feb 20: Lenten Discussion Group**

*Happy Birthday !*

**1st Robyn Ann Bogart**



Rest In Peace !

11th Gerard Johnston

14th Joyce Malkin (d 2012)

Friday Fiesta

The next Friday Fiesta is on February 12 6:30 pm. Food for the Soul and Food for the Body! Bookings are open [www.trybooking.com/BMVXR](http://www.trybooking.com/BMVXR) or see Julie or Paul.

## **Parish Foundation Day Brunch – Tuesday January 26th**

To celebrate our parish Foundation Day, you are invited to Mass at 11am followed by a BYO brunch in the forest at Sacred Heart. Tea/coffee will be provided. In keeping with the Holy Father’s call to be environmentally aware, you are encouraged to bring reusable plates/utensils/cups etc. If you have any photos or parish memorabilia, please bring along for our ‘photo board’. As per our Covid19 plan, please book by contacting Brian at [bbright45@bigpond.com](mailto:bbright45@bigpond.com) or 0401 768 688

**PLEASE PRAY** for the sick and their carers: Ray Wood, John & Marion Crowley, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, Doug Ford and .Bishop Geoffrey Robinson

