

Today Jer 31:31-34 / Heb 5:7-9 / Jn 12:20-33
Next week Is 50:4-7 / Phil 2:6-11 / Mk 14:1 – 15:47

Psalm Response: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Servers
 21March Server Alan Skofic
 28 March Server Paul Harris

Readers
 21 March 1st Reader Frances Huckstepp
 2nd Reader Claire Maguire
 Intercessions/Welcome: Adrian Carroll
 28 March 1st Reader Connie Adams
 2nd Reader Mary Roberts
 Welcome/Intercessions: Paul Harris

Counters
 21March Barbara Grieves
 28 March Marilyn Rowe

Church Care
 19 March Phil and Pat Wicks

Flowers
 March David Buckley

St Paul's Mt Victoria
Entrance Ant: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Communion Ant: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Invitation from Blackheath Baptist church
 A few years ago we joined with Blackheath Baptist Church in celebrating a special dawn Easter service. They have extended the invitation again this year. The service will take place at 5.45am at Govett's Leap on Easter Sunday. office or Ps Andy on 47878243 .



**Fifth Sunday in Lent Yr B
 21 March 2021**

The words of Jesus in today's Gospel must have been very important to a community that was awash with the blood of their fellow believers. Our foremothers and forefathers in the faith counted themselves blessed to die as Jesus died, alive in the faith of God's love for the world. . Just imagine how that community of martyrs first heard these words, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.
 By comparison we have it easy today, but martyrdom comes to all believers in different ways. In the broadest sense a martyr is one who is prepared to pay the price for holding true to Christ. For us now this might mean making serious choices about the company we keep, the business ventures we enter into, the non-violent protests we mount, foregoing luxuries so that others in our world might have necessities, and even remaining faithful to the vows and promises we have made. Christian faith sometimes bites hard, and when it does we know we are sharing in the martyr's lot.
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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.

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. 10.00am , 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
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 Thu 10.am - 3.00pm

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/

From Pastors Desk:

All three texts for today's Liturgy of the Word speak of a dying to the old ways in order to begin something new:

- * From an Old covenant to one now written in our hearts
- * Through His Obedience, Christ's death leads to new life and eternal salvation for us
- * Unless the grain of wheat dies, it cannot become something new...

As Christians we are continually asked by the Lord through the Scriptures and His Church to die to the old ways and begin a new way of living. Indeed, our Lenten Season is all about dying to sin and thus being prepared to experience a rising to a sinless existence in Christ.

And the best way that we can imitate the Lord in his Death and Rising again is to move from self-centred existence to a life lived for others. The Lord was someone whose whole existence was 'other-directed' - to the Father of us all and to His neighbours. Christ is the embodiment of the New Covenant written in our hearts; he is the one willing to be obedient to the Father's will and serve his friends - even unto Death!

As for us: let's ponder on the Lord's words:

"If someone serves me, they must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too"!

Notes for Parishes

1. Next Sunday is PALM SUNDAY, and the Commencement of HOLY WEEK. Please note the Mass and Celebration times in the Bulletin. There may be a few changes from past years.

We are having difficulty during these COVID times sourcing Palms; and, in any case, in order to be COVID safe, we cannot allow people to put their hands in a basket and take a palm. So, we are asking that you bring your own 'palm' for next Sunday - whether this is truly a palm branch (hard to find up here), or an inculturation of the Tradition by bringing a branch of a native plant. The people of Jerusalem cut branches native to their area... we can do the same in these unusual times.

2. CONFESSION TIMES are in the Bulletin. There is a Second Rite of Reconciliation at Blackheath on Tuesday evening. First Rite Confessions in the Upper Blue Mountains Parish are as normal, with the addition of Confession after weekday masses on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

Please Note: although there will be Confessions after the Way of the Cross on Good Friday at Katoomba, this is by way of EXCEPTION. The Church encourages EVERYONE to make their Confession before the Easter Triduum commences - that is, before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening.

This is so that we are all prepared for these important days beforehand; and the Church wishes the Church's Ministers (the priests) to have the time and space to pray and reflect during this most holy of days.

God bless you all
Fr John

The Blackheath Public School SRE (Special Religious Education) 4, 5 and 6 classes are preparing for their first Reconciliation which will be held after Mass on Sunday 21st March. Please keep these children, their parents and their SRE teachers (Pat D and Claire Maguire) in your prayers.

1. Tuesday, 23 March at 7pm. 2nd Rite of Reconciliation: Sacred Heart, Blackheath:
2. Palm Sunday: everyone is invited to bring their own native greenery for the Palm Sunday blessing and procession. Palms will NOT be provided this year.

Holy Week & Easter schedule and information about other Easter activities are in today's Bulletin insert.

Lenten Reflective Space

The story being told in our Lenten reflective space is that whilst locally we suffered through drought, fire, regenerating rains (which brought with it floods) and finally the pandemic, in the wider world, people still board leaky boats to escape famine, poor conditions, war and persecution, only to arrive here to be imprisoned like criminals. Our indigenous people suffer discrimination and a lack of hope. However, there are Christ like people willing to assist those in need, and we can help through our Lenten prayer, penance and almsgiving and in doing so, move closer to Christ.

Prayer Request: Your prayers are requested for Maria Hannah, who has passed away. Aged 32, Maria leaves behind a loving husband and three children aged 2, 4 and 6 years. Fr Paul Hannah would appreciate your prayers for the family.



COMMUNITY MUSIC EVENTS

Saturday 27th March 12:30-1:30PM
HOT CLUB DE KATOOMBA 6
THE HEATHENS Community Choir

Saturday 10th April 12:30-1:30PM
KANIMBLA QUARTET 6
THE HEATHENS Community Choir

Both events FREE in Blackheath Gardens.
Bring a picnic rug.

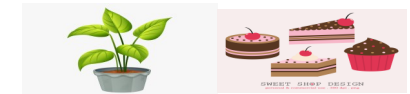
First, the event will move into the hall with seating provided. Please bring a mask that you will need to wear if attending in the hall.

The Heathens BANC

Happy Birthday !
23rd Oliver Burke (b 2005)
28th Ray Wood



PLANT, CAKES AND CRAFT STALL EASTER SUNDAY. All contributions of potted plants, Cakes, and craft items gratefully accepted. Please make this a fundraising bonanza



Rest In Peace !

17th Mary Potts (Diane Stewart's Mum)

19th Tom Boylan



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

