

Today Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24;
Jn 15:1-8

Next week Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn
4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17

Psalm Response: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Servers
2nd May Server Paul Harris
9nd May Server Grahame Adams

Readers
2nd May 1st Reader Claire Maguire
2nd Reader Christa Buckley
Welcome/Intercessions: Adrian Carroll
9nd May 1st Reader Brian Bright
2nd Reader Monica Bright
Welcome/Intercessions: David Buckley

Counters
2nd May Pamela & John
9nd May Barbara Grieves

Church Care
16th April Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Flowers
May Cate Mitchell

St Paul's Mt Victoria

Entrance Ant: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.
Communion Ant: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER-
YEAR B
2ND MAY 2021**

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.
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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: Due to the easing of covid-19 restrictions you no longer need to book to come to Sunday Mass. You will still, however, need to sign on when you arrive and observe social distancing requirements.
MT VIC VIGIL MASS AT 5.30pm
BLACKHEATH MASSES / SUNDAY 9:30AM / Tues 6.30pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thurs 9.00am, 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:

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is only through our living in Christ and His living in us by means of the Holy Spirit that we can find fulfilment as human beings; and this is the only way that we can bear fruit for the sake of others. All three texts encourage us today to ask two questions of ourselves:

1. How are we living in Christ?

Totally, half-heartedly? Perhaps we need to be pruned in order to grow more and produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives...

2. How are we bearing fruit?

So that our neighbour can benefit... or do we sometimes find ourselves so caught up in our own needs that we forget that one of our duties as a Christian is to use our gifts for others? In the week ahead, let us meditate on our Scripture Texts for the Fifth Sunday of Easter (B), and look at those areas of our lives that may need pruning so that we can be better followers of the Lord; lets also ask for the grace of God to bear fruit as we strive to be missionaries of Christ's love to the world.

As St John reminds us: '...our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active...'

Bishop Vincent Long has released a Pastoral Letter in reference to the "Parental Rights Bill" currently before the NSW Parliament. See the Church notice board or access the link at <https://catholicoutlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Pastoral-letter-27.04.2021.pdf>

The Blue Mountains Spirituality Forum

invites you to a conversation on **Fr Eugene Stockton's** book The Aboriginal Gift: Spirituality for a Nation at Leura Uniting Church hall on Sunday 9 May at 2 pm.

The Rev. Dr Mark Hillis will lead the discussion and Fr Stockton and others will respond to Mark's presentation. Because of Covid-19 restrictions numbers are limited. Please RSVP to William Emilsen at wemilsen@gmail.com. by Friday 16 April.

Friday Fiesta 30th April

1st Friday Mass, Adoration & reflection 6.30pm

2nd Friday
6:30pm Contemplative prayer in the church

7:00pm Indian meal in the hall .places still available. Call Julie on 47875974 BYO crockery, cutlery and beverages Donation to cover the cost of meal ingredients. Save the date and book in!

'Morning Tea at Café Sacre Coeur is in the hall after Mass next week on Sunday, 9th May

Bringing your own cup reduces our waste. Thank you!



Changes to our First and Second Collection Process

At its recent meeting the Parish Finance Committee decided on the following changes to our process for our collections at Mass:

from the weekend of 8/9 May we will no longer use a first collection and a second collection basket (at Blackheath) or a first collection and a second collection box (at Mt Victoria). We will in future use a single basket or box for all cash contributions;

the loose cash funds placed in the basket or box (ie excluding any planned giving envelopes) will in future be split between first collection 40% and second collection 60%;

any contributions through the Blackheath Tap and Go machine will be treated in identical fashion to loose cash contributions, and will be split in the same 40% to 60% ratio.

Please refer to the separate letter from the Finance Committee for details.

[Parramatta Young Christian Students Worker, Fulltime – 2 year appointment](#)

Location: Catholic Diocese of Parramatta, Sydney (YCW House, Granville, NSW 2142)

About the Organisation

The Australian Young Christian Workers (YCW) is a not-for-profit, international, grassroots movement that seeks to serve, educate and represent young people whilst engaging them in action and establishing teams of volunteers to address the issues most affecting young people today. Catholic Social Teachings are at the heart of the Mission of the YCW and the organisation itself, seeks to motivate young leaders within the church, to live out their faith and to find their true vocation. With a particular focus on Young people between the ages of 15-25, the YCW utilises the 'See, Judge & Act' method to motivate young people to be in control of their realities. YCW believes in empowering young people to put their faith into action and encourages them to be active members within their communities. We currently have teams in Adelaide, Perth and Sydney and contacts and connections all across Australia.

Happy Birthday !

4th Marilyn Rowe
13th Margaret Davis



Rest in Peace!

1st Cy Schreiber (d 2013)
7th Mignon Spessot (2017)
8th Leonard Kirkham



Anniversary!

6th Monica and Brian Bright (m 1978)
13th Pat and Carol Drummond (m 1972)

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

