

Today Acts 4:32-35 ;1 Jn 5:1-6
Jn 20:19-31
Next week Acts 3:13-15. 17-19,1 Jn 2:1-5,
Lk 24:35-48

Psalm Response: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!



**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER-
YEAR B
11th April 2021**

The story of Thomas, even with its mystical details, counters a magical notion of what the resurrection is about. Jesus bears the marks of his torture and death. His glorified body, though different, is connected to how the disciples knew and loved him. They can recognise him through his words and his wounds.

‘The stone rejected by the builder becomes the corner stone’. This means that often God takes that part of ourselves we don't like, forgives it, heals it, and uses it most powerfully to demonstrate that the pattern of the life, death and resurrection of Christ continues in all believers who bear his name and carry his wounds.

And that's what happened to Thomas. Christ took his fears, doubts and disbelief and transformed them into a powerful Christian witness that has sustained generations of us who struggle with life and faith.

So at this Easter Eucharist we are offered the same opportunity to discover that the stone rejected within us, or among us, is the one which God wants to use as the cornerstone. When we see this happening, when we see God taking the part of us we consider most unlovable and using it for good, then we want to cry out with the psalmist, ‘This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.’

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Servers
11th April Server Paul Harris
18th April Server Pat Wicks
Readers
11th April 1st Reader Pat Wicks
2nd Reader Frances Huckstepp
Welcome/Intercessions: Adrian Carroll
18h April 1st Reader Connie Adams
2nd Reader Mary Roberts
Welcome/Intercessions: Paul Harris
Counters
11th April Diane Stewart
18th April Pamela & John
Church Care
4th April Jim and Cathy McNamamra
Flowers
April Cate Mitchell

St Paul's Mt Victoria

Entrance Ant: Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

Communion Ant: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

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, 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

The words of Jesus spoken to Thomas in today's Gospel Reading are also spoken to us on this Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday or Divine Mercy Sunday).

Jesus firstly compliments Thomas for his belief in the Risen Lord now that his doubts have been allayed. Yet, the greater compliment is offered to those who have not seen Jesus in his Resurrected Body and yet believe that He is alive.

"You believe, Thomas, because you can see me:

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe".

This final and seventh Beatitude in John's Gospel leads us to reflect on our own belief in the Resurrection of Jesus. And, furthermore, our belief in the Risen Lord will express itself through our love for our fellow human beings. Faith must lead to action if it is to be valid belief.

Let's ask the Lord to strengthen our Easter Faith and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, let us recommit to living out that Faith in ways that may lead others to know and love the Lord.

PLEASE NOTE

* I will be having a few much-needed Days Off this week... please note that there will be no mass on Thursday (15/4) at Leura; there will be the usual 9am Mass at Blackheath on that day.

* Also, there will be no Saturday morning mass at Blackheath on 17/4; Saturday morning at Katoomba at 9am will be as normal.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of our two Parish Teams to thank all those who helped in the preparation, celebration and clean-up of our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations in both parishes of Sacred Heart, Blackheath and St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Upper Blue Mountains.

I am in awe of the generosity and work ethic of so many of you. You helped make these celebrations of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection a time of genuine prayer and renewal for us all.

God bless you all.

Fr John

They say it 'takes a village to raise a child' .. well it certainly takes a community effort to put on an Easter Celebration! Thank you to the many people who contributed to make our Easter liturgies and activities such a success. To all who helped with the liturgy preparation, music, flowers, cleaning, altar prep, serving, reading, hospitality, cake, plant and craft making, our priests and to the congregations who were able to attend. It is great to be singing again! Thank you to all of you, and may the blessings of our risen Lord be abundant upon you and your family.

Paul Harris, Chair Parish pastoral Council

Friday Fiesta April 9

6:30pm Contemplative prayer in the church

7:00pm Indian meal in the hall. 5 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!

EASTER THANK YOU

Thank you, Fr John and Fr Abraham, for leading us through Lent and during Holy Week. And, to everyone who contributed in so many ways to the Easter Liturgies, a warm and heartfelt thanks.

There are too many to individually name. Your contribution, enthusiasm, and encouragement has enriched the Easter Parish community's journey for the Sacred Heart

PARISH PLAN UPDATE:

The Parish Plan has 3 main goals:

1. Being a Jesus-inspired, humble, healing and merciful Parish Community
2. Being a missionary and evangelising Parish Community
3. Being a joyful and hope-filled parish community

The Parish Council is forming a sub-committee to begin the implementation of our second goal. If you are interested in joining this small working group please email Brian Bright bbright45@bigpond.com or call/text on 0401768688.

As the relationship between our school communities and the parish community will be a significant focus of Goal 2, it would be most opportune to register for the Zoom session hosted by the Pastoral Ministry Network: Parishes and Schools: One Community in Christ:

Tuesday, 20th April 2021 // 11am -12.15pm (AEST), 1pm (New Zealand) via Zoom
Register at <https://tinyurl.com/oceaniawebinarapril20>

You will receive a confirmation email upon registration and further information closer

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.

Anniversary!

9th Adrian and Robyn Carroll (m 1983)

Happy Birthday !

11th Heidi Lamerton

15th Francesca Huckstepp



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



Rest In Peace ! , 11th Michael Hanna, (d 2012 – Fr Paul's brother), 11th Barry Leeder (2015), 12th Mary Hart (d 2014), 12th Andrew Ziolkowski (d1994 – Marjanna Gilchrist's only sibling), 14th Una Woods, 15th Terrence Bucknel (2018), 16th Lila Anthony, 17th Daisy Lillian Perriam (d 2010)

