

Today Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34
Next week 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

Psalm Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Servers
 18 July Server N/A
 25 July Server N/A

Readers
 18 July 1st Reader N/A
 2nd Reader N/A
 Welcome/Intercessions: N/A
 25 July 1st Reader N/A
 2nd Reader N/A
 Welcome/Intercessions: N/A

Counters
 18 July N/A
 25 July N/A

Church Care
 Phil and Pat Wicks

Flowers
 July David Buckley

St Paul's Mt Victoria

Readers: 1st Reader N/A
 2nd Reader N/A

Entrance Ant:
See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Communion Ant:
 The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him



**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary
 Time Year B
 18 July 2021**

Jesus chose disciples to continue his work; he instructed them and empowered them. He sent them out on a mission, and they returned. People followed them, because they wanted to hear what Jesus and the disciples had to say; they wanted to be released from the sickness and the demons that possessed them.

There are so many searching people in the world today, people hungering for instruction, good people looking for direction. They may be parents who are sick with grief over the future of a troubled child; a man stripped of his dignity through unemployment; a woman facing a pregnancy alone; elderly people feeling the surge of life leave their declining bodies; people who are angry and confused because they believe that the church is no longer dependable. They are people who are looking for answers and for meaning. They are like sheep without a shepherd, and Jesus looks to us to shepherd them.

In the midst of this confusion, there are reliable shepherds who walk with us in the dark valleys. They are willing to share the dangers through which we pass, even at the risk of their own safety. They do not pit one segment of the community or one theological perspective against another, scattering the sheep and driving them away. Instead, they work to dismantle the walls that divide us. They speak the word that gathers us together. They reconcile us with God and with each other. They may not give us easy answers, but their primary concern is to lead us to Jesus, the one who is our peace.

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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.

Due to extension of lockdown and restrictions Sunday Mass will be Live Streamed from Katoomba:

If you would like to join the Sunday Mass live-stream from St Canice's Katoomba at 10am, please follow the link: [facebook.com/bluemountaincatholic](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountaincatholic) and click on the 'video' tab.

During this difficult time:

Please look out for each other and place a phone call to check in with someone who might need to hear a friendly voice. If you are feeling uncertain or worried, please reach out to someone.

You are not alone in feeling this way and there are people willing to listen and help where they can. Let us continue to pray for one another, the covid situation of our country and our world

AH Emergency Number: 0490814284
 Calls only; no texts please.
 For all **Office** matters, please call 02 4787 8540

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Parish Priest: Fr John McSweeney
 Assistant Priest: Fr Abraham Kunnatholy

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/

Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In today's gospel from Mark we see an example of the alternating periods in the life and ministry of the Lord and the Apostles.

After a heavy time of ministering to the people, there is need for rest, a recharging of the batteries! And so they head off for a bit of a 'retreat'.

But the people guess where they're going, and arrive before them. Rather than heading elsewhere, Jesus decides that, as sheep without a shepherd, they're still in need of Teaching and Healing.

These words speak to us today because they encapsulate the realities of our Christian life... the alternating need that each and every one of us have between times of rest and times of action.

Without rest we cannot continue to work and minister to those in need; but without work and ministry our resting can become self-indulgence!

As the weeks of our lockdown seem to be increasing, we must guard against a slackening off in our ministry to others. Yes, we cannot come to church or help those at home, but we can call them up, we can pray for those struggling at this time.

Similarly, this period is an opportunity for a kind of 'retreat', a period of prayer and reflection that re-ignites the flame of faith and love with the Father.

As our week unfolds, let's embrace the opportunity to spend some more time with the Lord in prayer; but let us also give a little of our time to others through a phone call or a zoom conversation, checking up that all are travelling ok.

One biblical scholar summarised this so well: William Barclay writes: "We must never seek the fellowship of God to avoid the fellowship of people, but to fit ourselves better for it. The rhythm of the Christian life is the alternative meeting with God in the secret place and serving people in the market place".

My thanks to the Team that are providing an ever-increasing 'professional' live-streaming mass from St Canice's on Sundays at 10am. Hopefully it will not be too long before we can gather together in our church communities in person!

God bless you all.

Fr John

SAVE THE DATE(s)

Sunday 25th July, 9.30am. Bishop Vincent will be here for the induction of Fr John as Parish Priest of Blackheath.

Dom Helder Camara Lecture:

Read Bishop Vincent's address, 'My hope for the Plenary Council', for the Dom Helder Lecture at Newman College, Victoria, on June 30.

<https://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-my-hope-for-the-plenary-council/>

ART & FASHION SALE

With current covid conditions we have decided to transfer the Art & Fashion show from Winter to Spring!

Look out for a new date later in the year. Thanks to all.
Marilyn

Australian Women Preach:

Sr Catherine McCahill is a member of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan and currently serves on the leadership team. She preaches on this Sunday's Gospel. www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Happy Birthday!

10th Robyn 12th Dave Harris (80 in 2015)
19th Christa Buckley (b 1947)



Rest in Peace!

12th John Forster (d 2014 - aged 66)
18th Keith Malkin
18th Fr Alex Sciberras
18th Ray Lee (d 2014)



PLEASE PRAY for the sick and their carers: Patricia Dee, John Hanna, Barbara Grieves, Pat McCauley, Ray Wood, John & Marion Crowley, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, Doug Ford Alfred Milani



Social Justice Statement 2021/22:

You are invited to join the online launch of the Australian Bishop's Social Justice Statement "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor", Thursday August 5 530-630pm. Free registration at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/event/sjs-launch-21-22/>

NAIDOC Week

For information about the theme of NAIDOC week "Heal Country", see the NAIDOC or NATSICC websites.

Working Bee

Due to the current restrictions Working Bee has been cancelled from Saturday 17 July to a later date to be announced.

