

<b>Today</b>	Jos 24:1-2. 15-18, Eph 5:21-32; Jn 6:60-69 .
<b>Next week</b>	Dt 4:1-2. 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23.

**Psalm Response:**  
Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:  
you have the words of everlasting life.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Servers**  
8 Aug Server N/A  
15 August Server N/A

**Readers**  
8 Aug 1st Reader N/A  
2nd Reader N/A  
Welcome/Intercessions: N/A  
15 Aug 1st Reader N/A  
2nd Reader N/A  
Welcome/Intercessions: N/A

**Counters**  
8 Aug N/A  
15 August N/A

**Church Care**  
Phil and Pat Wicks

**Flowers**  
August David Buckley

**St Paul's Mt Victoria**  
**Readers:** 1st Reader N/A  
2nd Reader N/A

**Entrance Ant:**  
**Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.**  
**Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you  
all the day long**

**Communion Ant:**  
**The earth is replete with the fruits of your work,  
O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth  
and wine to cheer the heart.**



**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary  
Time Year B  
22 August 2021**

The decisions called for in today's readings are life decisions. The people at the time of Joshua had to decide which god they would worship. The disciples of Jesus had to decide if he was the one who would fulfill their messianic expectations. We have life decisions to make as well. How will we choose?

The choices we make determine the character of our union with God. God called us out of the slavery of sin and protected us throughout the journey of our lives. Jesus walked with us through the challenges of life and performed wonders for us. Why should we look elsewhere? Because we face new challenges. The new demands placed on us may be so great, or the commitment required of us may be so demanding that we feel that we can no longer walk with him. The church may be changing in ways we do not appreciate, or it may not be changing in the ways we believe it should, and so we may feel that we can walk with him no longer.

If we decide to commit ourselves, we will enter into a union with God that is deeper than anything we have previously known. However, this union will be based on faith. We may understand no more than we did in the past, things may be no more to our liking. But, 'to whom shall we go?' Jesus is God's holy one; he has the words of eternal life.

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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.*

**From this week Sunday 25 July 2021  
Mass will be livestreamed on YouTube  
not Facebook. The reason being that  
you need to have a Facebook account  
to watch the masses through Facebook,  
whereas YouTube is available to any-  
one with internet and either a phone or  
computer.**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/  
UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ)

**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

**E-mail:** blackheath@parracatholic.org  
john.mcsweeney@parracatholic.org  
abraham.kunnatholy@parracatholic.org

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/](https://www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/)

## Reflection

The Readings chosen for this Sunday speak of three things for our consideration: Relationship, Choice, Covenant.

Relationship: it is always good to reflect on our relationship with the Lord, examining our faithfulness or otherwise. And such reflection on the way we live the Gospel leads us to make a....

Choice: there are numerous occasions when we must imitate the People of Israel at Shechem, when we need to be like the Apostles, when we need to say 'yes' to the Lord.

And this lead us to renew our Covenant with the Lord.

Covenant: this Semitic concept is all about commitment... God loves us and supports us always; are we willing to follow the Lord in all things?

Although it would be of great benefit for us to reflect on these three moments every day, we are also given the opportunity every time we celebrate the Mass. In the Penitential Rite we are able to

- \* reflect on our relationship with the Father
- \* choose to try and do better in the future
- \* ask for the Spirit to renew our commitment to the Lord and the Gospel

And so, today let's imitate the People of Israel at Shechem; let's act in a way similar to the Apostles at Capernaum; let's make a change from a sometimes lukewarm and apathetic faith commitment to one that is on fire with Love for God and God's people!

Let's say with St Peter:

***"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the word of everlasting life".***

As we move into our third month of Lockdown, let us continue to pray for an end to the spread of this highly contagious Delta variant; indeed, let us pray that we can come out of this time of trial sooner rather than later. Furthermore, let us do whatever we can to support the Common Good through our own actions and decisions. Given the stricter rules in place at present, we all need to do our part to prevent the spread of this insidious disease.

I hope to continue the practice of live-streaming the 10am Mass from St Canice's even after Lockdown. There are many in our community who would be grateful for this, as not everyone is able to attend Mass in person every week.

Finally, let us keep the people of Afghanistan in our prayers at this time; let's hope that there will not be widespread persecution and killing in the future. And let us hope that those in need - especially the women and children of Afghanistan - will receive the support and care that they need.

God bless you all.

Fr John

## Virtual Cuppa:

Virtual Cuppa and Sunday Gospel Sharing: Join Fr John and Abraham and your fellow parishioners for a virtual cuppa to stay connected during this lock-down period. This Sunday at 11am

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?pwd=UXlpYkhKUSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09)

[i/87683900980?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?pwd=UXlpYkhKUSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09)

[pwd=UXlpYkhKUSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?pwd=UXlpYkhKUSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09)

Meeting ID: 876 8390 0980 Passcode: 294515

Do you need help downloading Zoom?

Email the parish office and we will help you get started. Email: blackheath@parracatholic.org

**Vinnies Conference:** At a recent meeting of the Blackheath St Vincent de Paul Conference, Karen Heyward retired as President and John Tweedie accepted the nomination. I would like to extend the parish's heart-felt thanks to Karen and John for their many years of dedicated and compassionate service. Karen will continue as Vice-president. The conference welcomes new members to help assist the good works that Vinnies does within our community. Paul Harris. Parish Pastoral Council Chair.

**Social Justice Sunday August 29:** In preparation for Social Justice Sunday next week, take a look at the Statement from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, "Cry of the earth, Cry of the Poor". Here you will find prayers and an action plan for meeting Pope Francis' Laudato Si goals. [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)

Rest in Peace!

23rd Barry Bowden (2019)

Barbara Hodgkinson (2019)



## **A Call Out from the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group for the following items:**

1. Exercise Bike for 15 year old girl
2. Sewing machine - wanted by woman with 3 daughters
3. Tubes of Acrylic paint and brushes, even half used tubes The preferred brand is Liquitex but it really doesn't matter.

Contact for all of the above

[pruekoz@gmail.com](mailto:pruekoz@gmail.com)

2. Late model laptops, There is an ongoing need for laptops with Windows 10, especially now as we go into home schooling for at least another 2 weeks.

\*\*One such laptop found a good home.

Imagine doing Year 11 Maths on your mobile phone. It happens.

\*\*Contact Merren [computers@bmrsg.org.au](mailto:computers@bmrsg.org.au)

If you are able to assist with any of the above items please contact Prue or Merren at the email addresses

## **URGENT ACTION REQUIRED:**

Our Diocesan Journey Team, our Refugee agencies and Sydney Alliance have been flat strap this week – with the tragic disaster unfolding in Afghanistan – the key goal being to encourage our government to take decisive, real and compassionate action. The Catholic Community is well behind this incentive. The need for as many people to take action on the 4 key asks of government is important – as soon as possible – while this issue is still top of the news. Please see the article in today's (Aug 19) Catholic Outlook.

## **Home Ground Online:**

HOME Ground is a schedule of new and pre-existing online gatherings to support the wellbeing and connection of people of our Diocese each evening for the next few weeks. Check out the schedule via the diocesan web-homeground

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

