

**Today** Dt 4:1-2. 6-8, Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23.

**Next week** Is 35:4-7; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37.

**Psalm Response:**  
The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation. 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:**  
**Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.**  
**O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.**

**Communion Ant:**  
**How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.**



**Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B**  
**29 August 2021**

The overarching theme of the readings for this Sunday is 'words spoken in truth'. On one level, the laws are the words of the covenant. They are part of the contract that was drawn up between God and the people. They are words of truth, because they are the reliable revelation of God and because they genuinely reflect righteous living. The biblical covenant laws are truly humane. Obedience to the words of the covenant leads to life and blessings, while disobedience results in the opposite. Our religious customs always carry some profound religious meaning, but we may not know or care what it is – and yet we perform them. Do people know or care why we stand or sit or kneel during liturgy? Do people have a 'church' wedding because it is a religious event, or because 'that's the way we have always done it'? Religious practices do not always flow from a deep religious conviction. But once we realise our need for God, these practices become genuine expressions of religious sentiment.

When the word of God has taken root in us, everything becomes a religious practice. This word can come to us through the teachings of our faith, through the example of good people around us, through the wonder and mystery of creation. When it does take hold of us, our inner eye is opened, our hearts are softened, and we turn instinctively to God like a flower turns to the sun. When we are brought to birth in this way, covenant law becomes sacred, religious practices are cherished, and we are filled with the power that saves.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

# 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.*

Mass will be livestreamed on YouTube (not Facebook). YouTube is available to any-one with internet and either a smart phone or computer.

Click the link or search "St Canice's Katoomba Live YouTube" in your internet search engine.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChTj55rsvGDQgCDN7mldNQ>

**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  
For Blackheath Vinnies support phone : 0490 709 547

**BULLETIN ITEMS:** Please contact the Parish Office on Wednesday or Thursday during office hours on 4787 8540 or email [blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto: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

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

One of the greatest temptations of the religious person is to take refuge in rules and regulations. But all rules of religion are NOT ends in themselves, but they are merely the means to an End... and the End or Goal in the Christian context is the Proclamation of the Gospel to all.

In today's Gospel, the Pharisees are upset with Jesus' disciples for not following the traditions of ritual washing before meals. And so the Lord challenges them - don't miss the real point of Faith. What counts is not the human traditions that have grown up over the years, but the actions and attitudes of the heart!

And so, even the Church's traditions must be seen as a means and never as an End in themselves. Indeed, if those traditions (the means to the End) do not lead to the Proclamation of the Gospel to all, then they need to be re-examined from the perspective of the heart. In other words, what is the real (deeper) purpose of the tradition, the rule? Does its present manifestation actually capture the Truth that it's trying to express? Or is a new, contemporary, formulation needed so that the Goal of the Church's Mission can be achieved in an ever-changing world?

Let's remember the words of James in our Second Reading for today: "Pure unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it".

Indeed, let us never miss the wood for the trees!

---

Please feel free to call the parish emergency phone if you would like a chat during these extended days of Lockdown.

Either myself or Fr Abraham are more than willing to listen and converse.

I thank you all for the continued support you offer each other in our community at this time, when through phone calls or through prayer.

We look forward to the time when we can gather in our churches once again to celebrate our Faith and receive the Eucharist.

May God bless you all

Fr John

## Virtual Cuppa:

Virtual Cuppa and Sunday Gospel Sharing:  
Please join Frs 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?pwd=UXlpYkhKUSSt5Qy8IN2FpM05PS0RmQT09>

Do you need help downloading Zoom? Email the parish office and we will help you get started. Email: [blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)  
Email the parish office and we will help you get started. Email: [blacheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blacheath@parracatholic.org)

PARISH SOCIAL CIRCLE - on ZOOM  
Parishioners are invited to join together for conversation; sharing of lockdown experience; storytelling; & laughter. Invite your friends & neighbours. Everyone is welcome. Bring a glass of wine; coffee; tea; nibbles.

Date: Wednesday, 1 September

Time: 3.00 to 3.40 pm

Theme for this week: Pat Drummond will lead us in 1950s reminiscence & trivia.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79356017333?pwd=L08zbVhDNWxuL0ZaUzY3YytWZU0UQT09>

Rest in Peace!

26th Wladyslaw Ziolkowski (d 2006 – Marjanna Gilchrist's father)

28th Ian Maguire (d 2015 - husband of Claire

1st Lily Hanna 2010

3rd Philomena Drummond (d 1991 - (Pat Drummond's mother)

5th Bernie Tierney (d 2007 – (Father of Sue Gracey)



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF OUR FIRST 100 CLUB RAFFLE LISTED BELOW:

1st Prize: Maria Cora (No.59)  
2nd Prize: Marilyn Rowe (No.55)  
3rd Prize: Frances Leighton (No.41)

To all those people who purchased tickets, thank you again for supporting your Parish during lockdown. The commitment to our Sacred Heart Parish by all is always very much appreciated

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 website: [www.parracatholic.org/homeground](http://www.parracatholic.org/homeground)

Sharing Wisdom: Our series continues this Sunday with input about the life of St Catherine of Siena. Register to watch a documentary (2pm) and then chat with others (3-4pm) about what these saints have to share in our world today. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/Catherine2908>

Please remember in your prayers Terry Beaver who passed away last Wednesday. Terry was a long time parishioner and member of St. Vinnes.

Anniversaries

28th Kate and Robert Forbes (m 1982)

Happy Birthday!

5th Diane Stewart



**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

