

Today 1 Kgs 17:7-16; Col 3:12-17; Mt 6:25-34

Next week Rv 11:19; 12:1-6, 10; 1 Cor 15:20-26; Lk 1:39-56

Psalm Response:
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Many women were there by the cross, watching from a distance, the same women who had followed Jesus and looked after him. 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:
Come, you blessed of my Father, says the Lord: I was sick and you visited me. Amen, I say to you: whatever you did for one of the least of my brethren, you did it for me.

Communion Ant:
This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another, says the Lord.



**Saint Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop), Virgin
8 August 2021**

A "one hit wonder" from 1989 was the song by Bobby McFerrin, Don't Worry, Be Happy. It was a laid-back, a cappella song that still frequently appears in film and television soundtracks. In some ways, the song became the catchcry of a generation who were overwhelmed by the pace of change that was occurring in society, technology and the world in general. A glance at today's gospel may leave the reader thinking that Jesus, too, is basically saying to us, don't worry, be happy. But the message of Jesus is not as simplistic as that. Instead, he says to us, set your hearts on God's kingdom first and on following God's will for justice in the world and, then, don't worry, be happy. It is not the same throwing of one's hands into the air as the 1980's song. It is not an abandonment of responsibility. Jesus says to us, trust in God, work to bring about the kingdom in our lives and in our world and only then leave the rest to God.

This gospel passage was aptly chosen by the Church to mark the feast of St Mary of the Cross – Mary MacKillop. The teaching of Jesus, conveyed through the gospel passage, characterised much of the life and work of Mary MacKillop. Mary was a prolific writer, sending messages to her sisters in the schools and communities across Australia. We are fortunate that many of these letters have been preserved and provide an incredible insight into the attitude of Mary MacKillop. One of the quotes attributed to Mary MacKillop that captures the essence of today's gospel is, "Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God." (1891) Surely this is a more energising and empowering motto for life than don't worry, be happy?

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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 anyone with internet and either a phone or computer.

<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

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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'Keefe (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!

Today we celebrate our National, Diocesan and Parish Patron, St Mary of the Cross Mackillop.

The first and third readings encourage us to trust in God in all circumstances and situations, while the second reading outlines the way Christians should interact with each other.

The widow of Zarephath is encouraged by Elijah to trust in God's goodness to her and her son even in the midst of expectant disaster - starvation. By generously feeding the Lord's Prophet even with the little she has, "the jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied"!

And Jesus utilises the agricultural images of his own day to say something similar to his hearers about trust. The birds of the air are fed by the Heavenly Father, the flowers of the field are clothed in splendour: worrying about food or clothing or any other daily concern is not the way of the disciple.

Both of these texts are relevant to the woman whose Feast Day we celebrate: she trusted in God at every stage of her journey... even when excommunicated by short-sighted bishops, she did not waver in her conviction of God's call to her.

Our second reading from the Letter to Colossians is also appropriate to this holy woman, who strove to live the virtues expressed in this text in her life: compassion, generosity, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness and love!

Mary was well-known for her phrase - "**Never see a need without doing something about it**".

- To 'see' a need demands that one is open to what is going on around one. The truly spiritual person is always on the lookout for what can be done for one's neighbour.
- The word 'need' reminds us that there is a multiplicity of needs that demand a response from the truly spiritual person.
- And once we have seen a need, we have to 'do something about it'. Once identified, the need MUST be responded to! We cannot remain complacent. Action must follow whenever a need is identified.

And so, my friends, as we celebrate our Patron Saint today, let's reflect on her simple but profound call to action in our lives; and, as we do so, let's continue to trust in God's goodness to us, striving as we do to seek God's Kingdom first. Indeed, 'over all these clothes (virtues), put on love, the perfect bond... because it is for this that you were called together in one body'".

Let us do all we can in the coming week to keep contact with loved ones, friends, and fellow parishioners. It is important in these days of extended Lockdown that we remain vigilant of the needs of others, especially those who may live alone. Prayer for others is essential, but a phone call or email can also help alleviate any loneliness or despair. Let each of us make a commitment to reach out to others in the week ahead.

Be assured of the prayers of Fr Abraham and myself... God bless you all.
Fr John

Virtual Cuppa:

Virtual Cuppa: This Sunday at 11am, you are invited to a parish Zoom session to reflect upon the Sunday Gospel and to share fellowship with a cuppa! We had a good gathering last week – a nice way to keep in touch and build community during this lock-down time. Hope to see you there.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87506350946?pwd=OUwrcmczN1Nxbk00YU9pZkFmS01RQT09>

Meeting ID: 875 0635 0946 Passcode: 809429

OPTIONS FOR ONGOING PARISHIONER CONTRIBUTIONS

The Parish needs your support during this difficult time. Despite the lockdown and its effect on our income, we still have bills to pay.

You may wish to consider contributing to our Parish Account. Details are as follows:

Account name: Sacred Heart Blackheath
BSB: 067-950
A/C No: 000 00 230

Ref: Contribution and your surname.

For Blackheath Vinnies support phone
0490 709 547

Anniversaries
4th Julie and Lance Hodgkinson (1979)

Happy Birthday!
10th Adrian Carroll (1954)
10th Marie Johnston
11th Phil Wicks



Sacred Heart Parish Online Competition

Thank you so much for your response so far to the online 100 Club competition. Your quick purchases have been amazing.

We were wondering if the parishioners that have not already purchased a ticket would consider doing so to help with the last 35 or so tickets.

You will be supporting your parish financially and if lucky enough, win a wonderful prize. Details are in the attached flyer.

Thanks again for your support in these trying times.

Marilyn Rowe
Social Committee

Home Ground Online:

HOME Ground is a schedule of new and pre-existing online gatherings to support the well-being and connection of people of our Diocese each evening for the next few weeks. Check out the schedule via the diocesan website: <https://parracatholic.org/homeground/>

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/>

Rest in Peace!

7th Flo Gillette
7th Dellas Holmwood (d 2013)



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, Alfred Milani

