

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.*

PARISH CONTACTS

Fr. John McSweeney (Parish Priest)

Fr. Abraham Kunnatholy CMI (Ass Priest)

Postal Address: PO Box 354, Blackheath NSW
2785.

Phone: (02) 4787 8540

Hours: 10pm-3pm Thursday: Wed 12-4.00pm

After Hours Emergency Number: 0490 814 284.

Calls only; no texts please. For all Office matters,
call (02) 4787 8540

Parish email address:

blackheath@parracatholic.org

Parish website:

sacredheartblackheath.org.au

Parish Facebook: [Sacred Heart Parish](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParish)

[Community Blackheath](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBlackheath)

The 10am Katoomba Sunday Mass will be
live streamed on YouTube. Click the link
below or search "St Canice's Katoomba
Live YouTube" in your internet search
engine.

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

or alternate Live stream Masses head to the
Diocesan Webpage.

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 wor-
ried, 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

SACRED HEART CARE GROUP: Helping
parishioners in times of need. Monica Bright
0420 937 690.

Blackheath Vinnies Support: 049 709 547

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)

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B | 12 September 2021.

FR. JOHN'S REFLECTION.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In today's Gospel Jesus proclaims:

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself, and take up his cross, and follow me".

Renouncing ourselves is all about not being preoccupied with self and one's own interests
in such a way that discipleship is compromised.

Taking up one's cross is about willingness to imitate the Lord and place the other (our
neighbour) first, dying to selfishness for the sake of our brothers and sisters.

And thus, when these two conditions of discipleship are undertaken, then we must *follow
the Lord* in sustained and continuous fidelity.

This text challenges us, for it goes against the classic human tendency of self-centredness.
Here the emphasis is placed on a discipleship which puts the other person first.

Indeed, this is behind Pope Francis' call for all faithful Christians to be vaccinated for the
common good, for the sake of our neighbour.

Where are our priorities? Are we willing to deny ourselves, our rights, for the sake of the
other?

Are we able to embrace the cross? Are we willing to do something difficult which can lead
to the other person's salvation?

How do we follow the Lord? Is there need for improvement in our lifestyle and choices so
that we can truly be imitators (disciples) of the Lord Jesus?

We are challenged by the Word of God for today to reflect on the Lord's clarion call for us
to be the perfect disciple: to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow the Lord.

Indeed, let's remember always that...

**"Anyone who wants to save his/her life will lose it; but anyone who loses his/her life
for (Jesus') sake and for the sake of the Gospel will save it"!**

It's hard to believe it is 20 years since the horrible scenes of destruction in New York,
when the Twin Towers were destroyed by terrorism. A lot has happened in our world
since then. We must continue to pray for an end to the scourge of such hatred and acts of
terror.

Let us also pray for those peoples and nations still suffering under totalitarian and fanatical
leaders... that one day we will see the end of terror, fundamentalism and hatred, so that all
peoples can then live together as a common human race in peace and harmony.

God bless you all

Fr John



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Bpoint - A new way to contribute to the Parish using your credit card.

During these long days of lockdown, the Parish really needs your support to al-
low us to continue to pay its ongoing bills. With the closure of all churches, we
currently have no cash collections. Fortunately many of our parishioners use the
Direct Bank Transfer option for our 2nd Collection. The funds raised continue to
support our Parish during these difficult times.

For those who do not use Direct Bank Transfer, you will now have the oppor-
tunity to make contributions by credit card using Bpoint.

Bpoint is a new and easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (as noted
above - funds raised are for our Parish) and also our 1st collection (funds raised
are for the clergy of the Diocese). You will need a credit card (Visa or Master-
card only) and a mobile phone number.

Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You will be asked
to show your name and mobile phone number: [https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/
CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH)

As an alternative to following the link, you can also use the attached QR
Code, or you can click on the red 'Make a Payment' button on the first page of
the Parish website.

And for those of you who do already contribute to the 2nd collection for the Par-
ish using the Direct Transfer option, Bpoint now gives you a way of making a

1st collection contribution for the remuneration of the clergy.



Thank you for caring for our retired clergy

Thanks to your kind and compassionate support, the [Clergy Support Foundation](https://www.clergysupportfoundation.org.au)
can continue to ensure our priests' physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing is
nurtured. And, where needed, support our ageing priests' daily living, health care
and medical expenses; along with home comforts and essentials for living well.
Donations for the Father's Day Appeal can be made at [parracatholic.org/
fathersdayappeal](https://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or call (02) 8838 3482.

COUNTERS:

SERVERS:

READERS:

12 Aug: 1 St Reader

N/A

2 nd Reader

N/A

Welcome/Intercession:

N/A

NEXT WEEK READERS:

19 Aug: 1 St Reader

N/A

2 nd Reader

N/A

Welcome/ Intercession

N/A

CHURCH CARE:

FLOWERS:

4cm x 6cm

Advertise with us.

For more information please contact
the office. 02 4782 2804

4cm x 6cm

Advertise with us.

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Virtual Cuppa and Sunday Gospel Sharing:

Please join Fr John and Fr Abraham and your fellow parishioners for a virtual cuppa to stay connected during this lock-down period. This Sunday at 11am.
Zoom Meeting ID: 876 8390 0980
Passcode: 294515

Parish Social Circle:

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. Each Wednesday. 3.00pm to 3.40 pm. Via Zoom. Meeting ID: 789 3035 4864 Passcode: 46b6WY

Prayer for the Plenary Council:

Written by Carol Teodori-Blahut and Wendy Goonan members of Plenary Council from the Diocese of Parramatta:

Come Holy Spirit, who moved the people of this land in ages past. Open our hearts to hear you and our minds to the message you send. Breathe your vigour into us, and launch us into the deep. Through Christ our Lord and companion the road. Amen

Do you need help downloading Zoom? Email the parish office and we will help you get started. Email: blackheath@parracatholic.org

Season of Creation: Each week a reflection will be included as an insert with our bulletin.

This week there is a reflection on both the earth and the poor as well as an act of love for creation. The reflections are sourced from Catholic Earthcare. Julie O’Keeffe, Parish Earth Ministry Group

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

Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition : calls for world leaders to address the climate and biodiversity crises together in a way that fosters equity, protects people's rights, especially the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. The petition will be presented to the UN Biodiversity Conference on October 15 and the UN Climate Change Conference in November. <https://thecatholicpetition.org/>

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

8th Lance Hodgkinson

12th Ron Walsh



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

Andrew Krawczyk, Rae Freckelton, Patricia Dee, John Hanna, Barbara Grieves, Pat McCauley, Ray Wood, John & Marion Crowley, Maria Slater, Maria Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Poetelli, Alfred Milani.

REST IN PEACE: 8th Ray Thomas, 10th Mary Kingston (d 2016), 15th Elsie Carroll (d 2010 – Adrian’s mother), 25th Ivan Naraj,

There are several messianic traditions, each one characterizing the anointed one of the future in a unique way. Do we expect a prophetic figure who will enter our world and reform the structures of society, or a strong leader who will overturn these structures and establish a new order? Are we waiting for a teacher who will transform our minds and hearts, or a judge who will punish us for our infidelities? Are we expecting someone who will renew the face of the earth, or someone who will come in fire and brimstone to destroy it? What kind of a messiah do we expect? For what kind of a change are we preparing ourselves?

Jesus seems to overturn our expectations. We look for one who will save us from the predicaments in which we find ourselves, and he comes to us as one who seems to be a victim of his own predicament. God's thinking seems to be the reverse of ours: Those who save their lives, lose them; those who lose their lives, save them; the seed must die before it can bear fruit; Jesus will be killed, but will then be raised from the dead.

Can we claim to understand Jesus? Or are we more like the people in James' community: people who profess faith in Jesus, but who do not live it out; people who speak pleasant words to others, who say the right things, but who do not back up their words with good works? Is our faith really living?

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Safeguarding Training

The new dates for the Mandatory Safeguarding Training for volunteers are:

Module 1 – Tuesday 12th October at 7.00pm

Module 2 – Tuesday 26th October at 7.00pm

Module 3 – Tuesday 9th November at 7.00pm

To make booking contact:

Maria Kervin

Office for Safeguarding Diocese of Parramatta

M: 0476 886 024

E: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

W: <https://www.pointsbuild.com.au/safeguardingedu/welcome>

W: <https://safeguarding.org.au/>

W: www.parracatholic.org

ANNIVERSARIES:



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

ENTRANCE Cf. Sir 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING Is 50:5-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I gave my body to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand.
Does anyone start proceedings against me?
Then let us go to court together.
Who thinks he has a case against me?
Let him approach me.
The Lord is coming to my help,
who dare condemn me?

RESPONSE I will walk in the presence of the
Lord, in the land of the living.

SECOND READING Jas 2:14-18

A reading from the letter of St James

Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL Mk 8:27-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

COMMUNION How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings