

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

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-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B | 19 September 2021.

FR. JOHN'S REFLECTION.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Today's Gospel follows on from last week's text, where Jesus had told his disciples that he was destined to suffer, die and to rise again; and that discipleship demanded that one deny oneself, take up one's cross and follow in the Lord's footsteps.

And despite all this teaching, his disciples now get concerned about who is the greatest among them!!

With infinite patience, Jesus continues to challenge his disciples: the greatest is really the one who is servant to all; the message of Jesus can only be received by those who enter into a spirit of discipleship that sees service and 'littleness' as important!

Furthermore, caring for God's little ones - the weaker members of the community - as illustrated by the child within their midst - is an essential part of this Christian call to service of all.

"Anyone who welcomes one of these little ones in my name, welcomes me".

For many of us, we are already doing as much as we humanly can to live our Christian life in imitation of Jesus, the one who serves!

Yet, we don't remain static. Human beings are never stationary.

The Lord challenges us to keep on changing and growing... growing in our Faith and growing in our Christian Action!

My friends, the Gospel will still be around when the excuses of today are no longer in existence.

Indeed, Jesus will still ask us to be like Him, of service to all, willing to lay down our rights and even our life for our friends.

And one day, God willing, we will answer this call in totality, becoming the person who welcomes the 'little ones' in His Name at all times and all circumstances.

1. I have attached a Letter from our Bishop to the Youth of our Diocese. It is an excellent letter, calling us to continue trusting in God's goodness in these difficult days of Lockdown.

2. Again, I would like to thank all those who have donated to our Parish - via envelopes under the door of the church, direct giving and, especially, via the BPOINT. Your parish community thanks you for your generosity.

3. I hope and pray that we will soon be able to come out of Lockdown; and that we will be able to gather in our church communities for Mass once again.

God bless you all.

Fr John



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sunday 11am -Virtual Cuppa and
Sunday Gospel Sharing: Via Zoom

Wednesday Parish Social Circle:
4.30-5.10 pm Via Zoom

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 allow 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 opportunity 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 Mastercard 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 Parish using the Direct Transfer option, Bpoint now gives you a way of making a

1st collection contribution for the remuneration of the clergy.



Bishops Vincent's Letter to young people: [https://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-
vincent-pastoral-letter-to-the-young-people-of-western-sydney-and-the-blue-
mountains/](https://catholicoutlook.org/bishop-vincent-pastoral-letter-to-the-young-people-of-western-sydney-and-the-blue-mountains/)

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

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

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Virtual Cuppa and Sunday Gospel Sharing:

If you have not joined in yet, please come for a bit of fun and connection with your fellow parishioners. This Sunday 11-11:30am. Zoom Meeting ID: 876 8390 0980 Passcode: 294515

Parish Social Circle:

All are invited to join your hosts Pat D and Frances H for conversation, storytelling an FUN. Invite your friends & neighbours. Bring a glass of wine, coffee, tea, nibbles. NEW TIME: Wednesdays. 4:30 – 5:10pm. Via Zoom. Meeting ID: 723 4972 9252 Passcode: VqpK8B

Believe it or not!: Fathers John and Abraham have been with our parish for 12 months now. My how time flies! We congratulate and thank them for their ministry and energy over this time, albeit under unusual circumstances. We certainly look forward to when we can gather again in person to celebrate more appropriately. Paul Harris, Chair, Parish Pastoral Council.

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

Catholic Outlook Online: Keep up to date with what is happening in our world from a Catholic perspective, and news from the Diocese of Parramatta. www.catholicoutlook.org/subscribe/

Theology for Parishioners: Fr Joe Lamb, Parish Priest of St Finbar’s Glenbrook, has been a Professor of Theology in Rome and a Senior Lecturer at the Australian Catholic University. He is offering an Introduction to Theology course to parishioners over six online sessions from October 1st 7:30-9:00pm. See attached flyer for more details. Email: secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Australian Women Preach: is a podcast series by Christian women from across all denominations preaching the Gospel with theological insight and relevance to our daily lives. This week’s guest is Dr Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF, a consecrated member of the Verbum Dei Community and Director of the Xavier Centre for Theological Formation at Australian Catholic University. Website: www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

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/>

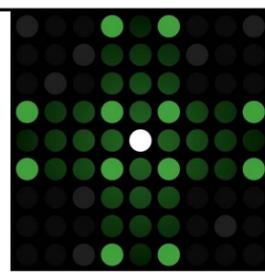
HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

19th Basil Jackson (1928)
20th John Crowley



ANNIVERSARIES:

Who are the righteous? This is a question that holds little interest today. We are more concerned with the successful and the famous. We want people to be honest, at least in their dealings with us, but we are more apt to applaud those who are clever. We commend people for making a good deal, for knowing how to get ahead or striking it rich. We extol the beautiful, the strong, the self-assured, those who have made a name for themselves, those who entertain us. We encourage people to be ambitious. Seldom is popularity based on righteousness.



Yet righteousness is a pillar of the reign of God. Those who would enter that reign must be gentle and merciful, faithful and sincere, lovers of peace. They must be willing to take the last place, to be the servant of all. The righteous are not often held in high regard. They are often ridiculed and even persecuted. When they are considered a reproach to the standards of society, they may even be put to death.

There are times when we might be inclined to envy and resentment, not wanting to feel morally inferior, and we might relish the opportunity of putting the virtue of others to the test. We may say that we want to draw forth their strengths, when we really hope their weaknesses will be revealed and they will prove to be no better than we are. Sometimes the righteous have nowhere else to turn but to Jesus, whose life they are following and into whose death they have been plunged.

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Season of Creation 1 Sept- 4 Oct: Each week a reflection will be included with our bulletin. The reflections are sourced from Catholic Earthcare. Julie O’Keeffe, Parish Earth Ministry Group.

The Paramatta Way: Designed by a group representing the Church community in the Diocese. The Parramatta Way asks parishioners, employees, and clergy to act with justice, love tenderly, acknowledge the diversity in the Diocese and promote Catholic social teachings. <https://catholicoutlook.org/the-paramatta-way-unites-the-diocese-of-parramatta/>

Sharing Wisdom: This week we will hear about St Teresa of Avila. Register to watch a documentary (2pm) and then chat with others (3-4pm) about what these saints have to share in our world today. Free registration Register at <https://tinyurl.com/Teresa1909>

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading

Wis 2:12, 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.

The godless say to themselves,

‘Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.

If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.

Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof.

Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.’

RESPONSE The Lord upholds my life.

Second Reading

Jas 3:16 – 4:3

A reading from the letter of St James

Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting in-

side your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
God has called us with the gospel
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 9:30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, ‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.’ He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, ‘Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

COMMUNION

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes

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,