

# 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 (Asst Priest)

Postal Address: PO Box 354, Blackheath NSW  
2785.

Phone: (02) 4787 8540

Office Hours: 10pm-3pm Thursday

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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

Parish website:

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://sacredheartblackheath.org.au)

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

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

## VIGIL MASS Saturday 5:30pm:

Fr Abraham will be celebrating the Vigil  
Mass via Zoom for the month of October.  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?pwd=UXlpYkhKUSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09)  
[pwd=UXlpYkhKUSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?pwd=UXlpYkhKUSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09)  
[RmQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?pwd=UXlpYkhKUSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09)

Meeting ID: 876 8390 0980

Passcode: 294515

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.

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

**BLACKHEATH VINNIES Support:** 0490 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](mailto:pauls_harris@hotmail.com)) or Julie O'Keeffe  
([julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com))

## Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

### 3 October 2021.

#### FR. JOHN'S REFLECTION.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

At first glance, the teaching of Jesus on marriage and divorce in today's Gospel text from Mark seems quite confronting.

"What God has united, man must not divide".

Catholic Marriage Law refuses to recognise divorce for those whom God has united.

But how do we determine who is or is not married "in God's eyes"?

Surely it is not simply a matter of form, of rules, of law, of process?

This text and its rather strict interpretation has been the cause of much anxiety and stress.  
It has hurt innumerable people over the centuries.

But, for me, there is a light shining in the gloom of such a traditional understanding....

I do believe that the key to this text is the next pericope in the Gospel of Mark.

Having been rather strict in his re-interpretation of Genesis, Jesus now forbids his  
Apostles from turning away the little ones.

***Jesus can be seen as saying that those who are unable to live up to the ideal of marriage  
as expressed in the previous section should never be turned away by the community of  
believers.***

"Let the little ones come to me"!

The unconditional love-ethic of Jesus of Nazareth must be at the heart of all that we do  
and say - both as individuals and as ecclesia (as Church).

Otherwise, we are at risk of descending to the legalistic approach to faith that was  
constantly criticised by the Lord!

My brothers and sisters, let us never close our minds to the life-giving Spirit of God who  
is alive and active in our community, our church.... that Spirit, that Paraclete, who will  
lead us into the complete Truth.

What was ...may no longer be!

God is a God of surprises.

And the omnipotence of the Divine can never be controlled by the finite minds of mere  
mortals!

Bishop Vincent has sent a pastoral letter (attached to the bulletin) which says that, in this  
Diocese, we will not be opening our churches until 80% are vaccinated.

In this way we will not be discriminating between parishioners.

I agree with this very Christian decision of our Bishop.

I have also attached a link from Catholic Outlook which encourages us ALL to be  
vaccinated for the wellbeing of our neighbour.

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>

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/>

**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

**Opening Plenary Council Mass:** The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia will open on Sunday, October 3, with Archbishop Costelloe celebrating the opening Mass at St Mary's Cathedral in Perth at 2pm AEDT. The Mass will be livestreamed on the Plenary Council website.

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

### **COUNTERS:**

### **SERVERS:**

Catholic Outlook link which encourages us ALL to be vaccinated for the wellbeing of our neighbour

<https://catholicoutlook.org/catholics-encouraged-to-get-vaccinated-for-the-common-good/>

4cm x 6cm

Advertise with us.

For more information please  
contact the office. 02 4782  
2804

### **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:**

**Virtual Cuppa and Sunday Gospel Sharing:**

Connect with your fellow parishioners for a laugh and shared thoughts. This Sunday 11-11:30am. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?pwd=UXlpYkhKUST5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09)  
[pwd=UXlpYkhKUST5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87683900980?pwd=UXlpYkhKUST5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09)

**Parish Social Circle:** All are invited to join your hosts Pat D and Frances H for conversation, storytelling and FUN. Bring a glass of wine, coffee, tea, nibbles. **Wednesday 4:30 – 5:10pm.**

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72349729252?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72349729252?pwd=cEFGckJYbzBmb3V2N00zenpLNnU5Zz09)  
[pwd=cEFGckJYbzBmb3V2N00zenpLNnU5Zz09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72349729252?pwd=cEFGckJYbzBmb3V2N00zenpLNnU5Zz09)

**Prayer Vigil for the Season of Creation: Thursday September 30th, 7:30pm-8:30pm.**

Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath is hosting a prayer for the Care of Creation. Pope Francis calls us all to celebrate this time to reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87566721891?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87566721891?pwd=K1UvOk9qYXFSczR1RFem81WHVOQT09)  
[pwd=K1UvOk9qYXFSczR1RFem81WHVOQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87566721891?pwd=K1UvOk9qYXFSczR1RFem81WHVOQT09) Meeting ID: 875 6672 1891 Passcode: 761026

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

**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:** This week's guest is **Dr. Mary Coloe** is a Presentation sister and a professor of New Testament at Yarra Theological Union, which is a college within the University of Divinity, Melbourne. Her primary focus in teaching and writing is the Gospel of John. Website: [www.australianwomenpreach.com.au](http://www.australianwomenpreach.com.au)

**A message from Betty Zeeman:** Betty has settled into her new home yet the lockdown has prevented visitors. She says that "Blackheath will always be home!" We miss you too Betty.

Betty can be contacted (after 6pm) on 0448 451 116 or her address Southern Cross Care 1-3 Gwea Ave., Daceyville NSW 2032.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

30<sup>th</sup> Chantelle Burke (b 2003)  
 8<sup>th</sup> Pat Wicks

**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:** Patrick Burke, 1<sup>st</sup> Lily Hanna 2010, 3<sup>rd</sup> Philomena Drummond (d 1991 - Pat Drummond's mother), 5<sup>th</sup> Bernie Tierney (d 2007 - Father of Sue Gracey)

**\*\*In marriage, the couple does not merely receive a sacrament, they become one. They become an outward sign of the love of God. They are able to open themselves to each other in love, because God has first loved them. When they become one in marriage, they create something new, something that is a sign of the creative power of God. This in no way minimises the passionate love that they may have, or the unselfishness with which they give themselves to each other. Rather, it underscores the origin of that passion and the model of that unselfishness.**



We are brothers and sisters of Christ in more than one way. First, through his incarnation, he became one of us, a little lower than the angels. He shared our human existence; he knew the highs and lows of human life. Then he redefined family relationships, claiming that blood bonds were no longer the determinant for establishing kinship. Instead, those who hear the word of God and keep it, those who commit themselves to God in faithful discipleship, are his brothers and sisters.

Marriage and other forms of discipleship make religious demands on us. Because we are taking a step into the unknown, they require a profound act of trust – trust in ourselves, trust in each other and, most importantly, trust in God. They also expect openness on our part – openness to give and openness to receive. Unfortunately we associate these characteristics with unpretentious children. While children may possess them because they are innocent, adults must repossess them because we have been recreated in Christ.

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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.

**Condolences:** Our condolences and prayers are extended to the Burke family on the passing on Dom's father, Patrick Burke. May he rest in peace. Amen

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

4th Christine and Dominic Burke

## Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

### ENTRANCE

Cf. Est 4:17

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,  
and there is none that can resist your will. For you have  
made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is  
held within the circle of heaven;  
you are the Lord of all.

### First Reading

Gen 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis

*They were two in one flesh.*

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

### RESPONSE

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

### Second Reading

Heb 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*He who sanctifies, and those who are sanctified have one origin.*

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
If we love one another,  
God will live in us in perfect love.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

Mk 10:2-16

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

*What God has joined together, no one must divide.*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

### COMMUNION

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,  
to the soul that seeks him.