

Today Is 35:4-7; Jas 2:1-5 ; Mk 7:31-37

Next week Is 50:5-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

Psalm Response:
Praise the Lord, my soul!

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.
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:
You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Communion Ant:
Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.



**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year B
5 September 2021**

Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world. There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims, 'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.' The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present.

Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way. Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.

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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.

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>
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 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

Website: <https://sacredheartblackheath.org.au/>

www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/

Reflection

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In our second reading from the letter of St James we are reminded that human beings always make distinctions. We differentiate between people; and we can discriminate against those who are not part of 'our group'. It is part of our human condition, this 'making of distinctions between classes of people'.

However, such actions are incompatible with our Christian Faith.

We must do all we can to overcome this very human tendency to use different standards towards different people.

The rather dramatic gesture of St Francis of Assisi - who had a horror of leprosy - in kissing the leper whom he encountered is of great prophetic value!

Who are the metaphorical 'lepers' that we shun? Our vocation as a Christian is to imitate the Lord, and accept and embrace all; to forgive those who offend!

It is through our words and actions that we continue the mission of Christ: we are to help open the ears of those deaf to the Lord's goodness, and loosen the tongues of those who find it impossible to proclaim the Lord's loving care for all.

St James reminds us: "Listen, my brothers and sisters; it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom which he promised to those who love him".

And so, we must allow the Word of God and the Sacrament of the Eucharist to prompt us to be prophets for our Age - through the words we use and the actions we perform.

Let's do all we can to pull down all barriers and distinctions that divide and discriminate, so that all people may experience the love of God and the Salvation offered by Jesus Christ our Lord!

*** A Happy Fathers Day to all those fathers in our Parish Community!

Although we continue in Lockdown, I hope and pray you will have a great day.

May God continue to look after you all in these difficult times.

Fr John

Please support our priests' dignified retirement and those clergy who are in ill-health.

This Father's Day, please spare a thought for our humble priests who have cared for our faith community's spiritual nourishment and wellbeing for all their lives. With your generosity, the Clergy Support Foundation helps our priests with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement. Please give generously via the Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or call (02) 8838 3482.

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Vincent for the People of Afghanistan: Please read the attached Pastoral letter from Bishop Vincent and consider signing the petition.

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.
Zoom Meeting ID: 876 8390 0980
Passcode: 294515

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

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: 787 1965 7391
Passcode: 6GAF4R

Fathers Day: To all the men who are dads and those who are fatherly figures; all our prayers and blessings to you this day. We remember all our dads, grandfathers and fatherly figures who have passed away, new fathers and our young men and boys who will one day be the fathers of the future. May your lives be filled with joy. Paul Harris. Chair. Parish Pastoral Council

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

Rest in Peace!
8th Ray Thomas
10th Mary Kingston (d 2016)



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, Marie Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, Alfred Milani



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/CATHOLICPARISHOF-SACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH>

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.

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

Happy Birthday!
8th Lance Hodgkinson

