

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

Parish website:

sacredheartblackheath.org.au

Parish Facebook: [Sacred Heart Parish](#)

[Community Blackheath](#)

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?
pwd=UXlpYkhKUST5Qy81N2FpM05PS0
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) or Julie O'Keeffe
(julesongodson@bigpond.com)

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

10 October 2021.

FR. JOHN'S REFLECTION.

The young man in today's gospel is challenged to move beyond the external keeping of the commandments - which are necessary - to a deeper following of the Lord and his Gospel of unconditional love.

Similarly, we are asked to follow Christ along his way of total obedience to the Will of God!

This will mean making certain that our Christian faith and it's praxis are not merely external actions but emanate from a rich spiritual relationship with the Lord.

Always a challenge, such teaching calls us to an ever-more intentional living out of discipleship.

In the coming week, let's do all we can to follow in the footsteps of our Master.

Reopening of Churches

Although we are permitted to reopen churches and chapels for private prayer from Monday 11th October, we will not be doing so until the State of NSW reaches the 80% fully vaccinated target.

This will avoid being discriminatory, as it would otherwise mean only fully vaccinated people can enter our churches and Adoration Chapel until the 80% target is reached.

Furthermore, this is in keeping with our Bishop's Pastoral Letter last week.

When we do reopen, the 4 square meter rule will be in force, as will the compulsory wearing of masks. All people will be expected to check in via the QR code. Writing names on a list as before will not be the norm.

Furthermore, given the very infectious nature of the Delta variant, Fr Abraham and I have decided that will we not be giving communion on the tongue for the foreseeable future once masses resume.

This will avoid the possibility of aerosol droplets remaining on our hands as we take another host from the ciborium and give to the next communicant.

In addition, those receiving communion on the hand will need to keep their mask on until they have received the host from the minister, then take a few steps to one side, remove their mask, and then consume the host.

Again, this will lessen the danger of any COVID-19 transfer.

Finally, the 10am mass will continue to be live-streamed even after we emerge from lockdown as many parishioners will continue to be in isolation due to many different reasons.

We are in unusual times, my friends. I look forward to the future when all this is but a memory. In the meantime, let's continue to keep each other in prayer.

God Bless

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

READERS:

10 Sept: 1 St Reader

N/A

2 nd Reader

N/A

Welcome/Intercession:

N/A

NEXT WEEK READERS:

17 Sept: 1 St Reader

N/A

2 nd Reader

N/A

Welcome/ Intercession

N/A

CHURCH CARE:

FLOWERS:

COUNTERS:

SERVERS:

Do you need help downloading

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

4cm x 6cm

Advertise with us.

For more information please contact the office. 02 4782 2804

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.



Plenary Council: Concludes today with livestreamed Mass celebrated by Archbishop of Brisbane, Mark Coleridge from 11am. <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

Plenary Council Replay: View all the broadcasts, Masses, prayers and session summaries from this historical and significant event. <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/masses-and-livestreams/>

Paramatta Diocese Plenary Council Resources: <https://parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/>

Other sites that have covered the Plenary Council: *Plenary Matters* with Geraldine Doogue. Daily 30 minute podcasts interviewing Plenary Council Members. <https://plenary-matters.zencast.website/>

Plenary Tracker. Daily discussion, interaction and blogs. Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform, Concerned Catholics Canberra Goulburn and Garratt Publishing. <https://concernedcatholicscanberra.org/new-page-52>

October IS World Mission Month

In two weeks, Catholic Mission will share with us the powerful story of Churai*, a mother who found her way to the Mother and Babies Home, run by the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok, Thailand, during a desperate time in her life.

The Good Shepherd Sisters' mission is to promote the dignity and human rights of all, especially women and children; but they can only do that with support from people like you.

Please come with an open and generous heart.

*Name and images altered to protect identity

Freecall: 1800257296 or visit catholicmission.org.au/thailand

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?pwd=UXlpYkhKUSSt5Qy81N2FpM05PS0RmQT09>

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?pwd=cEFGckJYbzBmb3V2N00zenpLNnU5Zz09>

To commemorate the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Diocese of Parramatta will be praying the Holy Rosary for Vocations in different languages virtually on Thursday 7 October from 6pm to 7pm.

The rosary will be livestreamed on the Diocese of Parramatta Facebook page - www.facebook.com/parracatholic.

Clergy, men and women in consecrated life and seminarians from the Diocese of Parramatta will lead the rosary in their own languages.

We encourage you to share the Facebook link on your parish or community Facebook page and amongst your parishioners to join us in prayer. Feel free to also use the attached images that were posted this morning on the Diocesan Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/parracatholic/posts/4044193412359726>) and Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CUqiPJFhJpK/>).

We continue to pray for young men and women to say ‘yes’ to God’s calling them to vocation

Young people of the Diocese – we are with you

“I am with you always” Matthew 28:20. The Diocese has launched a new website in response to the mental health crisis impacting our young people. The website parracatholic.org/withyou contains links and information about services that can help young people whose wellbeing is suffering. Please share widely with young people and their families

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

8th Pat Wicks

14th Fr Paul Hanna (1940)



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 Portelli, Alfred Milani.

REST IN PEACE: Patrick Burke, 1st Lily Hanna 2010, 3rd Philomena Drummond (d 1991 - Pat Drummond’s mother) 5th Bernie Tierney (d 2007 - Father of Sue Gracey) 20th Jaroslav Zeeman (d 1999) - Betty’s husband, Jerry) 25th Leslie Dee (d 2015) 25th Edna Bentick (d 2010), 26th Patricia Davies (d 2013 - Barbara Grieves sister), 26th Barry Roberts (2017) 27th Brenda Pateman (d 2013 - wife of Fred for nearly 49 years)

****This Sunday's readings confront us with the need to make choices in life, choices for God. They also remind us that no significant choice is without its price. However, if we make the right choice, we are assured that we will be richly rewarded.**



We all want to be happy in life. We just don't always know which doors to open, and how far to enter them. We need wisdom for that. The more options that are open to us, the more difficult it is to choose, but choose we must. To choose one option is to relinquish the others. The young man in the gospel wanted eternal life. Surely there is nothing more worthy than that. However, the price he was asked to pay was more than he had expected, and he went away saddened. To choose is to face the consequences of the word of God, and sometimes this is as sharp as a two-edged sword.

One of the mysteries of faith is the incomprehensible generosity of God. We choose wisdom instead of all of the good things of the world, and we receive these good things along with wisdom itself. We are asked to relinquish all of the things that we value, and we get them back a hundredfold. We are invited to take a step into the unknown. We are told that we will not fall. However, we are never sure of this until we take the step and discover that we have not fallen. God demands so much, but gives so much more.

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Australian Women Preach:

This week’s guest is **Dr. Louise Gosbell** the Principal of Mary Andrews College in Sydney. Louise has recently finished writing a handbook on disability and inclusion for Anglican churches in Sydney which will be launched later this year. 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.

ANNIVERSARIES:

9th Fr Bob Sheridan’s ordination 2004

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

First Reading

Wis 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In comparison to wisdom, I held riches as nothing.

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

RESPONSE

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

Second Reading

Heb 4:12-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The word of God discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mk 10:17-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Go and sell whatever you have and come follow me.

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another, 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said, 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

COMMUNION

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.