

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](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParish)

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

MT VICTORIA VIGIL MASS

Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

MEGALONG VALLEY MASS

4pm (every third Friday of the month).

BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9:30am. WED: 6:30pm.

SAT: 9:00am

FIRST FRIDAY

Mass, Adoration and Reflection: 10 am.

SECOND FRIDAY

Friday Fiesta: (Will recommence in 2022).

CONFESSION

WED: 6:15pm before 6.30 mass

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS PARISH SUN MASSES

SAT: 9:00am Katoomba.

SAT: 5:00pm Leura (Vigil)

SUN: 8:00am Wentworth Falls

SUN: 10am Katoomba

Sun: 5.00pm Leura

BULLETIN ITEMS: Please contact the Parish

Office on Wednesday or Thursday during
office hours on 4787 8540 or email blackheath@parracatholic.org

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'Keefe
(julesongodson@bigpond.com)

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

31 October 2021.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Both the First Reading from Deuteronomy and the Gospel text from Mark are all about LOVE.

The OT text speaks of God's Love for the People of Israel. Even in the Old Covenant, a Covenant of Law and of the Fear of the Lord, LOVE was at the heart of the relationship between God and God's People.

In the Gospel of Mark Jesus takes up the themes of Deuteronomy (Love God) and of Leviticus (Love your Neighbour) and gives them a new dimension: they are, in fact, says the Lord, the two sides of one coin... you cannot have one without the other; loving God without loving one's neighbour is not valid; nor is loving one's neighbour while failing to love God!

Indeed, in imitating the holiness of God, it is by loving unconditionally that a man or woman most resembles God. It is through LOVE that a human being participates in the very life of God!

As a response to these texts we need to avoid the trap of placing the system ahead of the person!

Involvement in parish, work, life in general are excellent things that we all strive to do well. But they should never be put before the needs of others.

Unconditional love is at the heart of our Christian Faith and Practice. It is in loving God and neighbour unconditionally that we fulfil ALL commandments, as Jesus makes clear in the Gospel.

Let's avoid the all-too-real contemporary danger of over-involvement to the detriment of others. There must always be time to love the neighbour who turns up on the doorstep.

As one spiritual author puts it in very simple words:

"If you are obliged to go to prayer when your sisters or brother has need of herb-tea, first give them the herb-tea...!"

Thanks be to God that we are able to gather in person once again!

It was so great to see familiar faces last weekend...

As the coming months unfold our health restrictions will lessen; and by next year we should be returning to 'normal'.

And may we always be tolerant of each other at this time, even if we disagree with an individual's choices.

My friends, let's continue to pray for each other in these days, weeks, and months ahead.

God bless you all.

Fr John



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

READERS:

31 Oct **1 St Reader**
Pat Wicks
2 nd Reader
Pat Wicks

Welcome/Intercession:
Paul Harris

NEXT WEEK READERS; (TBA)

7 Nov: **1 St Reader**
N/A
2 nd Reader
N/A

Welcome/ Intercession
N/A

CHURCH CARE:

Noeleen Cliff and Marilyn Rowe

FLOWERS:
Rosemary Kenny & Mary Batty

COUNTERS: (TBA)

SERVERS: 31/10/21

Michelle davis

Join the toilet cleaning roster

Volunteers are needed for the weekly toilet cleaning at Sacred Heart Church. If you are able to assist please speak with John Tweedie

Mass For All Saints

Mass for All Saints (Monday Nov 1):
12.00pm Katoomba
Mass for All Souls (Tuesday Nov 2):
Sacred Heart 6:30 pm

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You 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.



Being a Covid Safe Parish:

We are following NSW Health mandates, Paramatta diocesan directions and our own parish decisions to keep our community safe and welcoming for all. Please remember to:

- + wear a mask
- + QR sign in
- + approach communion wearing your mask - receive the Host on your hand – step to the side – remove your mask to consume the Host – return to your seat.
- + maintain social distancing
- + lip-sync singing! (thank you to our music ministry)

Fr John's Egg Run

This Sunday we are starting the Egg Run, Fr John has donated a dozen freshly layed eggs to be raffled after Mass this Sunday at Blackheath.

There are only 25 tickets sold at \$1 a ticket so get in quick to be in the draw. This will happen at each Mass Fr John presides over between the two parishes, Mt Vic won't miss out. This will last as long as the eggs last.

See Marilyn after Mass for your tickets. All monies raised will go to the parish.



Social Committee.

Young people of the Diocese – we are with you

“I am with you always” Matthew 28:20. The Diocese has launched a new web-site in response to the mental health crisis impacting our young people. The web-site 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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

It's that time of the year again where we are asking parishioners to donate to our Christmas Hampers.

Without your donations we simply cannot hold our raffle.

A list of goodies needed will be put at the doors of Blackheath & Mt Vic's churches and if you can help us out by nominating any of the items on the list

(or if you have anything else that is not listed) please add it to the list.

The Finance Committee will be selling tickets to this fantastic raffle through November and December after each Mass and the raffle will be drawn on Sunday 19th December after Mass at Sacred Heart Blackheath.

Thank you in anticipation.

Your Parish Finance Team

Virtual Cuppa Gospel Sharing: The Sunday 'Virtual Cuppa' is moving to **THURSDAY evenings**. Many have found the sharing and listening to be quite a gift. Over the next two months we will trial having it on Thursday nights for 30-40 minutes at 7.30pm. The gathering's host will rotate each week, so that we share this role, but the link will remain the same: TONIGHT'S (Thursday 28th) host is Monica Bright.

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71997958918?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71997958918?pwd=aUdBMFMzSHIHQIN6ZVc5QkxBbWtwQT09)

[pwd=aUdBMFMzSHIHQIN6ZVc5QkxBbWtwQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71997958918?pwd=aUdBMFMzSHIHQIN6ZVc5QkxBbWtwQT09) Meeting ID: 719 9795 8918 Passcode: 8hFnYH

Christmas cards and Advent reflection books Vinnies Christmas cards and Advent prayer/reflection books are available for purchase at St Paul's and Sacred Heart churches this weekend. Christmas cards are \$8 per pack of 10 cards and the Advent reflection books are \$5 each.

Booking in for Mass:

As the 4 square metre density rule applies booking in for Mass is essential.

For Mt Vic – please call or text Diane Stewart (0401 269 956)

For Blackheath – please call or text Brian Bright

(0401 768 688)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtj55ris-vGDQqCDN7mldNQ>

Please note that from next week 2nd November, Joy will be working on Tuesdays 12 pm to 4pm instead of Wednesdays.

November Masses:

You are invited to bring the written names of deceased people you would like the community to pray for during the month of November and placing these names in the basket at the base of the altar.

St Thomas' Megalong Valley Mass:

The next Mass will be Friday December 17th at 4pm. Booking is essential as numbers are very limited

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

28th Connie Adams



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

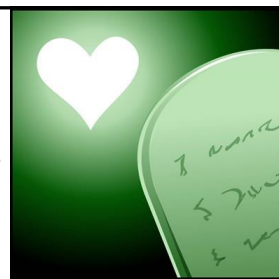
Grahame Adams, Andrew Krawczyk, Rae Freckelton, Patricia Dee, John Hanna, Barbara Grieves, Pat McCauley, Ray Wood, John & Marion Crowley, Maria Slater, Maria Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, Alfred Milani.

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), 28th Andrew Harris

****Israel was called by God. To what was Israel called? To what were the crowds who followed Jesus called? To what are we called? To a covenant relationship with the Lord who is God, the one who is Lord alone. We have been invited into an intimate personal relationship with the creator of the universe, the one who plays with black holes and white dwarfs and at the same time with infinite interest has numbered the very hairs on our head (cf. Matt 10:30). We have heard this so often that it may have become commonplace. The marvel of it may escape our attention, because it has become just a part of our religious language. It is well that once in a while we are shaken to our senses, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord is your God, the Lord alone!'**

It is not marvel enough that this mysterious God has created us; we have also been redeemed. As victim-priest Jesus has offered himself on our behalf. He is the sacrifice that sealed the covenant; his blood was the expiation for our sins; he is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our shield, our stronghold. Only one thing is asked of us in return: that we open ourselves to him and cling to the covenant, that we proclaim with all our hearts 'The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!' We are to love with all our heart and all our soul and all our strength; we are to love God and to love others.

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Readers for Mass:

Proclaiming the Word to the community is an essential ministry that forms an important part of the liturgy. God is present in the scripture readings that we hear. If you feel called to contribute in this way and join our reading roster, please speak to Pat Wicks (0411 488 990)

Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is **Janine Luttick**, a full-time lecturer in biblical studies in the faculty of theology and philosophy at Australian Catholic University. She is interested in how readers today make sense of the Bible in light of their own questions and concerns. www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Alive in the Spirit Symposium:

November 6 from 10am-3pm. This is a day of prayerful and practical action offering a fresh heart and fresh hope for our renewed communities to be Alive in the Spirit. If you would like to participate in this inspiring symposium contact Paul Harris (pauls_harris@hotmail.com) for the registration link and password.

Connie Adams would like to thank everyone for their support and continuous prayers for Grahame. Please keep praying for his quick recovery.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

Cf. Ps 37:22-23

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

First Reading

Dt 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart.*

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

RESPONSE

I love you Lord, my strength.

Second Reading

Heb 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*This one, because he remains for ever, has an
eternal priesthood.*

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for

those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to
them.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Mk 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This is the first commandment, and the second
is similar to it.*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

COMMUNION

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord