

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/SacredHeartParishCommunityBlackheath)

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

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 black-
heath@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'Keeffe
(julesongodson@bigpond.com)

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

14 November 2021.

As we fast approach the end of the Church's Liturgical Year, all three readings this weekend have the theme of *expectant waiting on the Lord*.

The only apocalyptic text in the OT, the Book of Daniel, speaks of the end of Time; it is assuring the People of Israel who have remained faithful ("whose names are found written in the Book (of Life in Heaven)") that they will receive eternal life.

The Gospel of Mark utilises similar apocalyptic imagery as Jesus speaks of the time of darkness to come when the world will end. Evoking the Day of Judgement, this text was very important in the minds of the early Christians, encouraging people to remain faithful even when persecuted for their belief. It aided them in their ethical living in the here and now.

And the Letter to the Hebrews (although using non-apocalyptic language) makes a similar point: Jesus has taken his place with the Father (having achieved salvation through his once-for-all sacrifice on the Cross), and he is "now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him". This means that Christ is waiting for all people to come to faith in the Gospel message, which will usher in the time when all evil is overcome.

These texts encourage us all to be expectant in our waiting for the End of time (whether our own end or that of the whole world). During this *in-between time* (between his initial victory on the Cross and his Coming again), we commit ourselves to living out of the Gospel. As Christians, we are a hope-filled people, who live in readiness for the End.

Furthermore, although such ideas do, indeed, spur us on to be good, so that we might receive eternal salvation, we must also realise that our ethical living is a *good* here and now. It is a way of living that respects oneself and respects others, considering the other person as valuable in herself/himself. That is, the living of the Christian lifestyle here and now is a good thing in itself.

And so, my friends, our texts continue to challenge us as they did the early Church.

* Whenever we find ourselves slackening in our commitment to Christ or to his message of salvation;

* whenever our lifestyle starts to look as little rusty with dints everywhere;

* whenever we consider modifying our beliefs or even giving them away altogether - the knowledge that the End of Time could be upon us at any moment makes us stop and reflect on what needs renewal in our lives.

Furthermore, these texts also give us comfort, for those of us who do try our best to live good and faithful lives to the best of our ability and in the circumstances in which we find ourselves are given the promise that in spite of persecution / suffering / anything that comes... victory, salvation and glory will be ours!

On behalf of Fr Abraham and myself, I would like to thank all of you who have done so much for the Church communities in our two parishes during these dark days of world Pandemic, and especially in the Lockdowns and present times of restrictions. Although many of us would like things to return as quickly as they can to the way things were before, we need to be patient as we wait for these difficult days to come to a safe end. I appreciate that many of you understand that Fr Abraham and myself are doing our best to balance the competing needs of all our parish members. Please be tolerant and respectful as we navigate the future together.

God bless you all . Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 14 Nov 2021

1 St Reader: Frances Huckstepp

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession:

Frank Portelli

COUNTERS: 14 Nov 2021

Pamela & John

SERVERS: 14 Nov 2021

Michelle Davis

CHURCH CARE:

Noeleen Cliff and Marilyn Rowe

FLOWERS:

Rosemary Kenny & Mary Batty

**NEXT WEEK READERS;
21 Nov 2021**

1 St Reader: Connie Adams

2 nd Reader: Eve O'Donnell

**Welcome/ Intercession
Pat Wicks**

Mt Victoria (TBA)

1 St Reader:

2 nd Reader:

MERRY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE.

Tickets are now available after mass for this fantastic raffle. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 19th December after Mass at Sacred Heart Blackheath.

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)

Diocesan Pastoral Council:

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv warmly invites applications for membership to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The council seeks a cross-section of people from different places in the Diocese and from different backgrounds and experiences.

If you have any question's please contact Sr Grace Roclawska, Head: Formation for Mission via email at grace.roclawska@parracatholic.org

BECOME A CATECHIST, A SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER!

Recruiting to begin Term 1, 2022. Special Religious Educators (SREs) also known as Catechists are parish volunteers who: ** Teach and share the Catholic faith with children of their parish who attend government schools. ** Have a passion for sharing the gift of faith with young people. ** Have an hour per week to prepare and share their time and talents with young people. ** Are people who respond to the central mission of the Church to make Jesus known and loved. In this parish Special Religious Educators, SREs, (previously known as Catechists) go into two state primary schools during school hours. New volunteer SREs will be given support, training, authorised teaching materials and can start as a classroom helper. To register your interest or make further enquiries visit or call the Parish Office on 4787 8540 or your SRE Parish Co-ordinator, Claire Maguire 0400 786 639

World Day of the Poor

An invitation to attend a St Vincent de Paul event exploring Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of the Poor

Wednesday 17th November 2021 at 7pm. "The poor you will always have with you" (Mk 14:7)

Pope Francis reminds us that there is an inseparable link between Jesus, the poor and our community of faith. Vinnie's mission calls us to reach out and meet Christ in the suffering endured by people experiencing poverty.

Pope Francis calls on all societies to adopt a new approach to poverty. Building bonds of mutual sharing will break down the barriers of exclusion, restore dignity and strengthen the solidarity of communities. Genuine involvement in the lives of those served will make us ever more attentive to emerging forms of poverty as well as new possibilities for Christian love and charity.

Guest speaker, Bishop Vincent Long DD OFMConv, Catholic bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta, will reflect on key theological and social teaching themes of Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of the Poor and its significance in our good works.

Vinnie's Executive Director of Mission and Spirituality, Leo Tucker, will speak of how the Pope's call for 'a different approach to poverty' resonates with Vincentian spirituality.

RSVPs through registering via the link. <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/embracing-the-challenge-of-mutual-sharing-tickets-190885432467>

The Good Ol' Gospel Gasbag Gathering:

You are warmly invited to join an online gathering of parishioners for 30 minutes of prayer and sharing on the forthcoming Sunday Gospel reading, and a little bit of gasbagging too! **THURSDAY evenings from 7:30pm.** Many have found the sharing and listening to be quite a gift. Join with the zoom link:

<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.

NO NEED to Book in for Mass: As the 2 square metre density rule currently applies booking in for Mass is NOT required.

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/UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ>

Celebrating 120 years of our Sacred Heart Church **January 26 1902-2022**

A 2022 calendar to mark this auspicious occasion has been produced and is available for purchase at both St Paul's and Sacred Heart at the weekend masses. The calendar includes historical images, information about the growth and changes over time in our parish and treasured items contributed and made by our parishioners over many decades. This hot off the press limited edition, must have memento costs \$20, making a wonderful keepsake and Christmas gift! Payment in cash would be most appreciated- thank you! The calendar will be available at the Megalong Mass on Friday December 17 at 4pm

Save the date!

Celebrating the blessing and opening of our church on
Wednesday January 26 from 11:00am

St Joseph's Megalong Valley Mass:

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

10th David Caplice

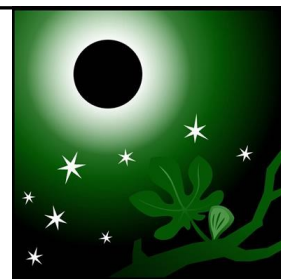


Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

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: 7th Lewis Hodgkinson (d 2004), 9th Melanie Hinklemann, 14th Fr Jim Dooley (d 2007), 21st Craig Charles Huckstepp (d 2014 - Francesca Huckstepp's husband), 25th Jason Bentley, 27th Iris Jones

****Although this is not the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the major theme found in the readings is the end of time. The events that will usher in and will take place during this time are described in apocalyptic terms. The struggles of life will culminate in a massive cosmic confrontation between the forces of good and those of evil. This last battle will be universal in scope, just like the first primordial conflict between chaos and God.**



In some way, all of today's readings state that good will finally prevail over evil. In the last days Michael, the angelic warrior of God, will rise up. In the epistle, Christ is pictured seated triumphantly at the right hand of God with his enemies under his foot, a sign of conquest. Finally, in the gospel, the Son of Man, the mysterious figure from apocalyptic literature, comes in the clouds with great power and glory. All of these images are apocalyptic; each of them is quite hopeful.

We read these stories at the close of the liturgical year, because we are coming to the conclusion of our yearly telling of the story of salvation. However, apocalyptic images are timely whenever we find ourselves in the throes of the battle with evil and it appears that we will succumb. These forms will remind us that good will be able to withstand evil. From this we will conclude that we need only trust in God.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

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 **Rev. Radhika Sukumar-White**, a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia. She is a 2nd-Generation Sri Lankan Tamil Australian, and grew up in Canberra before moving to Sydney to study Physiotherapy, Music and then Theology.

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

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.

ANNIVERSARIES:

13th Margaret and Bob Davis (m 1965)



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place .

First Reading

Dn 12:1-3

A reading from the prophet Daniel

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

‘At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.’

RESPONSE

Keep me safe, O God: you are my hope.

Second Reading

Heb 10:11-14, 18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful, and pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand before the Son
of Man.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Mk 13:24-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

‘Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

‘But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.’

COMMUNION

Ps 72:28

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.