

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](#)

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'Keeffe
(julesongodson@bigpond.com)

First Sunday of Advent Year C

28 November 2021

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

As with the last two weeks of the Church's Liturgical Year, this First Sunday of Advent continues the theme of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ at the End of Time.

The First Reading from Jeremiah speaks of the promise of a Messiah who will save the People of Israel from oppression. The prophet encourages the people to remain faithful to God as they wait patiently for the fulfilment of God's Promises. Utilising the apocalyptic genre of literature, the Gospel of Luke has Jesus inviting his hearers to wait patiently for the Day of the Lord; Christians must strive to be ready for the End, living faithful and wholesome lifestyles expected of followers of the Lord.

And the Second Reading from Thessalonians has St Paul offering the early Christians a charter for living - being holy and blameless, generous in love for each other and the whole human race - as they wait patiently for the Second Coming of the Lord.

Thus, all three texts speak to us of the need to wait for the Lord's Coming.

Our Advent season is a time of WAITING: we wait to celebrate the First Coming of the Lord at Christmas; we wait for the Second Coming of the Lord at the End of Time.

What is important is the kind of waiting in which we engage: PATIENT EXPECTANT WAITING, IN READINESS FOR THE LORD'S ARRIVAL. This concept should permeate all aspects of our spiritual life.

Let's pray in this first week of Advent that the Lord might gift us with PATIENCE as we WAIT for the Coming of Jesus Christ.

* This Wednesday, 1st December, we welcome two seminarians to the two Parishes of Upper Blue Mountains and Blackheath. They will be with us until Christmas, experiencing parish life in the Upper Mountains as part of their Formation. David Sebastian will be joining us in the Parish of St Mary of Cross Mackillop; Luke Huynh will be joining us in the Parish of Sacred Heart. I'm sure you will welcome both of these young men to our church communities.

* Please note the Christmas / New Year timetable in the Bulletin and on the Church noticeboards...

God bless you all as we enter our Advent Season of preparation... Fr John

This Weeks Readers : **28 Nov 2021**

1 St Reader: Pat Wicks

2 nd Reader: Marilyn Rowe

Welcome/Intercession:

John Tweedie

COUNTERS: 28 Nov 2021

Pamela and John

SERVERS: 28 Nov 2021

Alan Skofic

CHURCH CARE:

Jim and Cathy McNamara

FLOWERS:

David Buckley

NEXT WEEK READERS; **5 Dec 2021**

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/ Intercession

Paul Harris

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)
- + keep windows and doors open to assist with ventilation

World AIDS Day: Tree of Hope invites you to our World AIDS Day Remembrance Service

Wednesday 1 December 2021. 12.30 - 2.30pm. CatholicCare, West St Lewisham
RSVP paige.bullen@catholiccare.org.

Through our Tree of Hope program, we offer spiritual, practical and emotional support to people living with HIV. The Tree of Hope program is built on the foundations of inclusiveness, trust and respect. Alternating between our Lewisham office and the Erskineville Parish, Tree of Hope is a welcoming space for people of any faith, or no faith.

HIV/AIDS statistics. In 2019:

- 38,000,000 people were living with HIV
- 1,700,000 people were newly infected with HIV
- 690,000 people died of HIV-related causes
- 68% of adults living with HIV received lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve Family Mass: Friday December 24th
6:00 pm Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath (carols from 5:45pm)
Midnight Mass: St Canice's, Katoomba

Christmas Day Mass: Saturday December 25th
8:00 am St Paul's, Mt Victoria
9:30 am Sacred Heart, Blackheath

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

No mother or child should be homeless and without support at Christmas. This weekend, our Parish is proud to support Parramatta Catholic Foundation's Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Funds raised will enable CatholicCare's Houses to Homes project to support vulnerable young pregnant women who are facing hardship, abuse and homelessness – so that they and their children can face the future with hope, safety and security.

We invite you in this Year of the Family, to show your Christian kindness to vulnerable women and their children in need, by supporting the Bishop's Christmas Appeal.

Please give generously via the giving envelopes available on the pews. Or you can give online at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal Thank you.

Advent G: ospel Gathering.

The 'Good Ol' Gospel Gasbaggers invite you to join an online gathering of parishioners for 30 minutes of prayer and sharing on the forthcoming Sunday Gospel reading. **THURSDAY evenings from 7:30pm.** No experience necessary.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71997958918?pwd=aUdBMFMzSHIHQlN6ZVc5Qkx5BbWtwQT09>

Meeting ID: 719 9795 8918 Passcode: 8hFnYH

Parish Annual General Meeting: Due to the restrictions on gathering, the Parish Pastoral Council has decided to postpone the AGM till Sunday February 13

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>

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)

Blessed is a 92-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, accessible daily reflections from the beginning of Advent, 28 November 2021, through to the Baptism of the Lord, 9 January 2022. **Blessed** features beautiful religious artworks from the Masters, artwork reflections and daily wisdom from a variety of contributors. This book is available for purchase for \$5 at our weekend Masses and will be a wonderful companion through our most joyous season offering moments of quiet during a very busy time!

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:

19th Brian Bright (b 1945)



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

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

REST IN PEACE: 15 Jane Harris, 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

**The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stages for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. Each reading depicts a dimension of suffering that was often brought on by the people themselves. The promises are assurances that the end of their suffering was in sight. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope.



The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest.

What is expected of those who receive the promise? An Advent way of life exhorts us to 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ'. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations. It is as ordinary as the birth of a child; it is as extraordinary as the revelation of God.

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Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Teash Taylor** co-pastor of St Kilda Elsternwick Baptist Church. She became passionate about women preaching at University when she learnt that women couldn't speak at her uni campus' largest Christian groups main Bible talks. She's been getting herself into trouble advocating for marginalised groups ever since. www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Earthcare Families Launch: Catholic Earthcare is launching the Earthcare Families initiative. The initiative is designed to help families engage with the Laudato Si Action Platform and live out Pope Francis' call to action to care for our common home. Families, Parish and School representatives are most welcome to attend the launch to learn about the Earthcare Families program. Monday 29 November 2021 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=816944&>

ANNIVERSARIES:

21st Tony and Maree Crawford (m 1981)



First Sunday of Advent Year C

ENTRANCE

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading

Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time,
I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David,
who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved
and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called:
The Lord-our-integrity.’

RESPONSE

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul

Second Reading

1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers and sisters we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your redemption is near at hand.

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; people dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living person on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

COMMUNION

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.