

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

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)

Third Sunday of Advent Year C

12 December 2021

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Being around halfway through the season of Advent, our time of preparation for Christmas, we change liturgical colours to Rose (not pink!). This is traditionally the colour of JOY!

Today we rejoice! We are glad that Jesus has come into our world as Saviour, and we delight in the fact that He will come to us again in a special way during our Christmas celebrations.

The First Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah speaks of a joy that born of the knowledge that God will always take care of God's people. There is no more need to fear!

St Paul speaks to the Philippians (and to us) about the great peace that belongs to those in Christ Jesus. He exhorts us not to worry, for the Lord's peace "will guard your hearts and thoughts".

And our Gospel text from Luke speaks of the joy that accompanies the Baptist's proclamation of the coming of the Messiah: 'someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am... (and) he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'.

But what does all this talk of 'JOY' mean for us? Surely we are not expected to be exuberant at all times?

My friends... Joy is NOT Happiness (despite the horrible translation of our second reading today). Happiness is something that occurs then disappears, a transient emotion. Joy is something deeper, as it flows from a conviction of faith; from the realisation that Christ lives within us. We can then cast out fear, as we are gifted with that peace which only the Lord can give.

Thus, joy is not some 'pie in the sky' concept; it is not something that belongs only to saints. It is a 'fruit of the Spirit' that can be found in every Christian.

We have to pray for an increase of this gift from the Lord every day, opening ourselves up to God so that we can live lives filled with the Holy Spirit.

Then, fostering this gift of joy in prayer and practice, we will be enabled to fulfil Paul's prayer to the Philippians:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! The Lord is near".

* We welcome Fr Tony Fox OFM Conv for the 8 and 10am masses this weekend.

Thanks, Tony, for covering for me as I celebrate a wedding at Mudgee this weekend.

* There will be a Year 6 Graduation Mass at 9:30am on Tuesday at Katoomba. Please pray for our graduating students.

God bless you all. Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 12 Dec 2021
1 St Reader: Mary Roberts
2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession:
Frank Portelli

COUNTERS: 12 Dec 2021
Marilyn Rowe
SERVERS: 12 Dec 2021
Paul Harris

CHURCH CARE:
Noeleen Cliff and Marilyn Rowe
FLOWERS:
Cate Mitchell

NEXT WEEK READERS; 19 Dec 2021
1 St Reader: Connie Adams
2 nd Reader: Eve O'Donnell

Welcome/ Intercession
Adrian Carroll
Server: Grahame Adams

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.

Sacred Heart Parish Catechists:
We recognise our Catechists at who have retired this (or last) year at Mass today. Noelene Cliff, Breda Seamons, Julie Hodgkinson and Christine Helby.
We give thanks for the continuing service of Claire Maguire, Jennifer Milani, Pat Drummond, and welcome Connie Adams to the team for 2022. Thank you and God bless you all for sharing your faith and the love of God to the young people of our local public schools.

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

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2021
This Saturday and Sunday 11/12 December.
All through the Covid period, your local Vinnies members and their colleagues across the Blue Mountains have been offering continued support to those in our community in need of assistance. These have included the homeless, women escaping from situations of domestic violence and those who, for reasons beyond their control, simply cannot make ends meet. At this weekend's Masses, we are asking for your assistance to help us in our work. Envelopes are available for your donation. We thank you for your past generosity and hope you can support our Christmas Appeal 2021. For more information contact John Tweedie on 0407 288 957 or Karen Hayward on 0419 123 744.

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

Pope Video for December:
“Catechists have an invaluable mission for the transmission and growth of the faith,” says Pope Francis in The Pope Video for December. Each month, the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network prepares The Pope Video, in which the Holy Father reveals his special prayer intentions for that month. Google “Pope Video December 2021”

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

Advent Gospel Gathering:

All are invited 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=aUdBMFMzSHIHQlN6ZVc5QkxBbWtwQT09>

Meeting ID: 719 9795 8918 Passcode: 8hFnYH

Parish Annual General Meeting: Rescheduled to Sunday February 13. Could all Ministry leaders have their annual report prepared and sent to the Secretary, Adrian Carroll by mid-January please.

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)

Our Historic 120 year Celebration Calendar

If you wish to order copies of this *limited edition* calendar please contact **Julie Hodgkinson** on **47878096** to arrange payment and postage. Thank you for supporting this parish fundraiser and buying our beautiful calendar

St Thomas' Megalong Valley Mass: The next Mass will be Friday December 17th at 4pm. Due to the restricted space and social distancing rules for places of worship, masks **will be required to be worn inside.** QR check-in is required for places of worship

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

9th Julie Hodgkinson

11th Elaine Jackson



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.

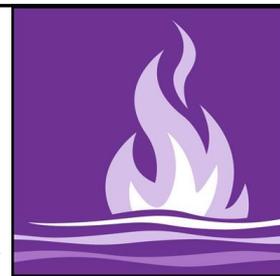
REST IN PEACE: 13th Rosalie Sandor. 13th Marjorie Cullen (d 2014 aged 92 – Julie Hodgkinson's mother)

29th Jorgan Kallane (2016)

****We are at the midpoint of Advent.** Today we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

© Dianne Bergant CSA



Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is **Dr Trish Hindmarsh.** Trish is a retired teacher and educational leader who worked in Catholic Education in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania. She has a lively interest in justice, peace and ecology and is a member of the Catholic Earthcare Australia Advisory Committee. Visit www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Recycling and Reducing landfill

In addition to **empty toothpaste tubes** and **plastic toothbrushes** we will now be collecting **electric toothbrushes, including the battery and cord.**

Thank you to everyone who collects and donates drink containers marked with the 10c refund label; over **3200** items have been returned during this year!

Ideas from Choice for reducing Christmas Waste

<https://www.choice.com.au/shopping/packaging-labelling-and-advertising/packaging/articles/recycling-at-christmas>



Third Sunday of Advent Year C

ENTRANCE

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near

First Reading

Zep 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

RESPONSE

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is
the great and Holy One of Israel .

Second Reading

Phil 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Lk 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
When all the people asked John, ‘What must we do?’ he answered, ‘If anyone has two tunics they must share with the one who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.’ There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, ‘Master, what must we do?’ He said to them, ‘Exact no more than your rate.’ Some soldiers asked him in their turn, ‘What about us? What must we do?’ He said to them, ‘No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!’

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, ‘I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’ As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them .

COMMUNION

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.