

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 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)

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

19 December 2021

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our First Reading for this Fourth Sunday of Advent speaks of the promise of a Saviour to come who will rule over all. There is an expectation that this Saviour will attain victory over Israel's enemies.

This text is fulfilled in the Gospel, where Jesus, conceived in Mary's womb, makes a journey with his Mother; and his Mother is proclaimed 'blessed' for she carries the Saviour. The Promise of God is being fulfilled and there is an abundance joy at this event.

However, sometimes we overlook the fact that the fulfilment of the Promise, joyful as it is, also demands obedience and sacrifice:

* Mary obeyed and was proclaimed blessed; Jesus obeyed the Father's Will and is Saviour for all.

* Such obedience meant sacrifice: for Mary it was the 'shame' of being thought an unwed mother; for Jesus it was his death on the Cross, which brought about salvation for all.

And so we are invited by the Word of God for today to reflect on the need for obedience and sacrifice in our lives.

Like Mary, like Jesus, we need to examine those areas of our lives that may demand renewal and change, so that we will be more obedient to the Father's Will for us.

At times we will need to overcome fear / shame / ridicule / discomfort in order to achieve the designs of our loving God.

Sacrifice will be demanded of us at various moments in our Christian journey of obedience; we need to imitate the Lord and his Blessed Mother and be willing to walk in faithfulness all the days of our life.

And the result for us will be Blessing and unending Joy in the Lord, both now and forever in the life to come!

1. Please check the Bulletin and Church noticeboards for the mass times for next weekend: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day (Feast of the Holy Family).

2. My thanks to all for all the work in preparing for the celebrations surrounding our Christmas Feasts.

3. Our thanks to David and Luke for their time among us: may the Lord continue to bless you both as you follow your Vocations.

4. Let us continue to pray for an end to this Pandemic which has ruled our lives for two years; may 2022 be a time of grace for all our world, a time of new beginnings!

God bless you all

Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 19 Dec 2021

1 St Reader: Connie Adams

2 nd Reader: Eve O'Donnell

Welcome/Intercession:

 Adrian Carroll

COUNTERS: 19 Dec 2021

Laurie Noyes

SERVERS: 19 Dec 2021

Grahame Adams

CHURCH CARE:

Noeleen Cliff and Marilyn Rowe

FLOWERS:

Cate Mitchell

NEXT WEEK READERS; 26 Dec 2021

1 St Reader: TBA

2 nd Reader: TBA

Welcome/ Intercession

TBA

Server: TBA

Mt Victoria (TBA)

1 St Reader:

2 nd Reader:

Office Closed

Please note that our parish office will be closed during the Christmas holiday from 20 Dec -4 Jan.

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022 .

Celebrating 120 years of our Sacred Heart Church

 January 26 2022


 11:30 Mass

Display of historic items, slide show, celebration cake.

BYO picnic in our church grounds after Mass

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:

- + QR sign in
- + receive communion only in the hand
- + keep windows and doors open to assist with ventilation
- + wear a mask indoors when social distancing is not possible

++ Please note: these conditions are subject to change without notice ++

WORKING BEE

Thursday 23rd December commencing from 8am. Come and work with our maintenance team to help prepare our grounds for our Christmas celebrations. Call Lance on 47878096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information, or just turn up on the day



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

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Our aim this Christmas is to have an inspiring floral display. All donations of flowers and foliage will be greatly appreciated. Please leave your donations in the containers located outside the church by 10 a.m. Thursday 23rd December. Cate Mitchell for the Flowers Volunteers

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Our Christmas raffle will be drawn after Mass this Sunday. We have four great prizes and we wish everyone good luck.

You can still purchase raffle tickets before & after Mass on Sunday before the draw.

If you have any books that you have sold please don't forget to bring them so they can be also included in the draw.

A big thank you to all those who generously gave assortments for the Hampers and to those who purchased ticket.

Winners will be notified on Sunday.

Thank you. Marilyn (Social & Fundraising committee)

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=aUdBMFMzSHIHQlN6ZVc5Qkx5BbWtwQT09>

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)

Historic Celebration Calendar 1902-2022

To order calendar copies phone Julie Hodgkinson on **4787 8096** and arrange local delivery or postage. Share this slice of our parish history with family, friends and others in our community who may have an interest or connection. **Please help us sell our beautiful calendars!**

St Joseph's 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:

18th George Commens
20th Robert Forbes (b 1956)
21st Dominic Burke (b 1963)
24th David Buckley (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: 13th Rosalie Sandor. 13th Marjorie Cullen (d 2014 aged 92 – Julie Hodgkinson's mother)

29th Jorgan Kallane (2016)

******There is always excitement at this time of the year. It is as if everything is filled with promise. Animosity is set aside; estrangement dissolves into reconciliation; the whole world seems gentler; and we are filled with the spirit of generosity. In the days just before Christmas, the possibility of newness is almost palpable. The spirit of the season has caught hold of us even before the actual day has arrived. Today we stand on the threshold of fulfilment. The future that God has prepared for us is open before us, even though we have not yet stepped out into it.



The incarnation takes place in human history, thus affirming the fundamental goodness of human life and concerns, and sanctifying them even further. The child comes from simple people, from a place that is relatively insignificant, thus underscoring God's preference for what is ordinary. The body that was offered for our salvation, the body that consecrated us through having been offered up, was the body that grew in the womb of Mary. The extraordinary salvific deed of God was accomplished through his coming into the world as one of us. The obedience that Christ played out through his body fulfilled for us the promises made by God.

We stand on the threshold of fulfilment, the fulfilment of an event that has already taken place. We ritually reenact it so that we never take it for granted, so that we never forget that it is in and through human history that the marvellous deeds of God are accomplished.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is **Racy Espino**. Racy describes herself as passionate in planting and nurturing seeds of faith in her children. As a Pastoral Coordinator for her parish, she values the opportunities to walk with parents in their faith journey to cultivate them to have personal relationship with our Creator. Visit www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

MONSTER GARAGE SALE

It's on again Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th February 2022.

You can now leave items either inside the hall or at the door of the meeting room. Please clean out all your unwanted goodies and we all know your trash is someone else's treasure.

Thank you in anticipation

Social & Fundraising Committee



Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C

ENTRANCE

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading

Mi 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth
gives birth.

Then the remnant of his brothers and sisters
will come back to the children of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,

with the majesty of the name of his God.

They will live secure, for from then on he will
extend his power to the ends of the land.

He himself will be peace.

Second Reading

RESPONSE

Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Heb 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices
for sin; then I said,

just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law
lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrific-
es, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for
sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says:
Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolish-
ing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this
will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his
body made once and for all by Jesus Christ

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Lk 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town
in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's
house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and
Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a
loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most
blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why
should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my
Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears,
the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she
who believed that the promise made her by the Lord
would be fulfilled.'

COMMUNION

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.