

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)

Second Sunday of Advent Year C

5 December 2021

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Prophet Baruch encourages us to reflect on our past, to examine those areas of pain and hurt, discouragement and spiritual malaise - and having done so, to turn these problems over to the Lord for His healing touch. This is so appropriate for our Advent season, as this is time of reflection and quiet meditation - which can aid us in our preparation for the Lord's Coming.

St Paul encourages his hearers (and us) to increase our knowledge of the Lord by being united in love in our community, and striving to do what is right in an on-going preparation for the Coming of the Lord. It is living this way which may lead others to Christ.

And the Gospel encourages us not just to look at ourselves (whether past or present), but to imitate the actions of John the Baptist and energetically prepare for the Coming of Christ in active and practical ways. Like with the Lord himself, John forgot self in order to help others be ready for the Lord's arrival.

And so, my friends, during Advent, as we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts at Christmas, we are encouraged to turn our pains, hurts and sins over to the Lord, allowing God's grace to renew us, so that, like John the Baptist, we can begin to 'flatten the mountains and raise the valleys' of our own journey as well as that of others, so that Christ will have a straight path to walk at Christmas - a straight road right into our hearts and minds!

1. Please note the Christmas Timetable, which is published in our bulletin and is on the church noticeboards. There are a couple of changes to what has been customary, due to the fact that Christmas is a Saturday, and Fr Abraham and myself have two parishes (5 churches) to cover.

2. On Tuesday this (7/12) there will be a Mass of Confirmation for some of our Year 6 students who missed out in recent times. This mass is for the students and their families. There may not be room for many others due to the COVID restrictions. Please pray for these young people as they receive this important Sacrament of Initiation.

3. I will be away next weekend as I have a Marriage to officiate at in Mudgee on Saturday afternoon. There will be a supply priest for one of the morning masses,

4. Finally, I thank those who have responded to my second call for feedback on proposed changes to weekday mass times. We will discuss this feedback at the next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting; and any changes will commence in the New Year.

God bless you all. Fr John

This Weeks Readers : **5 Dec 2021**
1 St Reader: David Buckley
2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession:
Paul Harris

COUNTERS: 5 Dec 2021
Pamela and John
SERVERS: 5 Dec 2021
Pat Wicks

CHURCH CARE:
Lance and Julie Hodgkinson
FLOWERS:
Cate Mitchell

NEXT WEEK READERS: **12 Dec 2021**
1 St Reader: Mary Roberts

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/ Intercession
Frank Portelli
Server: **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.

Congratulations to Noelene Cliff who received a Papal Blessing for her 20+ years of service as a Catechist at the annual CCD Mass last week. Thank you Noelene for all the young people you have taught and shared your faith about the love of God. The Parish will recognise all our Catechists at Mass on Sunday December 12.

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 CHURCH APPEAL 2021
Saturday 11 December, Sunday 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 the Masses at **St. Paul's Mt. Victoria on Saturday 11 December and Sacred Heart on Sunday 12 December**, we will be asking for your assistance to help us in our work. Envelopes will be available for you to donate to the **Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2021**. 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 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: 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/UCHtj55rivGDQqCDN7mldNQ>

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!

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:

9th Julie Hodgkinson



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)

****The advent of God's coming with its promise of fulfilment happens within world history. The first reading locates God's act of restoration in the city of Jerusalem. The gospel situates the ministry of John within a particular period of world history. They point us to historical experience as the place and the time of restoration, of incarnation, of redemption. They show us that God works within everyday life, in conventional places, during regular time. In fact, from a human point of view, the extraordinary events of salvation took place within what was quite ordinary.**

John proclaims the kind of transformation that results in a change of heart. Reversals characterise such transformation: the robe of mourning is replaced by the splendour of glory; tears are turned into rejoicing; those led away by enemies are brought back by God; valleys are filled, mountains are levelled, winding roads are made straight; even nature offers itself as shelter for the people of God. Those who are shamed and discarded are made glorious; those who suffer are comforted; the oppressed are freed; all of life's obstacles are removed; the way to God is made straight; the natural world enjoys peace and harmony.

The transformation or repentance of heart takes place within human life, within relationships of justice between people and with the earth, in right living, in genuine unselfish love. It produces the fruits of righteousness of which Paul speaks. Advent is the time to prepare ourselves for this.

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Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is **Emily Hayes** a minister at the Alice Springs Uniting Church (ASUC). The ASUC is a welcoming, growing and diverse community of people involved in many areas including prison ministry, youth services and hosting "spirit journeys" for visitors to come and listen and learn from first nations people and experience this extraordinary country. www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Prayer request:

Please pray for Sue Gracey and her family, and for the repose of her husband Russell who passed away unexpectedly last Sunday. Our thoughts, prayers and deepest condolences go out to Sue and her family. May eternal rest give unto him O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace. Amen



Second Sunday of Advent Year C

ENTRANCE

O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress,
put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever,
wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you,
put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on
your head:
since God means to show your splendour to
every nation under heaven,
since the name God gives you for ever will be,
'Peace through integrity, and honour through
devotedness'.
Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights
and turn your eyes to the east:
see your sons and daughters reassembled from west
and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant
that God has remembered them.
Though they left you on foot,
with enemies for an escort,
now God brings them back to you
like royal princes and princesses carried back in glory.
For God has decreed the flattening
of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills,
the filling of the valleys to make the ground level
so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God.
And the forests and every fragrant tree will
provide shade for Israel at the command of God;
for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory
with his mercy and integrity for escort.

RESPONSE

The Lord has done great things for us; we are
filled with joy

Second Reading

Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the
day of Christ.*

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and

never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Lk 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All people shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be laid low,
winding ways will be straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all humankind shall see the salvation of God.

COMMUNION

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.