

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).

21 Jan mass 4.00pm

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'Keefe
(julesongodson@bigpond.com)

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

23 January 2022

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

With today's text from Luke we hear of the commencement of Jesus' Public Ministry.

In his home synagogue of Nazareth, He proclaims his upcoming mission as the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy!

And throughout his time of proclaiming the Good News Jesus is seen opening the eyes of the blind, making the deaf hear, and bringing new life to all.

As disciples we are tasked with a similar mission to our own time. Let's do all we can to bring the life-giving words of our Saviour to all with whom we interact in our daily lives.

Let's never fail in bringing the message of salvation to our world.

1. Masses this week should be as normal. However, as was seen last week when COVID tests demanded last minute changes, we can only *assume* that Fr Abraham and myself will remain well enough to fulfill our responsibilities.

2. Australia Day is a day of particular celebration this year for both parishes in the Upper Mountains: both St Canice's and Sacred Heart churches were blessed by Cardinal Moran 120 years ago on January 26th.

Mass at Katoomba: 10am.

Mass at Blackheath: 11:30am.

3. There will be a Funeral Mass for Marie Quealy on Friday 28/1/22 at St Canice's at 10.am. Please keep Marie and her grieving family in your prayers.

God Bless you all.

Stay safe! Fr John

Sacred Heart Church 120th Anniversary:

In the best interests of our parish community, the anniversary Mass on Wednesday January 26th will go ahead as planned at 11:30am, however the picnic lunch will be postponed to a later date. Please come as we celebrate this significant milestone. An anniversary cake will be cut, and some special guests have been invited. Many thanks to the organising team.

This Weeks Readers : 23.1.2022

1 St Reader: Eve O'Donnell

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession:

Paul Harris

COUNTERS: 23.1.2022

Pamela and John

SERVERS: 23.1.2022

Michelle Davis

CHURCH CARE:

Phil and Pat Wicks

FLOWERS:

Rosemary Kenny & Mary Batty

NEXT WEEK READERS; 30.1.2022

1 St Reader: Pamela Nash

2 nd Reader: John Tweedie

Welcome/ Intercession

Marilyn Rowe

Server: Pat Wicks

Mt Victoria 22.1.2022

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart


2 nd Reader: Maria

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)

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 (NSW Health mandate)
- + Please note: these conditions are subject to change without notice ++

Praying with Pope Francis

JANUARY

Intention for evangelisation

True human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognised , which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Synod of Bishops – Have your say:

What would you say to Pope Francis if you had 10 minutes? Catholics across the world are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops. Find out how to send your message at parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops

During this difficult times.

Please lookout for each other and place a phone call to check in with someone who might need to hear a friendly voice. If you are feeling uncertain or worried, please reach out to someone.

You are not alone in feeling this way and there are people willing to listen and help where they can. Let us continue to pray for one another, the covid situation of our country and our world.

Parish Annual General Meeting: Presently, we are still planning on holding the AGM on Sunday February 13 after Mass at 1030am(ish). If you have an item for General Business, please email myself (Chair) or hand a notice to Adrian Carroll (Secretary) by Friday Jan 21. My email is pauls_harris@hotmail.com. Thank you. Paul Harris

WORKING BEE

Saturday 22nd January 2022 commencing from 8am. Call Lance on 47878096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information, or just turn up on the day



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>

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Katy Gilles**. A teacher and student of theology, Katy recently finished a year of Ignatian Retreat in daily life and meditation with the WCCM she is aware that finding God in all things can bring a deep inner peace. www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

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 Mass will be Friday January 21st at 4pm .

Happy Birthday

- 20th Connor Lillis
- 22nd Grahame Adams (b 1947)
- 23rd Marjanna Gilchrist (b 1960)



HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES:

- 23rd Louise and Laurie Noyes



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: 11th Gerard Johnston, 14th Joyce Malkin (d 2012), 19th Roma Ziolkowski (2018),

20th Jan Roberts (2019), 20th Henry Columbine, 22nd Bridget Chan (d 2011), 28th Jean Walsh,

31st Trevor Drummond (d 2016 -father of Pat

****In both the reading from Nehemiah and the Gospel passage, we see the dynamic power of the word of God. Paul's teaching originated as oral proclamation, and like the texts read by Ezra the priest and the one interpreted by Jesus himself, it was first proclaimed aloud. Only later were these proclamations written and handed down from one community to another, from one generation to the next.**



The word of God elicits various responses. In the first reading, the people cried out in response: 'Amen, amen! So be it! We hear and we will obey!' From the verses contained in today's gospel, we do not know how those who heard Jesus' interpretation reacted to it. We do know that both audiences listened intently to the sacred words of Scripture. Can we do less? Are we eager to obey? Do we view the law as a treasure, as life-giving? Have we learned to live with each other as members of one body, each member being important and contributing to the total health of the entire body?

Both Ezra and Jesus proclaimed the word of God within the context of a liturgical celebration, a setting similar to the ones wherein most people today hear God's word proclaimed. According to the teaching of Vatican II, the liturgy is described as the source and summit of our lives, and the liturgy of the word is an essential part of that celebration. With the people of Ezra, we are invited to respond: 'Amen, amen! Thanks be to God!'

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GARAGE SALE 2022

We are postponing our annual garage sale from February until 2nd & 3rd April. The main reason is because of the increase of Covid throughout NSW.

With that in mind we feel it is impossible to expect workers and patrons to come together for the sale.

We will be having the event on the dates listed above and because of the new dates we are asking our wonderful parishioners to hold off on bringing donations to the hall at this stage.

Thank you for your contributions so far and please continue to clean out those cupboards, we will let you know when to resume bringing items to the parish hall.

Social Committee



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

First Reading Neh 8:2-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, ‘This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep’. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, ‘Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the person who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.’

RESPONSE Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:12-30

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, ‘I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body’, would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, ‘I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,’ would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I do not need you,’ nor can the head say to the feet, ‘I do not need you.’

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ’s body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:1-4. 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’

COMMUNION

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.