

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 (Cancelled this week)

MEGALONG VALLEY MASS

4pm (every third Friday of the month).

Next mass: 18 Feb 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 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)

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C.

13 February 2022

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Our Gospel from Luke for this 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) is quite blunt: "Blessed are you who are poor, yours is the Kingdom of God".

Yet every analogy limps. And that is true here.

The absoluteness inherent in the Lukan Beatitudes - either poor and happy, or rich and unhappy - is not the real picture for the majority of humankind.

Rather, most of us can identify in various ways and to various degrees with BOTH the poor and the rich.

What God's Word is asking us to do today is look closely at our present life and see where there is that perennial room for improvement. Where are the false gods in our lives?

And if one of these false gods is the eternal pitfall of making the accumulation of riches a higher value than people we love, whom we work with, who we meet and are in need... if riches are even on the way to becoming one of the false gods of our life... then let us do all we can to knock it off its pedestal and replace it with the ideal of those who are unclouded in their vision of the higher values of life, those whom Luke calls the blessed poor!

1. My apologies for the cancelling of masses and the rescheduling of times this weekend... but I am in isolation after being deemed a close contact of a positive COVID case. Hopefully my test on Day 6 will be negative and I can resume my responsibilities. I thank everyone for their understanding; and I especially want to thank Fr Abraham for all his extra work these last few days.

2. There will be an Opening School Mass on Wednesday (16/2) at 2:00pm in St Canice's Church

3. St Mary of the Cross Parish Finance Committee will meet next Sunday (20/2) from 11:15am.

God Bless you all

Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 13.2 . 2022
1 St Reader: Mary Roberts
2 nd Reader: Eve O'Donnell
Welcome/Intercession:
John Tweedie

COUNTERS: 13.2.2022
Laurie Noyes
SERVERS: 13.2..2022
Alan Skofic

CHURCH CARE:
Jim and Cathy McNamara
FLOWERS:
David Buckley

NEXT WEEK READERS; 20 .2.2022
1 St Reader: Connie Adams
2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp
Welcome/ Intercession
Paul Harris
Server: Grahame Adams

Mt Victoria 12.2.2022
1 St Reader: Fran Leighton
2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

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

St Joseph's Megalong Valley Mass:
The next Mass will be Friday
18 February at 4.00pm

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 ++

ACCCR Webinar - Our Voices: "Don't be afraid to speak. Be afraid of what will happen to the whole truth if you don't." – Sr Joan Chittister. In Australia we're having a Plenary Council: Globally, the Pope is having a Synod on Synodality. Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform (ACCCR) invite you to a webinar. Wednesday 16th February 7:30-8:30pm
Introduction: Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv. Presentation: Dr Elissa Roper - Australian theologian specialising in synodality and the work of Pope Francis. Moderator: Dr Eleanor Flynn, Women's Wisdom in the Church. Eleanor will then lead a conversation with Elissa, Andrea Dean, Women and the Australian Church and Kevin Liston, SA Catholics for an Evolving Church. Registration at www.acccr.com.au

**Praying with Pope Francis
February
Universal intention**
We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women;
thanking them for their mission and their courage;
may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Jesuit Refugee Services food and toiletries drive during January
Thank you to all for your generous and abundant donations for the JRS. Your contributions will make a positive difference to the daily lives of the children, families and individuals who receive our collected items. If you wish to further support the Jesuit Refugee Service or the House of Welcome with a cash donation phone JRS on (02) 9356 3888 or HoW on (02) 9727 9290.

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Toni Janke**. Toni is a Wuthathi and Meriam woman, she lives and works in Brisbane as the Manager of Culture and Inclusion, Centacare Family & Relationship Services. Toni holds graduate and post-graduate qualifications in law, ministry and theology. Toni is also a singer/songwriter and has recorded 4 albums of her own original music, she writes prayers, poetry, meditations and affirmations.
www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Parish Annual General Meeting:
 Sunday February 13 after Mass at approximately 10:30am.

Change of Mass times:

As Fr John is in isolation for being a close Covid contact there has been a number of changes to all Masses this weekend in the Sacred Heart and Upper Mountains parishes.

Sacred Heart Parish:

Mt Victoria: Saturday Vigil Mass is **cancelled** for this week.

Blackheath: Sunday Mass **moved to 9:15am**

120th Anniversary: Thank you to Sr Sophie for the article in Catholic Outlook on our 120th Anniversary Mass. Google “Catholic Outlook Blackheath Parish” or this link <https://catholicoutlook.org/blackheath-parish-truly-a-place-with-a-heart/>

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****Paul teaches us that, united to Christ through faith and in baptism, we are united in his death and resurrection. With Christ we die to sin; with him we rise to a new life. We cannot wait to see proof of our transformation before we change our actions. The proof is in the lives we live in faith. To deny that we have died and been raised is to deny the resurrection of Christ. Paul insists that they cannot be separated. The challenge is to live in and out of this faith.**



Both Jeremiah and Jesus introduce us to such a way of living. It is a way of paradox, a way that moves us beyond the self-centred standards of the world. The poor, the hungry, those who weep, and those who are persecuted are really the ones who are blessed. The victims of our social and economic systems, those who have been ravaged by war or have been made vulnerable by life itself are the ones who, if they place their trust in God, will be blessed in the end. They may appear to be the outcasts of this world, but, if they are filled with faith, they will inherit heaven. The wealth of this world and its pleasures are not the blessings that we might think they are. They can blind us to the real values of life and prevent us from dying to the world and living resurrected lives in Christ.

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Caring for GOD’s Creation.

REDUCE WASTE INTO LANDFILL REDUCE GENERATION OF CARBON EMISSIONS.

Free online workshops are available on FOOD WASTE, COMPOSTING, and WORM FARMING through the BMCC during February and March. To find out more and register go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waste-recycling-workshops-events.

Keep *Soft Plastics* out of red landfill BMCC bins and take to REDCYCLE collection bins at Coles and Woolworths. Soft plastics can be scrunched into a ball easily in your hand and can’t be recycled if put into the yellow lid recycling bins.

For a comprehensive list of soft plastics see REDCYCLE website

<https://redcycle.net.au/what-to-redcycle/>

Happy Birthday

- 11th Kenya Burke (2002)
- 14th Betty Zeman (b 1927)
- 14th Fr Abraham
- 16th Monica Bright



HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES:

11th Pope Benedict resigned 2013

17th Peter and Kate Grbanac



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



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

Peter Potts, 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: 10th Frank Farsaci (Frances Huckstepp’s father – 2018) 15th Sarah Frazer (2012), 16th Gladys Gronlund (2015) – Carol Drummond’s mother, 17th Charles Edward Hodgkinson, 22nd Rick Frazer (1986) – Kate Forbes’ father, 23rd William (Bill) Grieves (d 2018), 26th Rita Jenner (2017), 26th Nancy Etccl (2016) – Mt Vic resident, 27th Ken Kirkham (2017), 28th Anthony Gilchrist (2015)



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name

First Reading (Jer 17:5-8)

The Lord says this:

‘A curse on the those who put their trust in human
being,
who rely on things of flesh,
whose hearts turn from the Lord.
They are like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, they have no eye for it,
They settle in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

‘A blessing on the those who put their trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for their hope.
They are like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.’

RESPONSE Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

Second Reading (1 Cor 15:12, 16-20)

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached,
how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection
of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not
been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still
in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died
in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for
this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people.

But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-
fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel (Lk 6:17, 20-26)

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of
level ground where there was a large gathering of his disci-
ples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea
and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre
and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of
their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

‘How blessed are you who are poor: yours is the king-
dom of God.

Blessed you who are hungry now: you shall be satis-
fied.

Blessed you who weep now: you shall laugh.

‘Blessed are you when people hate you, drive you out,
abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of
the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance
for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This
was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

‘But alas for you who are rich: you are having your
consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hun-
gry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and
weep.

‘Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was
the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.’

COMMUNION

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.