

# 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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

Parish website:

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://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).

Next mass: 18 March 2022 At 5pm

## BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9:30am. WED: 6:30pm. 16 March and  
30th March

SAT: 9:00am - From 2nd April

## 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 Tuesdays or Thursday during office  
hours on 4787 8540 or email [blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:pauls_harris@hotmail.com)) or Julie O'Keeffe  
([julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com))

## Second Sunday of Lent Year C.

20 March 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Human beings are never comfortable with change. And this is especially so when change involves us moving from an accepted way of thinking and acting to something completely new.

In our First Reading from the Book of Exodus, Moses experienced the Lord's Presence in the Burning Bush, calling him to lead the People of Israel out of Slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. Moses was not comfortable with this Call. He was afraid of the consequences that responding to the Lord's mission would bring about. But he went and, despite further setbacks, Moses achieves the purpose for which he was sent: the Liberation of the People from Slavery.

In our Second reading from 1Corinthians, St Paul reminds the early Christians that the initial enthusiasm of freedom from slavery of the People of Israel soon turned to longing for the 'fleshpots of Egypt'. The people wanted to go back to their comforts, even if it meant slavery once again. And the Apostle reminds the church of Corinth (and us) that this type of backsliding (or sinning) is not pleasing to God. Indeed, even if the road is difficult, we must follow the Lord. "Those who think they are safe must be careful that they do not fall".

And the chosen text from Luke's Gospel for this Third Sunday of Lent (C) makes it clear that those who fail to heed Christ's message, and his Call to conversion and renewal in particular, will suffer a worse fate than those who suffered as a result of natural or human disasters. The Parable of the Fig Tree makes this clear: if it does not bear fruit, it is given one more chance before it is cut down. So with us... we need to change our stubborn ways and bear that fruit which God expects of us.

Despite our unwillingness to change - to be converted from our wilful and sometimes sinful ways - the Lord makes it clear: "Unless you repent you will all perish as they did". In our Lenten journey of renewal we are being called to remain open to the Spirit who invites us to change our ways and come back to the Lord. In doing so, we move towards our baptismal birthright: the Promised Land of Heaven, which is eternal life with our loving Creator God for all eternity!

1. My apologies to all for the cancellation of many masses during the past week when I have been unwell. I'm finally on the mend, although not yet fully recovered. Thus, I thank both Fr John Hogan and Fr Peter Kruk OP for helping with weekend masses at this time.

2. Let us pray for all those who are preparing for Baptism, Reception into the Church, and the other Sacraments of Initiation at this time.

God bless you all  
Fr John

<p><b><u>This Weeks Readers :</u></b>     20.3 2022</p> <p><b><u>1 St Reader:</u></b>    Connie Adams</p> <p><b><u>2 nd Reader:</u></b>    Mary Roberts</p> <p><b><u>Welcome/Intercession:</u></b></p> <p>Paul Harris</p>	<p><u>Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.</u></p> <p>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: <a href="https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH">https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH</a> . As an alternative to following the link, you can also use the attached QR Code.</p> 
<p><b><u>COUNTERS: 20.3. 2022</u></b></p> <p>Marilyn Rowe</p> <p><b><u>SERVERS: 20.3 .2022</u></b></p> <p>Grahame Adams</p>	<p><b>Being a Covid Safe Parish:</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ receive communion only in the hand (parish decision)</li> <li>+ keep windows and doors open to assist with ventilation (health guideline)</li> <li>+ you are encouraged to wear a mask indoors (parish decision)</li> </ul> <p>++ Please note: these conditions are subject to change without notice ++</p>
<p><b><u>CHURCH CARE:</u></b></p> <p>Phil and Pat Wicks</p> <p><b><u>FLOWERS:</u></b></p> <p>Cate Mitchell</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Invitation ~ Lenten Reflections</p> <p>Please join the Lenten Reflections, which will be held each Thursday, from 3 March to 7 April at 6.30 to 7.00 pm.</p> <p>For this year's Lenten Reflections we will gather via Zoom. Everyone is invited to join this Lenten Reflection gathering.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2491411000?pwd=Rk9JdG9sUmlXUXMrUlpwTmNlQmEzUT09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2491411000?pwd=Rk9JdG9sUmlXUXMrUlpwTmNlQmEzUT09</a>  Meeting ID: 249 141 1000 Passcode: 9IZ3Es</p>
<p><b><u>NEXT WEEK READERS;</u></b>    27 .3 .2022</p> <p><b><u>1 St Reader:</u></b>    Pamela Nash</p> <p><b><u>2 nd Reader:</u></b>    John Tweedie</p> <p><b><u>Welcome/ Intercession</u></b></p> <p>Marilyn Rowe</p> <p><b><u>Server:</u></b>        Pat Wicks</p>	<p><b>Cuppa's Together- Save this exciting date in your diary!</b></p> <p>Commencing on <b>Wednesday April 6, from 9:30-12:00 noon</b>, there will be a weekly gathering together in our church hall for a <i>chat, catching up, a laugh and meeting new friends</i> over a cuppa! Drop in for half an hour or as long as you like! Bring along a friend and tell your neighbours. This opportunity is for everyone in our community who would like to come along to share in our welcoming hospitality and stunning grounds!</p> <p>There will be a <i>share and swap table, a plant street library</i>, and more!!</p> <p>Vinnie's will open in the meeting room and be available for assistance during this time.</p> <p>If you would like to contribute to <b>Cuppa's Together</b> by providing a cake or slice, or by assisting with serving and hospitality during the morning please let a member of the parish council know. Thank you! Julie O'Keeffe</p>
<p><b>Mt Victoria        19.3.2022</b></p> <p><b>1 St Reader:</b>        Diane Stewart</p> <p><b>2 nd Reader:</b>        Maria</p>	
<p><b>Praying the Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis</b></p> <p>Every Friday evening during Lent at 7.00pm in the Church at Blackheath with Alan Skofic</p> <p>Starting Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2022</p>	

**Next Weekend our parish is proud to support Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal**

**Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Catholic Care's Community Drop-In Centres** Catholic Care is working hard to reach our neighbours in need and to reduce social isolation and loneliness throughout our community. Will you be a Good Samaritan and help Catholic Care reach our vulnerable neighbours, so they have safe, welcoming places to connect with others and access support? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at <https://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/bishops-good-samaritan-appeal-22/> or scan this QR code.

**Thank you for your heartfelt prayers and support.**

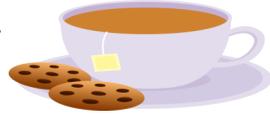


### First Morning Tea Since COVID shut down

Morning tea will be available after 9.30am Mass on **10th April** at the Parish Hall.

If we have enough volunteers morning tea will be every Sunday in a Covid safe setting as before with people seated.

Anyone interested in being on the roster please see Connie after mass or contact Connie Adams on 0419 651 947



Dear Parishioners, thank you for your generous support of Vinnies NSW Flood Appeal at Mass last Sunday. The floods have impacted the Society directly and the Lismore Vinnies Shop is completely submerged. At the moment we are not accepting in-kind donations, this will come later when clean, dry storage is available and people are back in their homes. Until then please donate via :

[St Vincent de Paul Society NSW - Flood Appeal \(vinnies.org.au\)](http://vinnies.org.au) or <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-flood-appeals>.

Blackheath Vinnies Team - Karen Hayward



### Praying with Pope Francis March

Intention for Evangelisation

A Christian response to bioethical challenges We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action

**Australian Women Preach:** This week's guest is **Sr Veronica Lawson RSM**. Veronica is a Sister of Mercy and a biblical scholar based in Ballarat. She is probably best known for her weekly gospel reflections which have a global circulation and for her 2015 publication *The Blessing of Mercy: Bible Perspectives and Ecological Challenges*, which proved to be a valuable resource for the Year of Mercy. She was the first woman to be elected President of the Australian Catholic Biblical Association. [www.australianwomenpreach.com.au](http://www.australianwomenpreach.com.au)

### Happy Birthday

23<sup>rd</sup> Oliver Burke (b 2005)



### Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

Fred Paton, Andrew Krawczyk, Patricia Dee, Barbara Grieves, Pat McCauley, Ray Wood, John & Marion Crowley, Maria Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, Alfred Milani.

**REST IN PEACE:** Peter Potts, 8<sup>th</sup> Judy Harris (2014), 14<sup>th</sup> Pete Juhas, 17<sup>th</sup> Mary Potts (Diane Stewart's Mum), 19<sup>th</sup> Tom Boylan 28<sup>th</sup> Jim Grainger (2014) friend of Fr Paul



**\*\*The Second Sunday of Lent** celebrates the epiphanies of God, the ways in which God's divine presence is revealed. The first divine epiphany is the manifestation of God as one who initiates a covenant, an intimate relationship with human beings. Not only does God initiate this agreement, but God also seals it with blood, making it official. Although we ritualise our relationship with God in a religious setting, the call to enter into the covenant can come in the ordinary events of life. The important thing to remember about this covenant is that God enters into our lives and initiates the relationship. No life is too simple; no life is too busy. Human history in all of its contours is the setting for the encounter with God.



The glory of God is revealed in the transfigured Jesus, the one who discussed his suffering and death with Moses and Elijah. Lent is a time for us to enter into this suffering, not merely through reflection, prayer and penance, but concretely, by sharing in the suffering of the body of Christ. We see this suffering all around us.

God is revealed through women and men who live lives of Christian commitment. In those whose integrity strengthens us, in those whose religious sentiments inspire us, in those whose endurance gives us confidence. God is revealed in those who get involved in bettering the lives of others. God is revealed in very ordinary ways, if we but open our eyes to see.

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### Annual Parish Garage Sale!

To be held Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd April in the parish hall. We are now calling for donations for this fundraiser. Please leave goodies on verandah of hall for collection. Helpers needed for sorting etc on Tuesday 15th March at 10am. Please ring Marilyn on 0414536601 if you can help.

Thank you  
Your Social Committee



### ANNIVERSARIES:

13<sup>th</sup> Pope Francis (Became Pope in 2013)



## Third Sunday of Lent Year C

### ENTRANCE

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

### First Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus (Ex 3:1-8. 13-15)

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your ancestors,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the children of Israel and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the children of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

RESPONSE The Lord is kind and merciful

### Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12)

I want to remind you how our ancestors were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was

Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. Those who think they are safe must be careful that they do not fall.

### ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Repent, says the Lord;  
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 13:1-9)

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

### COMMUNION

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring welling up to eternal life



Third Sunday of Lent  
19 & 20 March



Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, living in a remote community in the Northern Territory. As elders grow older and pass away, she knows she must share her knowledge with the younger generation. However, the community faces multiple challenges, including a lack of jobs, limited educational opportunities, and socio-economic which can lead to young people becoming disconnected from culture.

With your help, Caritas Australia supports Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, which operates a centre for traditional and contemporary Aboriginal arts and culture, providing employment and generating income for local communities.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.