

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).

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

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 Lent Year C.

27 March 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Israelites rejoiced when the manna stopped because this meant that they had reached the Promised Land. They were now expected to eat and drink from the produce of the Land around them. They rejoiced in God's goodness to them; their compassionate God had led them out of oppressive slavery and the desert of temptation to new life.

The Corinthians are reminded by St Paul that God's great love has made them a New Creation: what was before has now gone. Like with the Younger Son in the Gospel, the past has been forgotten and all Christians are called to focus on the future, rejoicing in God's love for them.

And in the Gospel from Luke the Parable of the Lost Son or of the Compassionate Father invites us to identify with all three characters in the story:

the Younger Son, who through his self-centredness and focus on his own needs to the exclusion of all others, ends up alone and without support... needing to Return to the Father;

the Elder son, who through selfish self-righteousness is angry that someone else has received benefits from the Father, benefits he feels that they don't deserve;

and the Compassionate Father, who waits expectantly for the Return of the Sinner, and is willing to celebrate with the one who has come back to the family!

In this fourth week of our Lenten Journey, let's reflect on the Scripture texts offered to us this Sunday, and allow the Word of God to help us to Return to true Faith and Faith-practice, always rejoicing in the unlimited Goodness of God!

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1. Again, we thank Fr John Hogan for celebrating Mass this weekend.

2. Fr Abraham will return on 1st April and we will return to our normal timetable after this date.

3. On Friday 8th April the normal midday Mass will be delayed one hour, and this 1pm Mass will be the regional SRE Mass.

God bless you all

Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 27.3 2022
1 St Reader: Pamela Nash
2 nd Reader: John Tweedie
Welcome/Intercession:
Marilyn Rowe

COUNTERS: 27.3. 2022
Laurie Noyes
SERVERS: 27.3 .2022
Pat Wicks

CHURCH CARE:
Phil and Pat Wicks
FLOWERS:
Cate Mitchell

NEXT WEEK READERS; 3 .4 .2022
1 St Reader: David Buckley
2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley
Welcome/ Intercession
Frank Portelli
Server: Paul Harris

Mt Victoria 26.3.2022
1 St Reader: Mary Ryan
2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Praying the Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis
Every Friday evening during Lent at 7.00pm in the Church at Blackheath with Alan Skofic
Starting Friday the 4th of March 2022

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:
+ receive communion only in the hand (parish decision)
+ keep windows and doors open to assist with ventilation (health guideline)
+ you are encouraged to wear a mask indoors (parish decision)
++ Please note: these conditions are subject to change without notice ++

Invitation ~ Lenten Reflection
Please join the Lenten Reflection, which will be held each Thursday, until 7 April at 6.30 to 7.00 pm.
This year we will gather via Zoom. Everyone is invited to join this Lenten Reflection gathering.
Please note the link for this week's zoom gathering.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77760649508?pwd=A3HTOdLHXcRo0mL7C4ed8sOK_3fYq.1
Meeting ID: 777 6064 9508
Passcode: w1i5dM

Cuppa's Together- Save this exciting date in your diary!
Commencing on **Wednesday April 6, from 9:30-12:00 noon**, there will be a weekly gathering together in our church hall for a *chat, catching up, a laugh and meeting new friends* 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!
There will be a *share and swap table, a plant street library, and more!!*
Vinnie's will open in the meeting room and be available for assistance during this time.
If you would like to contribute to **Cuppa's Together** 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'Keefe

This Weekend 26 - 27 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.**

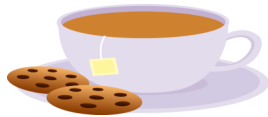


First Morning Tea Since COVID shut down

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



Blue Mountains Catholics in Action:

An afternoon of 5 workshops on Sunday April 3 from 1-4pm at Thomas Aquinas Springwood. Workshops are: Hear the Cry; Cultural Connectedness; the Gospels in Action; Music in Action; Community Wellbeing. The registration [LINK HERE](#) is available on the attached flyer or available in paper form at Mass. Join with Blue Mountains Catholics in Action!

Catholics to unite in prayer for peace in Ukraine.

Bishop Vincent will celebrate the 12.30pm Mass on Friday March 25 at St Patrick's Cathedral, joining with the Holy Father in the consecration of Ukraine and Russia, and will offer prayers for peace in Ukraine.

Catholics in the Diocese of Parramatta are encouraged to join in prayerful support. The Mass will also be livestreamed on Friday on the St Patrick's Cathedral YouTube Channel.

The prayer for the Act of Consecration of Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary has been released and can be viewed [HERE. https://catholicoutlook.org/prayer-for-act-of-consecration-of-ukraine-and-russia-to-the-immaculate-heart-of-mary/](https://catholicoutlook.org/prayer-for-act-of-consecration-of-ukraine-and-russia-to-the-immaculate-heart-of-mary/)

Easter Liturgies:

The Easter Liturgies are a beautiful celebration of our faith as a community. Are you able to assist with our Easter Liturgies? **We need help** in the planning and preparation of these services as well as readers and other participants. Please see/call Pat Wicks (0411 488 990) and/or Paul Harris (0411 535 316) to express your interest and availability. Thank you.

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Sr Mel Dwyer FdCC**. Sr Mel Dwyer FdCC made her Religious Profession as a Canossian Daughter of Charity on the 23rd of April 2005. Prior to entering religious life, she was a national level javelin thrower with a dream of representing Australia at the Olympics.

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

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, 8th Judy Harris (2014), 14th Pete Juhas, 17th Mary Potts (Diane Stewart's Mum), 19th Tom Boylan 28th Jim Grainger (2014) friend of Fr Paul

**In the midst of Lent we are given a moment for rejoicing, Laetare Sunday. All of the readings provide us with reasons for rejoicing. The overarching theme is the prodigal goodness of God. The responsorial psalm sets the context for the reflections. The other readings show how needy people were showered with divine favour. Even in the midst of this rejoicing, we find a challenge. We must undergo a change of heart if we are to rejoice in God.



The goodness of God is strikingly portrayed in the radically new image of father. This is a God who allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our misperceptions. God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God.

The challenges placed before us set out some of the conditions required if we are to be a new creation. We are called to a profound and total reconciliation, first with God and then with each other. Christ was identified with sin so that we might be identified with God's righteousness. Reconciliation requires that we be open to giving and receiving forgiveness. It requires that we both remember and forget. We must always remember the causes of alienation, so that we not succumb to them again. However, we must forget the resentment that we felt so that we not allow it to influence our lives.

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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 29th March at 10am. Please ring Marilyn on 0414536601 if you can help.

Thank you
Your Social Committee



Happy Birthday

26th March Maria (Turning 90yrs)

28 th Ray Wood



Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

ENTRANCE

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Joshua (Jos 5:9-12)

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

RESPONSE

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor 5:17-21)

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding people’s faults against them, and God has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in Christ we might become the goodness of God.

ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 15:1-3, 11-32)

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.” The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

COMMUNION

You must rejoice, my son,
for your brother was dead and has come to life;
he was lost and is found



Fourth Sunday of Lent
26 & 27 March



Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her reintegrate into society.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations.

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, or by calling 1800 024 413.