

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.

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)

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C.

3 April 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

What is striking in all three texts from Scripture for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (C) is
the admonition not to recall the past:

- * the sinfulness that led to Israel's destruction and exile
- * the past life lived as a slave to the Law of Moses and its strict interpretation
- * then past life lived as a slave to sin

Rather, the future is what we should concentrate on and in which we should
place all our hopes:

- * for new ways of living in the wilderness of despair
- * for new life through the Resurrection experience
- * for new life through our liberation from sin

Forget the past; strive ahead for what is to come!

Our Christian life is one in which we journey towards the Lord and his gift of New
Life, remembering the words of St Paul:

"I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to
receive in Christ Jesus".

1. Our thanks to Fr Peter Kruk OP for once again helping us with Masses this
weekend.


Fr Abraham's flight was delayed but he should be back with us this week.

2. Last weekend was supposed to be the extra collection for the Bishop's Good
Samaritan Appeal. We will take up that extra collection this weekend at all
masses.

Thanks again for your generosity.

God bless you all

Fr John

<p><u>This Weeks Readers :</u> 3.4 2022</p> <p><u>1 St Reader:</u> David Buckley</p> <p><u>2 nd Reader:</u> Christa Buckley</p> <p><u>Welcome/Intercession:</u></p> <p>Christa Buckley</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: https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH . As an alternative to following the link, you can also use the attached QR Code.</p> 
<p><u>COUNTERS:</u> 3.4. 2022</p> <p>Diane Stewart</p> <p><u>SERVERS:</u> 3.4 .2022</p> <p>Paul Harris</p> <p><u>CHURCH CARE:</u></p> <p>Phil and Pat Wicks</p> <p><u>FLOWERS:</u></p> <p>Julie Hodgkinson</p>	<p>Being a Covid Safe Parish:</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"> + 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) <p>++ Please note: these conditions are subject to change without notice ++</p>
<p><u>NEXT WEEK READERS;</u> 10 .4 .2022</p> <p><u>1 St Reader:</u> Pat Wicks</p> <p><u>2 nd Reader:</u> Eve McDonnell</p> <p><u>Welcome/ Intercession</u></p> <p>John Tweedie</p> <p><u>Server:</u> Alan Skofic</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Invitation ~ Lenten Reflection</p> <p>Please join the Lenten Reflection, which will be held each Thursday, until 7April at 6.30 to 7.00 pm.</p> <p>This year we will gather via Zoom. Everyone is invited to join this Lenten Reflection gathering.</p> <p>Please note the link for this week's zoom gathering.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79932431160?pwd=b3AGF1sffjJ5Wx8a7mWF8xAweBGM33.1</p> <p>Meeting ID: 799 3243 1160 Passcode: Eb0Sij</p>
<p>Mt Victoria 2.4.2022</p> <p>1 St Reader: Diane Stewart</p> <p>2 nd Reader: Maria</p>	<p>Easter Liturgies at Sacred Heart Blackheath:</p> <p>Palm Sunday: 9:30 am Please BYO palm, fern or other simple sprig</p> <p>Holy Thursday: 7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper</p> <p>Good Friday: 10:00 am Stations of the Cross in the forest</p> <p>Good Friday: 3:00 pm Pasion of the Lord</p> <p>Easter Saturday: 7:00 pm Easter Vigil</p> <p>Easter Sunday: 8:00 am Easter Mass at St Paul's Mt Victoria</p> <p>Easter Sunday: 9:30 am Easter Mass at Sacred Heart Blackheath</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">STATIONS of THE CROSS</p> <p>Join Alan Scofic in Praying the Stations of the Cross each Friday evening during Lent in our church at 7pm. Alan is using the book Praying the Stations of Mercy with Pope Francis. The evening includes sharing the reading of the text, discussion and quiet reflection time focusing on three or four stations each week.</p>	<div> <div> <p>PALM SUNDAY RALLY Freedom and Justice for Refugees April 10 2pm-4pm Our Lady of Nativity Church Somers St Lawson a Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group initiative Hear the Cry of the Poor</p> </div> <div> <p>Other Easter Gatherings:</p> <p>Good Friday Sunset Gathering at Mt Blackheath – gather from 5:00pm</p> <p>Easter Saturday Water Collection from Centennial Glen Creek – meet at the end of Bundarra St at 1:30pm</p> <p>Greet the Easter Sunday Morning Dawn at Hat Hill – gather from 5:30 am at the car park just before Perry's Lookdown Rd</p> </div> </div>

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



SATURDAY APRIL 2 on the Church Veranda

In conjunction with the garage sale our 120 year old church will be open for history tours, using Julie Hodgkinson's detailed booklet as a guide, cake and a cuppa will be available on the veranda, there will be an opportunity to record and/or share stories and memories of our parish and a last chance to buy a copy of our beautiful limited edition 120 year celebration calendar, a window into our parish story. Tours and a cuppa will be available from 9am-2pm. A gold coin donation would be appreciated for a cuppa.

Easter Liturgies: The Easter Liturgies are a beautiful celebration of our faith as a community. We need your 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

PLANT, CAKES AND CRAFT STALL EASTER

SUNDAY. All contributions of potted plants, Cakes, and craft items gratefully accepted. Please make this a fundraising bonanza.



Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is Clara Geoghegan. Clara has been co-director of the Siena Institute since 2004 and is passionate about helping laypeople discern their spiritual gifts and share in Christ's priestly and prophetic ministry received in Baptism www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

ANNIVERSARIES:

9th Adrian and Robyn Carroll (m 1983)



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: 1st Ken Cullen, 2nd Edna Moran, 2nd Mathew Walker, 2nd Pope John Paul II (2005), 4th Roma Ward (2007)

11th Michael Hanna (d 2012 – Fr Paul's brother), 11th Barry Leeder (2015), 12th Mary Hart (d 2014), 12th Andrew Ziolkowski (d1994 – Marjanna Gilchrist's only sibling), 14th Una Woods, 15th Terrence Bucknel (2018), 16th Lila Anthony, 17th Daisy Lillian Perriam (d 2010), 18th Kenneth Vandenberg (2018), 19th Mary Edna Forster (d 2016 -aged 94)



****Lent ends on a note of wonder.** In the face of all the mighty works that God has already performed for the people, God promises something even more magnificent.

Throughout this season we have reflected on the marvels that God accomplished in the lives of the people, cutting a covenant with Abraham, leading the people out of bondage, revealing God's own personal name, bring them into a land that is bursting with life. Now God says: You haven't seen anything yet.

The first reading proclaims that something new is about to appear. In the gospel, this new thing unfolds before our eyes. Here we see Jesus neither rejecting the law nor changing it. Instead, he shows that the law, as good as it might be, serves something higher. He shows that the mercy and compassion of God exceed the authority of the law. Once again we see that the readings of Lent are less concerned with mortification and penance than they are with divine graciousness and our response of joy and thanksgiving.

Paul is not satisfied with the blessings of the past. In fact, he considers them rubbish when compared with knowing and being united with Christ. Life with Christ transforms us from people who are caught in sin to women and men who have been forgiven. Life in Christ is the new thing that God has fashioned for us. God is the one who creates something new; we are the ones who are re-created.

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Annual Parish Garage Sale!

This weekend Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd April in the parish hall. Please come and support our church and our Social Committee

Sat 9.00am - 1.00 pm

Sun 8.00 am - 4.00 pm



Happy Birthday

2nd Pat Drummond (b 1952)



Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

ENTRANCE

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is 43:16-21)

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army,
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

RESPONSE

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

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Is 43:16-21)

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers and sisters, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 8:1-11)

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let that one be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

COMMUNION

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord.
Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.



**Fifth Sunday of Lent
2 & 3 April**



Shaniella 23, from the Solomon Islands was determined to forge a path out of poverty, moving away to vocational school. With your support, **Shaniella** was able to overcome further challenges of natural disasters, and gain the skills she needs to create a brighter future for herself.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 so this transformational program can continue to empower and strengthen vulnerable communities 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.