

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 6pm

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)

First Sunday of Lent Year C.

6 March 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The three Temptations that Jesus experienced occur in our lives under various guises.

There are times when we give in to the rampant individualism and materialism of contemporary living. Affluence can blind us to spiritual realities! Self-indulgence often leads us toward a myopic selfishness, inimical to Gospel values. The words of Jesus echo in our minds: "One does not live on bread alone!"

At other times in our lives we can give in to temptation: we can have that extra drink that puts us over the limit; we can engage in reckless driving, screeching the tyres in rage at other drivers whom we perceive as having 'cut us off'. In these and other actions we can bask in the compliments of peers to the detriment of Christian values; we can deny Jesus and the Gospel Truth in subtle and not-so-subtle ways to avoid ridicule; and we can neglect our basic relationship with God in prayer in order to have more time in front of the TV! In all of this the words of Jesus echo in our hearts: "You must worship the Lord your God, and serve Him alone!"

And then again, there are times of doubt and despair, when we are tempted to throw in the towel at the slightest criticism of our values; when we question God's goodness - indeed, the Lord's very existence; when we make bargains with God... There are times when we try to put God in the subordinate position with ourselves as the controlling authority in our lives. It is then that the words of Jesus echo in our minds and hearts: "You must not put the Lord your God to the test!"

Lent is a time when we are encouraged to reflect on our need for God; when we are asked to practice the three traditional actions of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving; when we are advised to celebrate the healing gift of God to us called the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

My friends, let's open ourselves up to God's Spirit of Truth, so that we can work with the Lord in this Lenten Season in the hope of coming to greater knowledge and understanding of His Will for us; and...so that we may be able to resist the Temptations that come our way in life in order to be able to stand victorious with Jesus on the Day of Resurrection!

1. We thank Fr Robert Anderson once again for celebrating the Mass for our two parishes this weekend.

2. We pray for those preparing for Baptism and Reception into the Church at this time.

3. Please note the slight changes to weekday mass times that have now commenced... Wednesdays at 9:30am at WF; Thursdays at 5:15pm at Leura. And from 4/4 Mondays at 9:30am. We hope to have these up on the webpage this week.

Finally, let us continue to pray for the people of Ukraine at this time. We hope for a just and lasting peace; and that the perpetrators of war will be converted to the Lord Jesus and his Gospel of Love.

God bless you all this Lent

This Weeks Readers : 6.3 2022
1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell
2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts
Welcome/Intercession:
Frank Portelli

COUNTERS: 6.3. 2022
Pamela and John
SERVERS: 6.3 .2022
Michelle Davis

CHURCH CARE:
Noeleen Cliff and Marilyn Rowe
FLOWERS:
Cate Mitchell


NEXT WEEK READERS; 13 .3 .2022
1 St Reader: Pat Wicks
2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp
Welcome/ Intercession
Adrian Carroll
Server: Alan Skofic

Mt Victoria 5.3.2022
1 St Reader: Peter Mc Auley
2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

Praying the Stations of the Cross with Pope Francis
Every Friday evening during Lent at 6:30pm in the Church at Blackheath with Alan Skofic
Starting Friday the 4th of March 2022

St Joseph's Megalong Valley Mass:
There will be a St Joseph's day Vigil Mass at 6pm on Friday evening 18th March, instead of the usual 4pm Mass.

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 Reflections
Please join the Lenten Reflections, which will be held each Thursday, from 3 March to 7 April at 6.30 to 7.00 pm.
For this year's Lenten Reflections we will gather via Zoom. Everyone is invited to join this Lenten Reflection gathering.
Join Zoom Meeting [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2491411000?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/2491411000?pwd=Rk9JdG9sUmlXUXMrUlpwTmNIQmEzUT09)
pwd=Rk9JdG9sUmlXUXMrUlpwTmNIQmEzUT09
Meeting ID: 249 141 1000 Passcode: 9IZ3Es

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'Keeffe

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

Australian CATHOLICS
The Autumn issue of this magazine is available for free- please pick up a copy from the pew. The theme is Biblical Faith-understanding the bible and our relationship to God

Sunday March 6 is CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY!

How will you Step UP? **Inspire** your family and friends to **help make a change** by sharing a pledge and tagging @CleanUpAustralia#StepUptoCleanUp; more information and ideas available at <https://www.cleanup.org.au/events>

Blackheath Parish Community Garden: We are looking to expand on our current community garden in the parish grounds by adding some beds to the orchard area beside the hall. We plan to grow fresh food for those in need in our town. Springwood Community Garden organisers have offered to help us and we are looking for a few people to come and see what they are doing at Springwood in the church grounds there this Saturday and talk to them about helping us. Looks a great outing for families and gardeners this coming Saturday. I will be going down and would be glad of some company. Just call Brian Bright on 0401 768 688. Or you could pop down yourself to see what they have got going there and let them know you are from Blackheath. Turn at the lights 168 Hawkesbury Rd, then go 600m past St Thomas Aquinas. The garden is just before St Columba's College gates. Please also see the flyer attached to today's Bulletin email.

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

GATHERING OUR TALENTS

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 is available on the attached flyer or available in paper form at Mass. Registrations close on February 27. **Join with Blue Mountains Catholics in Action!**

Meditation Seat

The first of our wonderful meditation seats, constructed by the local Men's Shed, has been installed in our beautiful grounds. With sincerest thanks to John Tweedie for the donation of this seat, being part of the ongoing celebration of our 120 years. Thank you to Lance and John for installing the seat on Saturday during the working bee, despite inclement weather! If you would be interested to contribute further seats please contact Brian Bright.

Happy Birthday

10th Joe Blansjaar (b 1968)



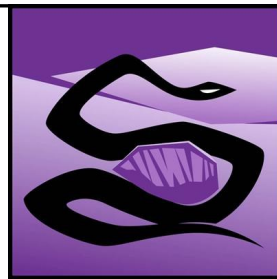
Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

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

REST IN PEACE: 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

**Lent is a time when we are reminded that there is nothing we can do to win our salvation. It is a pure gift from God. Like Jesus in the wilderness, we are to allow God's plan to unfold in and through us. Lent is a time for us to enter actively into the mysteries of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and there to marvel at what God has done for us.



The temptations of Jesus are the same temptations that we face when we are inclined to think that somehow we are in control. While the goals of the temptations may be admirable – feed the hungry, bring the world under the control of good, trust in God's power to protect us – we often choose to accomplish them in ways that are less than admirable. We try to perform the extraordinary so that what we do reflects favourably on us. We use brute force in order to achieve control. We put God to the test rather than live peacefully with God's plan as it unfolds within and around us. We seek to become the super-hero, the super-minister, the super-Christian on our own. In his responses to the tempter, we see Jesus constantly deferring to the power of God: It is not by bread alone . . . worship only God . . . do not put God to the test. In a real sense, these temptations are a reminder that the fundamental temptation is to deny our human limitations and refuse to let God be God for us.

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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



First Sunday of Lent Year C

ENTRANCE

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy (Dt 26:4-10)

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

RESPONSE Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Rom 10:8-13)

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 4:1-13)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

COMMUNION

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God



First Sunday of Lent
5 & 6 March



Anatercia 12, was struggling to cope with adult responsibilities after her father died. Then she participated in Caritas Australia-supported training and gained access to psychosocial supports.

Now, Anatercia can easily access clean drinking water, community members are able to grow healthy crops all year round, and there is enough nutritious food to eat. Anatercia feels better supported by her community, has more time to study and do her homework, and hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help young people succeed in the future and bring stability to vulnerable youth like Anatercia.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenge 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.