

# 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](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParish)

[Community Blackheath](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityBlackheath)

## **MT VICTORIA VIGIL MASS**

**Vigil Mass at 6.00pm (Liturgy of the word)**

## **MEGALONG VALLEY MASS**

**4pm (every third Friday of the month).**

**Next mass: 19 May 2022**

## **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: 10:00am 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))

## **Third Sunday of Easter Year C**

**01 May 2022.**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

With his usual impetuosity Peter jumps out of the boat and wades to the Jesus waiting on the shore of the lake.

Once it was pointed out to him who the 'stranger' was, he couldn't wait for the boat to make its slow but sure approach to land; rather, he needed to go as quickly as he could to the place where Jesus was.

Many Christians in the history of our Church have been of like mind with Peter. Many of the great saints and leaders of the Christian Community over the past 2 millennia have dared to step out (and even jump out) of the security of the boat in order to come closer to the Lord and his Will for them.

Peter and John in our First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles were willing to suffer the consequences of their obedience to God over human beings. Even at the risk of persecution (and death), these apostles (and many like them over the years) were enabled by the Spirit to speak boldly and proclaim the Truths of the Gospel to all.

My friends, today's Liturgy of the Word offers us a rich picture of the key elements in a Christian Life:

1. The ability to recognise the Risen Lord's presence and His Call in one's life, and
2. the courage to respond to that Call.

Each of us is different. Some will be impetuous like Peter and jump out; others, like the other 6, will stay in the boat.

But ALL MUST MOVE towards the shore where Jesus is waiting for every one of us.

Let us never find ourselves condemning another because their way of following is not our way of doing things. Rather, as sisters and brothers in Christ, let's support and encourage one another as we move towards the Risen Lord and the eternal Life He offers..

I'm still not well at all. Catching COVID almost immediately after a previous serious virus has knocked my immune system. My doctor has asked that I take at least another week (or more) to rest and recover.

Fr Abraham and Christine are doing their best to get a supply priest for this weekend (and possibly next), but this is proving difficult - as many as similarly sick. Please be patient as changes to our regular routine may occur at the last moment.

God bless you all.

Fr John

**This Weeks Readers :**     **01..5 2022**

**1 St Reader:**    **Brian Bright**

**2 nd Reader:**   **Monica Bright**

**Welcome/Intercession:**

**Frank Portelli**

**COUNTERS:**   **01.05. 2022**

**Pamela and John**

**SERVERS:**     **01.05. 2022**

**Michelle Davis**

**CHURCH CARE:**

**Noeleen Cliff and Marilyn Rowe**

**FLOWERS:**

**Rasa Blansjaar**

**NEXT WEEK READERS;**   **08.5..2022**

**1 St Reader:**   Eve McDonnell

**2 nd Reader:**   Frances Huckstepp

**Welcome/ Intercession**

**Adrian Carroll**

**Server:**         Alan Skofic

**Mt Victoria**         **30 4.2022**

**1 St Reader:**       **Mary Ryan**

**2 nd Reader:**       **Clive Kanes**


Please note:

The next Mass at St Joseph's Mega-long Valley Mass will be on Friday

19 May 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:

- + 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 ++

**Glenbrook Parish Women's Retreat: 7 May**


St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a day of restoration and nourishment for all women which will include prayer, speakers, adoration and fellowship on Saturday 7 May from 8.30am to 8.30pm. Registration is \$85 through <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aXFJOrcI85Z5nj4qsqx9NLagdszqJC5Yyfv1uHppJnY/edit>. For enquiries, please contact [universalsisterhoodpodcast@gmail.com](mailto:universalsisterhoodpodcast@gmail.com)

**Creative Crafty Friday's**  
**commencing May 6, 2-4pm**  
**Uniting Church Hall**  
**Govett's Leap Rd, Blackheath**

Join Fay and members of the Uniting Church community every first and last Friday of the month for craft sessions- bring your own project, share skills, enjoy a variety of crafts and try something new; or come along for an afternoon cuppa and company!

**Donate to Caritas Australia's Ukraine Appeal**

Caritas Australia's long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground providing shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support. Donate now to help the people of Ukraine. Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au/ukraine](http://www.caritas.org.au/ukraine) or call 1800 024 413 toll free. Keep up to date on how Caritas agencies are responding to this crisis by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news](http://www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news)



## MASS CHANGES FOR THIS WEEKNEND:

Due to Fr John's illness, there will be **LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH ALAN SKOFIC** at Mt Victoria this weekend and **LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR BLACKHEATH ON SUNDAY 9.30AM.**

## Cuppa's Together every Wednesday in our hall from 9:30-12:00.

Come along for a shared morning tea and good company. Enjoy excellent plunger coffee and delicious home-made cakes. Daily newspapers are available for a read. The Street Plant Library, located on the hall veranda, is well stocked with a variety of potted plants. Take a plant home or bring some plants for others to take and grow. The Share and Swap table (pew!) is in the hall and gathering an array of interesting magazines. If you have an excess of herbs or garden produce it would be most welcome at the Share and Swap pew. Bring family and friends and drop in for a cuppa on Wednesday morning!

**Katoomba Perpetual Adoration Chapel:** Open weekly Monday 10am through to Friday 6pm. If you would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill in list, please contact Catherine on 0420 337 033 to register your details.

**Australian Women Preach:** This week's guest is **Beth Doherty**. Beth is a journalist, teacher and musician living in Canberra. She is the author of three books, the most recent: "All the beautiful things, finding truth, beauty and goodness in a fractured church". She currently works as a secondary school religion teacher and is passionate about language, social justice, the arts and using creativity for the greater good.

[www.australianwomenpreach.com.au](http://www.australianwomenpreach.com.au)

## ANNIVERSARIES:

6th Monica and Brian Bright (m 1978)



## Happy Birthday

4th Marilyn Rowe

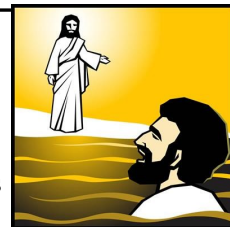


## Please Pray for the Sick and Their Carers:

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:** 9th Percy Potts, 10th Kathleen Columbine (d 1966), 12th Leonard Kirkham (1976), 14th Dawn (Pauline Florence) Sheridan – (d 1997 – Fr Bob's wife), 15th Ken Austin (d 2014), 23rd Frank Mackrell, 25th Lorenzo Fusina, 26th Thea Ellis, 27th Rosemary Davis (d 2009 – Mother of Michelle Davis), 29th John Pye MSC (d 2009 aged 102 - Carmel Vanny's uncle), 30th Geoff Cliff

**\*\*The Shawshank Redemption** was the hit film of 1994. In it we follow the incarceration and escape plans of Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Robbins is condemned to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife and her lover. Freeman says he is the 'only guilty man in Shawshank Prison'. Based on Stephen King's novella, this uplifting film is a surprise package from a writer whose fame comes from the horror genre.



The longer we watch the film, the more we realise that Stephen King has modelled his story on the Gospel of John. It is, in many respects a more modern parable about John's portrait of Jesus. Tim Robbins' character, Andy, like Jesus, is an innocent man, treated harshly by the authorities of his day. He has to endure the condemnation and cruelty of the leading religious zealots who are keepers of law and order, while he inspires others to think of a world free of subjection and oppression where they can be free to live the life of which they dream. Like John's Jesus, Andy has big dreams and often talks in riddles, but he leaves clues for others to follow him in their quest for freedom.

In the last part of the film, after Andy has successfully escaped and the governor of the prison has been exposed for the hypocrite he is, Freeman is paroled after serving 35 years hard labour. He decides to go where Andy has gone and, just as Andy promised when they were together in prison, he finds that Andy has prepared the way for him to follow. The moving climax of the film comes as Robbins and Freeman meet on a beach, embrace each other and share food and drink to celebrate the new life both of them have discovered.

Stephen King understands John's portrait of Jesus very well. For all of Jesus' assuredness and composure throughout the Gospel, the sense of care and intimacy in the encounters with his friends is deeply moving.

In the Easter Gospel to which we have just listened, Jesus returns to where his friends have fled from Jerusalem. In a parable about the growing numbers of the early Church, the Eucharist and the suffering they are enduring, John reaffirms that Jesus is intimately present in their following of him and their suffering for the Kingdom. The only sense John can make of Jesus' death, the martyrdom of the apostles or the persecution of the early church is to see them all as acts of love. 'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.'

Those of us who have been caught up in the net of God's love are heirs to the same promises of Jesus' fidelity. Christ is intimately present to us in every act of loving sacrifice we undertake for him. He continues to send us out to tell people of the place that has been prepared for them at the banquet of life and he gives us strength to gird our loins for the times when life takes us to places we would rather not go.

In this Eucharist let's be grateful for this Easter season when we celebrate again that we have been set free from the prison of our fears and shown the way to live a life of sacrificial love and undeserved redemption.

© Richard Leonard SJ



### Third Sunday of Easter Year C

#### ENTRANCE

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

#### First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 5:27-32. 40-41)

The high priest demanded an explanation of the apostles. 'We gave you a formal warning,' he said 'not to preach in this name, and what have you done? You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and seem determined to fix the guilt of this man's death on us.' In reply Peter and the apostles said, 'Obedience to God comes before obedience to men; it was the God of our ancestors who raised up Jesus, but it was you who had him executed by hanging on a tree. By his own right hand God has now raised him up to be leader and saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins through him to Israel. We are witnesses to all this, we and the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.' They warned the apostles not to speak in the name of Jesus and released them. And so they left the presence of the Sanhedrin glad to have had the honour of suffering humiliation for the sake of the name.

**RESPONSE I will praise you, Lord,  
for you have rescued me.**

#### Second Reading

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse (Rv 5:11-14)

In my vision, I, John, heard the sound of an immense number of angels gathered round the throne and the animals and the elders; there were ten thousand times ten thousand of them and thousands upon thousands, shouting, 'The Lamb that was sacrificed is worthy to be given power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing.' Then I heard all the living things in creation – everything that lives in the air, and on the ground, and under the ground, and in the sea, crying, 'To the One who is sitting on the throne and to the Lamb, be all praise, honour, glory and power, for ever and ever.' And the four animals said, 'Amen'; and the elders prostrated themselves to worship

#### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ is risen, the Lord of all creation;  
he has shown pity on all people.  
Alleluia!

#### Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 21:1-14)

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord,' Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

#### COMMUNION

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus  
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.