

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 (cancelled)

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 (cancelled)

SUN: 10.30am Katoomba

Sun: 5.00pm Leura

BULLETIN ITEMS: Please contact the Parish

Office on Tuesdays or Thursday during office

hours on 4787 8540 or email black-

heath@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)

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord.

24 April 2022.

Doubting Thomas and Mercy

Adapted from an article by Fr Michal Cummings for Word on Fire

I have never been a fan of the "Doubting Thomas" designation. I believe it makes light of a very real spiritual and emotional turmoil occurring within the life of the disciple and within countless people throughout history. The term can lead one into the assumption that Thomas must have been a second-rate disciple if not even something worse. But Thomas was not a second-rate disciple. He was a man who had been hurt. He was a man whose hopes had been crushed. Thomas believed in Jesus. He had followed Jesus and had made the decision to set his life by Jesus. Now, Jesus had been killed – even dying the death of a common criminal. The weight of the world's sin, violence and injustice had crushed Thomas' hope. So Thomas says, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my fingers into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (Jn 20:27).

Every Sunday in the Eucharistic Liturgy we profess the Nicene Creed. We profess what we believe and hold true as Christians. What Thomas says in the twentieth chapter of John's gospel, "Unless I see the mark of the nails..." is, in fact, a non-creed that is professed by many people in our world today. People who hold to this non-creed are not necessarily evil or bad people but they are people who have nevertheless turned in on themselves and who have become lost in their own pain and their own sensations. They have become egocentric. Thomas, at this moment in the gospel story, was focused inward and lost in himself precisely because of his pain and crushed hope. Any person who has experienced intense pain, whether that be physical or emotional, can testify to how easy it is to become turned in on self. So, even when the other disciples say that they have seen the Lord, Thomas does not believe because he is so imprisoned within. Thomas cannot even entertain the possibility. Non-creed may not lead to a publicly professed unbelief as found in atheism but it does lead to a practical unbelief in a person's life; which is an even more besetting sin of our age, I believe.

...

Jesus does not correct Thomas with a developed argument or a theological lesson. It is by the showing of his wounds that Jesus answers the non-creed of Thomas. This is how all non-creeds with their effect of practical unbelief in a person's life are ultimately met and answered really. The risen Lord shows Thomas the marks of evil on his own person which he still bears even in glory and by doing so he invites Thomas to turn away from self and be moved by both his own salvific wounds and, through them, the wounds of the least of Thomas' brothers and sisters. Thomas is moved, his heart is opened, and he makes that beautiful profession of faith, "My Lord and my God!"

...

Our Lord is inviting us into the very dynamic of mercy itself! Is this not what God has done for us in the resurrection of Christ? God has invited us into the eternal banquet and we can never repay him! "Now," Christ says, "do likewise. Live out this very reality of mercy and you will be blessed! Live out this reality of mercy and you will live by a knowledge that the world cannot give because its origin is not of the world but of heaven!" Divine mercy must be received and it must be lived. The practical unbelief of non-creed can only be met and answered by authentic witness and by hearts that are open.

"My Lord and my God!" professed Thomas.

This Weeks Readers : 24.4 2022
1 St Reader: David Buckley
2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley
Welcome/Intercession:
John Tweedie

COUNTERS: 24.4.2022
Pamela and John
SERVERS: 24.4 .2022
Paul Harris

CHURCH CARE:
Lance and Julie Hodgkinson
FLOWERS:
Julie Hodgkinson

NEXT WEEK READERS; 01.5..2022
1 St Reader: Brian Bright
2 nd Reader: Monica Bright
Welcome/ Intercession
Frank Portelli
Server: Michelle Davis

Mt Victoria 23 4.2022
1 St Reader: Mary Ryan
2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Please note:
St Joseph's Megalong Valley Mass
The next 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 ++

MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN:
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ
I am now recovering from COVID-19. I thank you for your prayers.
Apologies that illness once again impacts our liturgical celebrations.
May the Risen Lord continue to keep you safe.
God Bless
Fr John

Synod of Bishops 2023:
From April 19 all are invited to VIEW the online version of the draft synthesis from the Diocese of Parramatta Writing Committee for the Synod of Bishops 2023. Visit <https://parracatholic.org/synod-of-bishops/> and email met@parracatholic.org with your reflections. The Diocese of Parramatta is a 'listening Church' we invite continued dialogue through both the website and direct email address. On May 1 all are invited to CELEBRATE the final document of the Diocese of Parramatta submissions to the Synod of Bishops 2023. Join Bishop Vincent at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Seven Hills (7 Grantham Rd) for this special gathering at the 9:30am mass. For catering purposes and to RSVP email met@parracatholic.org.

Message from Maureen Ryan, Chair of the Mountains Deanery:
All about the **Sacramental Connectedness Workshop** in the Blue Mountains Catholics Take Action Gathering held a couple of weeks ago.
It catered for those working in the sacramental program and everyone seemed very encouraging of such an interactive and hands-on sacramental program that is offered in Lawson. The discussions were engaging and an interesting take away is that despite all of us liking this style of program that not all the parishes in the mountains are doing it, but hopefully that will change.
The second repeat Sacramental workshop was attended by the seminarians of the diocese and it was obviously a pleasant surprise for them. Lots of questions were asked and the positive energy of the group was obvious .
Over the coming weeks there should be some more feedback on the results of the **Blue Mountains Catholics Take Action Gathering** From the Deanery Pastoral Council

MASS TIMES CHANGED THIS WEEEKND:

Due to Fr John's illness, there will be **NO VIGIL MASS** at Mt Victoria this weekend and Mass at **BLACKHEATH** will commence at **9:10am** to allow Fr Abraham to attend the delayed Katoomba Mass. We apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Please pray for Fr John's speedy recovery

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!

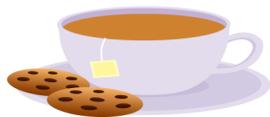
Easter Thank You:

On behalf of the Parish and Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to thank all who participated in the planning and preparation of the Easter celebrations. It is a special time in our liturgical calendar, and with the beautiful Autumn weather, we were able to share these times with many visitors as one faith community. Paul Harris Chair, PPC

Morning Tea at hall after Mass this week on Sunday, 24th April

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



Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Juliette Maua'i**. Juliette is a second-generation New Zealand-born-Samoan woman, ordained in the Uniting Church in Australia since 2015. She is currently serving in Melbourne in Congregational Placement. Juliette hails from Samoan heritage whose parents individually immigrated to New Zealand in the 1950's, raising Juliette and her siblings, "faa-Samoa" (the Samoan way) in the home in NZ, and educated in Western schools.

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: 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 Vandenber(2018), 19th Mary Edna Forster (d 2016 -aged 94)

**The readings for the Sundays after Easter all provide mystagogical catechesis for the entire church, with a special emphasis for the newly baptised. This instruction is meant to help us recognise the presence of the Risen Lord in our midst. The overarching theme for the Second Sunday of Easter is the celebration of this presence in several manifestations.



While we might seek some obvious, tangible manifestation, each reading speaks of the presence of Christ in a way that we would not expect Christ to be present. He is there in the very throes of sickness, in fear and doubt, in the celebration of the liturgy. These presences challenge us to go beneath appearances, beneath the mundane and banal of life, and there discover the risen Lord in personal mystical experience, in the ministry of the believing community, and in the transformative possibilities of the liturgy.

Experiences of the Risen Lord are not reserved for extraordinarily holy people. Any one of us can be invited into a deep personal encounter when we least expect it, in the most unlikely places, with effects that overwhelm us. In fact, the Risen Christ is always just around the next corner, eager to enter our lives with the transforming power of the resurrection. Being part of a community of believers in prayer can be one of the most profound religious experiences. It not only transforms the present, but it also entrusts us with a vision of what is yet to be, an eschatological hope for a glorious future.

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CAKE & PLANT STALL.

Thank you all so much for your contributions for our fundraiser at Easter. I don't know how but we managed to raise \$422 for the event.

Thanks to all the bakers, potters & knitters & lastly to the people who purchased the goods. Marilyn & Social Committee

Praying with Pope Francis

Universal Intention

Health Care Workers

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

Happy Birthday

26th Sue Gracey

28th Paula Schreiber (b 1922)

29th Sheilagh Kirkham



Second Sunday of Easter Year C

ENTRANCE

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God,
who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 5:12-16)

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

**RESPONSE Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

Second Reading

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse (Rv 1:9-13, 17-19)

My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 20:19-31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

**COMMUNION Bring your hand and feel the place of the
nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.**