

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: 20 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

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)

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

22 May 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

All our readings this weekend speak to us of HOPE... hope that the infinite love of God will continue powerfully among us, strengthening us and helping us live lives worthy of our Christian Calling.

The First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles speaks of the first major gathering of our Church in Jerusalem, during which it was decided that non-Jews could become Christian without having to convert to Judaism first. And our Psalm expresses the delight of the peoples of the world to this development in our Faith: "O God, let all the nations praise you"!

The Second Reading from the Book of Revelation tells us of the glorious future for the faithful, living in the New Jerusalem where God and humanity are together, with no more distinction between the earthly and heavenly spheres of existence. Such language gives Hope to those suffering from discrimination and persecution because of their Faith in the Lord Jesus.

And our Gospel text from John speaks of the PEACE that only Christ can give, a Peace that is nothing other than the wholeness of Christ's life and love imparted to his 'friends'. And this is something the world could never offer humanity.

And so, in a world that full of trouble and anxiety, of persecution, hatred of minorities, violence, terrorism, evil, world where even some in our own Church have sinned quite seriously... in such a world our Christian Faith calls us out of despondency and despair to Trust and Hope.

The Word of God gives us cause for Hope: for our Church is truly under the guidance of God's Holy Spirit from its inception until now; our Destiny is to be with God forever in the New and Eternal Jerusalem; and we trust in Christ's Promise of his Peace for us all.

In our Eucharist this weekend and in the week ahead, let's pray for an increase in the Gift of HOPE in our lives; and that we can share this with all with whom we come in contact.

Let us continue to pray for each other and for the 'little ones' of our society who are suffering at this time,

God bless you all.

Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 22..5 2022
1 St Reader: Pamela Nash
2 nd Reader: John Tweedie
Welcome/Intercession:
Marilyn Rowe

COUNTERS: 22 05. 2022
Diane Stewart
SERVERS: 22 .05. 2022
Pat Wicks

CHURCH CARE:
Phil and Pat Wicks
FLOWERS:
Rasa Blansjaar

NEXT WEEK READERS; 29 .5.2022
1 St Reader: David Buckley
2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley
Welcome/ Intercession
Pat Wicks
Server: Paul Harris

Mt Victoria 21. 5.2022
1 St Reader: Diane Stewart
2 Nd Reader: Maria

Mass time change at Mt. Vic during Winter.
During the winter months the vigil Mass at St. Paul's Mt. Vic will be at 5 pm ,commencing on Saturday 4th June .and finishing on 3rd September when Mass will be 6 pm.

Change of Mass times at Blackheath:
Please give your written comments to Fr John or a member of the Parish Pastoral Council regarding the plan to change Sunday Mass times at Blackheath to 9:15am. Thank you.

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.

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 ++

Cuppa's Together every Wednesday in our hall from 9:30- 12:00.
With winter on the way we are seeking your assistance with Cuppa's Together over the next few months. How can you help us keep this buzzing morning going along so well? In many wonderful ways... including serving morning tea, baking cupcakes, biscuits or a slice to contribute to the table, inviting a friend or neighbour along for a delicious morning tea or offering transport to those who may want to attend but need a lift to the hall. If you are able to assist in any way please talk with Pamela Nash. Thank you.

SYNOD of BISHOPS: The Diocesan Committee for the Consultation of the Synod of Bishops and the Diocesan Synod Writing Group have created and presented to Bishop Vincent the "**FINAL SYNTHESIS**" and "**APPENDICES TO SYNTHESIS**" documents summarizing responses from those who engaged in responding to Pope Francis's questions on Synodality. See the website www.parracatholic.org/synod-of-bisops/

Laudato Si Week May 16-May 24
This global celebration marks the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical, *Laudato Si*, on creation care and concludes in Australia on May 24. View the official launch of *Laudato Si* Week by Pope Francis on the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Kc2uUFX7wo>
Find out more about the **Laudato Si 7 goals over 7 years** journey all Catholics are invited on by Pope Francis through the following activities:
Thursday 19 May
Join the conversation this evening on the social justice statement **Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor** from 7-8pm in our hall; we will discuss the 7 *Laudato Si* goals in light of our current parish activities over a hot cuppa.
Sunday 22 May
Laudato Si Sunday; gather for our parish morning tea in the hall after Mass.
Tuesday 24 May
Meeting at *Gloria Park, Bonnie View Ave, Hazelbrook* at 10:30- 12:00 for prayer, reflection, conversation and action between now and the *Season of Creation*, commencing September 1. BYO picnic lunch.
Wednesday 25 May.
Sherry Balcombe's presentation on Aboriginal Culture and Spirituality. Registration details for zoom link on the attached flyer
Thursday 26 May
National Sorry Day
<https://nationaltoday.com/national-sorry-day/>

1st and 2nd collections are back from next weekend 28/29

May

Due mainly to Covid impacts, last year we changed the way we take up our weekly collections. We moved to one collection at the end of Mass and divided up the loose cash between 1st collection 40% and 2nd collection 60%.

From next week we will be going back to the previous approach of taking up the 1st collection (which goes to the Clergy Remuneration and Retirement Fund) and the 2nd collection (which goes to run the Parish). The 1st collection will be taken up during the offertory. The 2nd collection will be taken up at the end of Mass. There will be no change to the current envelope and direct bank transfer options, for those who use these for their planned giving to the Parish. There will also be no change to the way we use the Tap and Go machine. For a full list of the various options you can use to contribute to either the 1st or 2nd collections, please see the letter from the Finance Committee dated 13 May 2022. The letter also sets out detail on the use of funds obtained via both the 1st or 2nd collections. If you have any questions please contact John Tweedie after Mass or call him on 0407 288 957.

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians in Harris Park Next Weekend 28/29 May

Our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is carrying out its mission to prepare men who have been called by God to be good shepherds and beacons of Christ's light.

Will you be their extended formation community and support seminarians on their important spiritual journey to be formed as priests after the heart of Christ?

Please give generously to the Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code.

Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their journeys.



The funeral of **Alfred Milani** will take place at Leura Memorial Gardens on Friday May 20 at 12:30pm. Fr Bob Sheridan will be presiding. All are welcome.

Deepest Sympathies: We extend our deepest sympathies to Jennifer Milani and family on the passing of husband Alfred. Jennifer and Alfred are long time parishioners; however Alfred has been in care in recent years. Jennifer continues her active involvement in the parish as one of our Catechists to the local primary schools. May the loving and Sacred Heart of Jesus hold Alfred and the Milani family in his tender loving care. May Alfred rest in peace.

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Rev. Susan Lodge-Calvert**. Susan is an Anglican minister who was a social worker for twenty five years, working as clinician, teacher and consultant. Fifteen years of parish ministry followed in two different communities – city and then country. Her website now is her most demanding and satisfying ministry.

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Alive in the Spirit: Reconnect, Renew and Reimagine Catholic Community and Mission at the **Alive in the Spirit Online Conference**, 26th – 28 May 2022. Inspiration and Formation for everyone engaged in the life of our Church. See keynote speakers, workshop information and register at www.aliveinthespirit.com.au

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

Elizabeth Curran, Fred Paton, Andrew Krawczyk, Patricia Dee, Barbara Grieves, Pat McCauley, Ray Wood, John & Marion Crowley, Maria Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli,

REST IN PEACE: 12th Alfred Milani, 9th Percy Potts, 10th Kathleen Columbine (d 1966), 12th Leonard Kirkham (1976), 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 new city of God is built on the foundation of the apostles, but on its gates are inscribed the names of the tribes of Israel. These names represent the openness to all nations, races, peoples and tongues. The resurrection of Jesus has radically transformed the way we live together and the way we live with God.



What must we do to be saved? The question put to Jesus centuries ago is still asked today, and the answer is still the same. We must believe and we must love God and love one another. We will be recognised as resurrection people by our active faith and by our unselfish love, not by an exterior mark, regardless of how sacred. This change in requirements for membership does not diminish the rigour of our religious obligations. Rather, it suggests that we may always have to reinterpret the law, for what is appropriate at one time and in one place may be inappropriate in another. With the early Christians, we will need the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this very delicate process. This is why the departing Jesus assures us that the Spirit will come to us to teach us all things.

The final gift that Jesus promises to give is his own peace, a peace that he has won by overcoming sin and death. This peace issues from the union that Jesus enjoys with God, a union which we are now invited to share.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

SACRED HEART PARISH LUNCH 2022.

The venue for this year will be;

HOTEL ETICO at Mount Victoria.
(Australia's first social enterprise)



When: Sunday 26th June -12pm for 12.30pm

Cost: \$45 a head for a 2 course lunch

Menu: A choice of:

Mains

Chicken Florentine Supreme – served on a bed of risotto with a creamy garlic spinach sauce

Porchetta– roast, stuffed pork with crispy crackling and seasonal veg

(Vegetarian option available)

Dessert

Sticky Date Pudding

Orange and Almond Cake (gf)

Tickets for the lunch will be available either Saturday night or Sunday after Mass from 21st May.

Please see a social club member for your tickets or contact Marilyn 0414536601 or Diane 0401269956

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

ENTRANCE

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 15:1-2, 22-29).

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the community, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers, send greetings to the brothers and sisters of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

RESPONSE

O God, let all the nations praise you! .

Second Reading

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse (Rv 21:10-14, 22-23).

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 14:23-29)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love them,
and we shall come to them
and make our home with them.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own:

it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you
while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything

and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you,

my own peace I give you,

a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am

going to the Father,

for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens,

so that when it does happen you may believe.'

COMMUNION

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

Prayer for Tuesday May 24, the last day of the Laudato Si week

On this, the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians, patron of our land, we pray:

God of new life,

in Mary, you enable us to look at this world
with eyes of wisdom (LS n. 241).

We give thanks for the blessings of
Laudato Si Week:

delight and discomfort, questions, and concerns.

We give thanks for the Easter challenge
to engage with our world

beyond the tomb of death and despair.

With St Francis and his namesake,
may we be instruments of peace
in our fragile world.

With the promise of the Holy Spirit,
may we find space in our busy lives
to discern, dialogue and dream;

may we take up the commitment to creation set
before us by the Gospel of Jesus (LS n. 246).

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus,
our risen Lord,

through the power of the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen

Our Lady, Help of Christians pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop pray for us.

Laudato Si' mi Signore! Praise be to You, my Lord!