

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

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

MT VICTORIA VIGIL MASS

Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

MEGALONG VALLEY MASS

4pm (every third Friday of the month).

Next mass: 16 June 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)

The Ascension of the Lord Year C

29 May 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

Our Liturgy of the Word for the Feast of the Ascension speaks to us of the Lord's continuing presence among us as we live the Gospel in our daily lives and come to know Jesus as Lord of our lives.

The Reading from the Acts portrays the Ascension as the Turning -point between Jesus' own ministry on Earth and the era of the Mission of the Church. It is a time in which we are expected to act as Jesus did, proclaiming always and everywhere the Good News. This period of the Church finds the Lord's disciples (us!) being supported by the Spirit: the Lord continues to be present among us, albeit in a new mode.

The text of Hebrews for today uses cultic language which is reminiscent of the Temple Liturgy of the Jews. The author of this Jewish-Christian letter speaks of Christ's entry into the heavenly realm after his Resurrection and Ascension. Through his sacrificial Death, victory over sin and death has been won for all faithful followers. Indeed, we are now 'free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies (are) washed with pure water'. And it is from this heavenly sphere of existence that Christ continues his mission of salvation, by supporting us as we proclaim the Good News.

And the Gospel from Luke concludes the era of Jesus' ministry with the great invitation to all Christ's followers to go out and proclaim the Good News. Jesus promises that the coming Spirit, the Spirit of Power, the Spirit of the Living God, will enable all Christians to be fearless in the face of persecution and ridicule.

In response to the Word of God, we need to reflect on how this great truth - Jesus who was dead is alive and is with us always - impacts our life. What does this really mean for me?

With the strength of the Holy Spirit we are enabled

- * be faithful to our Christian Calling
- * face whatever comes our way in life
- * stand up fearlessly and be faithful to the Christian ethic of unconditional

love

* go out to the highways and byways of our life experiences and courageously tell the message of Salvation to all who need to hear it.

Let us pray today and in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church this coming Pentecost!

Also, I am hoping to lead a small group (30-35) to the Holy Land in January 2023. Brochures are available upon request.

God bless you all.

Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 29. 5 .2022

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession:

Pat Wicks

COUNTERS: 29 05. 2022

Pamela and John

SERVERS: 29 .05. 2022

Paul Harris

CHURCH CARE:

Jim and Cathy McNamara

FLOWERS:

Rasa Blansjaar

NEXT WEEK READERS; 5 .6. 2022

1 St Reader: Brian Bright

2 nd Reader: Monica bright

Welcome/ Intercession

John Tweedie

Server: Grahame Adams

Mt Victoria 28. 5.2022

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 Nd Reader: Clive Kanes

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.

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.

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 ++

ART & FASHION SALE 2022

When: June long weekend Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th June

Time: Saturday 11am – 4pm

Sunday 9 am – 3 pm

Where: Sacred Heart Parish Hall

165 Wentworth Street, Blackheath

Cost of entry: Saturday \$5 per person (which includes a glass of & champagne or OJuice & nibbles

Sunday will be tea & coffee with cakes served all day(gold coin donation) for Vinnies Winter Appeal

ART SHOW

We need your help.

We are endeavouring to hold an Art & Fashion show on Saturday 11th & Sunday 12 June in the Parish Hall.

WE NEED ART!!

If you can help us out but cannot deliver your artwork to the Sacred Heart Parish Hall we can pick up from your place.

Please phone Marilyn 0414536601 if you need any information or drop artwork at the hall during office hours.

Thank you

Your Social Committee

2023

The Holy Land Experience

12 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS. DEPARTS SAT 7TH JANUARY 2023

Dead Sea (2 nights) • Sea of Galilee (4) • Haifa • Mt Carmel • Mt Tabor • Cana • Nazareth • Mt Beatitudes • Jerusalem (6) • Masada • Bethlehem
Optional 2 night Wonders of Petra Extension

For further information about this pilgrimage with our PP Fr John please contact the parish office for a copy of full brochure including booking details, pricing and itinerary. Email: bluemountains@parracatholic.org

15
DAYS



Accompanied by
FR JOHN MCSWEENEY
And Harvest Rep
MONICA MANSOUR

Aid to the Church in Need

This weekend we welcome to our parish, Kylie Cullen who will speak to us about the work of Aid to the Church in Need.

1st and 2nd collections are back from This 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 This 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.



Community Women's Circle: Starting this Friday 27th May, from 10.00am to 12pm in the Parish Hall. Please call 8843 2545 to register your interest or email Sally at sally.butler@ccss.org.au.

Kitchen Garden: A community meeting is being held on the site of the Kitchen Garden, next to the Parish Hall this Saturday 28th May @ 11am-1pm, Any enquiries, please call Brian on 0401 768 688.

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Patricia Thomas**. Patricia is a Pastoral Theologian, Reflector, Pragmatist, Activist, Ignatian spiritual director and retreat facilitator, and an Oblate of St Benedict at Jamberoo Abbey. Presently, Grief Care Managing Consultant – Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria Sydney. www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

ANNIVERSARIES:

31st Diane and Murray Stewart (m 1975)



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 Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. The readings allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth. Many of the Easter accounts have directed our attention to the appearances of Jesus which were intended to strengthen the Christians' belief in his bodily resurrection.**



Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today is a day to be overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity.

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the community of believers. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ.

© 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



The Ascension of the Lord C

ENTRANCE

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia. .

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:1-11)

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you people from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSE

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (Eph 1:17-23)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty,

Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (LK 24:46-53)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

COMMUNION

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Praying with Pope Francis during May

Intention for evangelisation

Faith-filled young people

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates and the dedication to service.

Dear Church care team,

A warm and very sincere thank you to all for your continued cleaning and care of our church. A special thank you to the wonderful people who clean our bathrooms, saving this team that further task, especially with the greater importance of hygiene during this covid pandemic.

If anyone needs to swap a rostered date for what ever reason, please don't hesitate to give me a call and if there is ever a question or problem to be solved.

I am sure that our Parish family also greatly appreciate your dedicated service in keeping God's house immaculate as always.