

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 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)

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C

08 May 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

As we celebrate this 'Good Shepherd' Sunday, we are invited to pray for all those who have offered their lives in service of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And we pray for an increase in the numbers of those willing to commit their whole lives to the mission that Christ left his Church.

'The harvest is rich, but the labourers are few...'

Indeed, our three readings today speak of what such commitment to Gospel Mission involves:

* the Gospel speaks of following in the footsteps of the Lord who is willing to lay down his life for the sheep entrusted to him by the Father;

* the reading from the Acts of the Apostles speaks of proclaiming the Truths of Divine Revelation to all comers, no matter what opposition may ensue;

* and the Book of Revelation speaks of being ready to witness to Christ and His Message of Salvation no matter what suffering (even martyrdom) is the result of such faithfulness to the Lord.

Let's pray that each one of us may be faithful to our loving Saviour for the rest of our lives! And we pray also that many more people come to accept the Lord in the weeks and months ahead.

A Happy Mothers Day to all mothers in our church communities! May you have a blessed day, remembering and celebrating the gift of motherhood. And may the rest of us honour our own mothers on this special day, not forgetting the Mother of God as well!

1. Next weekend we will be welcoming Chrys and Hannah into the church at St Canice's Katoomba during the 10am mass. Let's keep them in our prayers as they prepare for this momentous day.

2. I am finally starting to feel better; and I thank you for your prayers and your support.

And would like to thank Fr Abraham for stepping up and looking after you all so well in my absence.

May God bless you all

Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 08..5 2022
1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell
2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp
Welcome/Intercession:
Adrian Carroll

COUNTERS: 08.05.2022
Marilyn Rowe
SERVERS: 08.05.2022
Alan Skofic

CHURCH CARE:
Noleen Cliff and Marilyn Rowe
FLOWERS:
Rasa Blansjaar

NEXT WEEK READERS; 15.5..2022
1 St Reader: Connie Adams
2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts
Welcome/ Intercession
Paul Harris
Server: Grahame Adams

Mt Victoria 07. 5.2022
1 St Reader: Peter McAuley
2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

Please note:
The next Mass at St Joseph's Megalong Valley Mass will be on Friday 20 May at 4.00pm

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 ++

Working Bee
Tuesday 17th May commencing from 8am. Call Lance on 47878096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information, or just turn up on the day



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.aliveinthepirit.com.au

Kitchen Garden
Coming soon to the grounds of the Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath.
Would you like to be part of this great initiative to grow organic produce and turn it into meals to share with those most in need? A community meeting is being held on the site of the Kitchen Garden on Saturday 28th May @ 11am-1pm, 165 Wentworth St Blackheath. All are welcome!
No experience necessary! Bring a blanket or chair to sit on, your enthusiasm and ideas. Any enquiries, please call Brian on 0401 768 688.

FINAL SYNTHESIS: The Synod of Bishops 2021- 2023 process moves to the next stage. 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. We celebrated this part of the journey on the 1st May - during the Eucharistic celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes, Seven Hills. It was a great opportunity to connect with the people of the Diocese of Paramatta and extend words of thanks to all who were driving the process to this significant moment.

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. Aid to the Church in Need exists to support suffering, oppressed and persecuted Christians. In fact, they are the only International Catholic Charity dedicated to this mission. At the end of WWII, a Dutch priest, Fr Werenfried Van Staatan, appealed to the Catholic people of Belgium and the Netherlands, to move past their hatred of the Germans, and to see in the suffering of these innocent German families, the suffering Christ. His pleas unleashed so much generosity and he became known as the 'Bacon Priest' because they brought tonnes of bacon to starving German families, along with assisting so many Christians in need. His initiative spread out to the entire world and we now reach thousands of persecuted Christians all around the world. Fr Werenfried led ACN until his death in 2003. In 2011, Pope Benedict XIV raised the charity to the level of a Pontifical Foundation. Kylie will speak during Mass and share more about their work and the testimonies of those who have been helped.

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!

CHANGE OF DATE

SAFE GUARDING TRAINING will now be held in the hall at Sacred Heart Church Blackheath on **4 June 2022**, following 9am mass, commencing at 10am till 2:45pm. This training will include the 3 compulsory modules of training. Training will be provided by the Safeguarding Office, Parramatta. Please contact Adrian if you are intending to attend or the parish office on 47878540

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Gabrielle Sinclair**. Gabrielle has worked in ministry roles for over 20 years, with parish, dioceses, and nationally with the ACBC's Office for Youth. Gabrielle has a Bachelor of Arts in Television Production, a Master of Arts in Theology and is currently undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Monastic Studies. At the moment she is very much at home working in the Good Samaritan Benedictine charism at Good Samaritan Education as Associate Director of Communications and Mission Engagement.

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

**The passages from the Gospels where Jesus likens us to being sheep leave me a bit cold. I think I must lose something in the translation from first century Palestine to today. Most of the sheep I have ever watched may well be cute, in a woolly sort of way, but they are anxious creatures often running in packs in every direction, are notoriously stupid and difficult to manage or direct. On second thoughts maybe the analogy is not so bad after all! We, the people of God, can certainly be an anxious lot, a bit slow on the uptake and difficult to lead. It also true, however, that sheep are incredibly useful and adaptable animals. Think about all the places they have been taken throughout the world. They thrive. With all due respect to the vegans, vegetarians and animal liberationists here today, think about the multiple ways they have served humanity.



The point of the shepherd analogy in the Gospels, of course, is about the importance of intimacy. A sheep in those days is similar to the central role some domestic cats and dogs have in our homes. They are members of the family. Shepherds in Jesus' day belonged to nomadic tribes that moved with their small flock throughout Israel. Every sheep mattered. Every sheep had a name. In an agrarian society every sheep was a vital economic unit. To lose one caused trouble not only to the individual, but also to the tribe. To lose a flock was financial ruin for a generation. As a result when Jesus invokes the image of the shepherd he draws attention to the intimate knowledge and care the shepherd has of them.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells us that we follow him, not because we are too dumb to know otherwise, or because we are anxious or fearful of our alternatives, but because we know his voice, we know him, he knows our name. We follow Jesus' lead for no other reason than throughout our life we have come to trust him and to rely on the intimacy of our relationship with him. In return he protects us and makes sure no one can steal us from his flock.

The possibility of being stolen away from the Christian family is a real one. We know many people who, for a variety of reasons, have left the fold and been seduced into pursuing other leads. Whereas every Sunday we affirm that we cannot find a better way to live than following the Way, the Truth and the Life which is Christ present here and now. No one can suggest it is always easy to follow the Gospel and hang in here with one another. Jesus was never under any illusions about what following his lead may cost, but he underlines how much we need each other to survive in this world.

In this Eucharist, then, let's steal a few moments to experience again the intimate love of the Risen Lord who knows, claims and loves us. May we respond by following his lead by enfolding all our world in our care and welcoming all his children into his flock.

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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, 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



Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C

ENTRANCE

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia .

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 13:14, 43-52)

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit

RESPONSE

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

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 A reading from the book of the Apocalypse (Rv 7:9, 14-17)

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 10:27-30)

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,
and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

COMMUNION

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia

