

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 5.00pm (June-August)
6.00pm (Sept-May)

MEGALONG VALLEY MASS

4pm (every third Friday of the month).

Next mass: 15 July 2022
16 July at 11.30 Baptism

BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9:30am. WED: 6:30pm.
SAT: 9:00am (No Mass)

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)

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

10 July 2022.

Seek Thy Neighbour

"Who is my neighbour?" is the question asked by people even today. Is he/she in my vicinity? Is it only, he or she who supports us? Is he or she belonging to the same religion? Is it he or she who speak only our language? The list of questions can be endless.

Today the question by the lawyer to Jesus is echoed by many. And the parable of the good Samaritan was the answer of Jesus to the lawyer. The wounded man on the journey represents anyone who is in need. Here in the story, the victim happens to be one who is of high social standing but at the same time all those whom he would have expected to console and comfort him never turns up to help to the wounded man.

And finally, whom the victim and other Jews consider to be enemy becomes his help at the time of need. And Jesus is breaking down the walls of enmity between the Jews and Samaritans. Jesus elevates the Samaritan to the highest pedestal in the mind of the wounded Jew and Jesus flip their idea of social standing by requesting the Lawyer to "go and do likewise."

The lord's definition of neighbour is much different from the idea that the lawyer and other Jews like him was holding. For them a neighbour is someone from their own or at the most those who were converted from foreigners. And Jesus a Jew, is correcting them of their ideology. And Jesus underlines that all those who are helpless, the rejected, the outcast, the broken, the sidelined or marginalised, those who need help, care, and guidance etc, etc can fit into Jesus' definition of neighbour.

To become a neighbour to anyone in need its not that he or she should be of high social strata, but the benefactor whoever be, should have some time to spare for the one in need. In the parable of good Samaritan, we see that except the Samaritan no one had the generosity to find time for the wounded man. That is what makes the service by the Samaritan very impressive. The Samaritan man not only found the resources but was generous enough to spare his time and energy to take care of the wounded man.

And this parable teaches that humanity is the most important thing that we need to be a good neighbour. Having the name, fame, and resources may not be of use if we do not have the humanity vibrant in us to spare the needed time for the service of the other. The Samaritan had seen the need of the wounded person than his social standing, their enmity, etc; and readiness to spare the resources necessary to care for him.

The problem with the priest and Levite was that they were not ready to get out of the scripts written by the society and they missed the chance to become a neighbour to a human being in need. Perhaps, they saw a wounded man, an impediment to handle, or they were attached to their profession than the need of the hour.

And this story teaches us a lesson; than the ritual observance of religiosity what God looks in us is the divinity of humanity in us. Loving God is to be loving our neighbour. If we miss loving our neighbour, then we miss to love God as well. So let us become real lovers for the kingdom of God where Love of neighbour and Love of God are equated by Jesus. May God bless us.

Fr (Dr) Abraham Kunnatholy CMI,
Asst Priest @ Upper Blue mountains & Blackheath Parishes

This Weeks Readers : 10.07.2022

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession:

Paul Harris

COUNTERS: 10.07. 2022

Diane Stewart

SERVERS: 10.07 2022

Alan Skofic

CHURCH CARE:

Noeleen Cliff and Marilyn Rowe

FLOWERS:

Cate Mitchell

NEXT WEEK READERS; 17. 07. 2022

1 St Reader: Pamela Nash

2 nd Reader: John Tweedie

Welcome/ Intercession

Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Mt Victoria 9.07.2022

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton

2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

“The Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary we become.”
Henry Martyn

Change of Mass times at Blackheath:

A reminder that from NEXT SUNDAY July 17, Mass at Sacred Heart will commence at the earlier time of 9:15am.

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 ++

Vinnies Winter Appeal 2022

The Blackheath Vinnies Conference would like to thank you, our generous parishioners, for your support for our Parish Vinnies Winter Appeal. You donated the fantastic sum of \$3,955 which will, among other things, help Vinnies provide crisis accommodation and case management support for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence. Thanks so much for supporting our Winter Appeal and thereby helping these vulnerable people.

John Tweedie
President Blackheath St Vincent de Paul Conference

CALLING FOR SOUP.

Members of our Parish are contributing to a soup kitchen operated by the Uniting Church, Govett's Leap Road, Blackheath.

Originally the kitchen was intended to operate 2 Mondays a month from 11am to 12 noon, during winter. Demand has been so great that it will now operate every Monday until the end of August.

Our Parishioners' contribution has been 2 soups each Monday. If you can contribute a soup or soups please contact Karen Hayward ph.0419123744, Pamela Nash 0417485592 or Margaret Groenwegean (UC) 0414788796.

Delivery by 10am to Uniting Church Hall unless you require an alternative pick up.

You are also welcome to stay, come help or just enjoy the hospitality

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



Accompanied by
FR JOHN MCSWEENEY
And Harvest Rep
MONICA MANSOUR

Lawson Catalyst for Renewal:

With NAIDOC week well underway, it's with great pleasure to have our next Catalyst presentation at Lawson (Santa Maria Hall Catholic Church) SATURDAY July 16th @ 9:30am. Facilitated by Nicole Laupepa & Jacqui Parker. With the Uluru Statement from the Heart as a framework, we will pave the way for participants to accept the invitation and confidently walk together. Together we will find ways to take meaningful and appropriate action in the journey of reconciliation and gain a deeper sense of who we are as a Nation.

Bookings: carol.len@me.com .

33 Days Preparation for Total Consecration to Mary:

The Legion of Mary, Senatus of Sydney, invites you to participate in 33 Days Preparation for Total Consecration To Jesus Through Mary, commencing on 12 July through to 13 August at 8.30pm via Zoom. The consecration day will be held on Sunday 14 August. All are welcome. Zoom ID: 828 9012 6930 Passcode: 784626.

Tri-Diocesan Social Justice Reflection Evening:

The Dioceses of Parramatta, Sydney and Broken Bay, invites you to an evening of delicious food, prayer, and great keynote speakers to reflect on the Social Justice Statement "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor", and celebrate how people across all three Dioceses have responded to these cries in 2021-22. When: Wed 20 July, 6-9pm. More details will follow in June!

Closing Mass of the Second Assembly 5th Plenary Council:

You are invited to the closing Mass Saturday 9:30am St Mary's Cathedral. Live streamed and other recordings available at the web site www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is **Lisa Bright**. Lisa is the co-director of Synodal Consulting working to empower community development and engagement within the Catholic Church and not-for-profit sector.

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Happy Birthday

7th Christine Burke
7th Michelle Davis
10th Robyn Carroll
12th Dave Harris (80 in 2015)



**It was not enough to want to follow Jesus and to be committed to him. Discipleship also demanded the ability to make shifts in understanding in order to recognise what following Jesus required. He did not merely repeat the religious tradition, he re-interpreted it. We too are called to understand the words and deeds of Jesus, but we must understand what they mean for us today. Today we need to make comparable shifts of understanding in order to bring the message of Jesus into conversation with the contemporary world.



Perhaps one of the most exciting and, at the same time, unnerving aspects of our religious tradition is its nonconforming nature. We think that we finally understand the way God is working in our lives and then something happens that seems to turn our understanding inside out. We are told to love our neighbour and when we ask who that might be we are told a story that turns the question around. 'Who is my neighbor?' or 'Whom should I love?' becomes 'Who acts as a neighbour?' or 'Who shows love?'

The same Sunday that we reflect on the paradoxical nature of the ways of God, we are told that the law of God, which appears to be so lofty, is really very close to us, in our mouths and in our hearts. This too is an unusual claim. Following the law results in a way of living that is inspired and informed by love, love of God and love of others, even, and perhaps especially, those whom we are not inclined to love.

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COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN PROGRESS:

This project is to grow produce and cook with the produce to make meals for those in our community in need. With help from some of gardeners from the Springwood community garden, our small team of volunteers has started developing our Kitchen Garden alongside the Parish Hall. Already planted out with the fruit trees by Julie and Ziggy during Covid, we have added a few ground beds. There are suggestions to add small shed, small water tank, and small green house when we are successful in applying for community grants.

Please join us for any of our working bees – no experience necessary.

We are looking for gardening tools. If you have any extra tools or some you no longer need, please leave them on the hall veranda or pass them on to Julie O'K, Frances H or Brian B. We have been blessed to receive a donation of mushroom compost from Lower Mountains Landscaping Supplies and will soon have some beds ready for spring planting.

With Deepest Sympathy we acknowledge the passing of Barry McDonnell's mother in Ireland on 6th June 2022.

Maire McDonnell was 96 years young

May she rest in peace

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

Joe Blansjaar, 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: 1st James Keith Johnston, 5th Matthew Gregan, 6th Annie Cecilia Smith (Kate Forbes' grandmother).

8th Alma Birrell (d 2015), 9th Cecily O'Brien, 12th John Forster (d 2014 – aged 66), 18th Keith Malkin, 18th Fr Alex Sciberras, 18th Ray Lee (d 2014), 19th John Briggs (d 2006), 20th Monica van Horen (d 2014), 22nd Nikola Sandor, Bert Carlon, 24th David Ridoutt (d 2009), 25th Jean Pye, 28th Eric Perriam (d 2007 – Tony Perriam's father)

23rd



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy (Dt 30:10-14).

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

'For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

RESPONSE

Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live .

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians (Col 1:15-20)

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.
As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 10:25-37)

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus, 'do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who had compassion upon him,' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same yourself.'

COMMUNION

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.