

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:

BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9:15am.
WED: 6:30pm.

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: 10.30am 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)

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 28 August 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The First Reading and the Gospel encourage us to reflect on the virtue of humility.

Often people misunderstand humility to be self-effacing to the point of self-deprecation. But this is NOT what the Scriptures mean by humility.

Being humble demands that we, firstly, accept ourselves as we are (warts and all), and then, secondly, strive to place our Neighbour before ourselves. It is not about allowing one to be butted around by others so as to appear 'humble' or 'wimpy'.

We understand Jesus to be humble in this sense: he accepted the Father's Will for him, and always cared for others, especially many weak and fragile human beings, even unto death - for the salvation of all.

True humility is like this... acceptance of self as created by God (including the striving for any reform of behavior demanded of a Disciple) and the loving of Neighbour as oneself.

The Parable in the Gospel is emphasizing that others are to be cared for. They should be given 'places of honour' at the table... not so that we can (perhaps) be upgraded later by the host (God), but because others are worthy in themselves. To act only out of a hope to be given a better place at the eternal banquet is false humility. Acting with that motivation remains a self-centred action, not something other-directed.

In the week ahead, let's ask the Lord to help us be truly humble - and always strive to be caring towards all.

1. There will be an extra mass on 2/9 for St Canice's school (Stages 2-3) commencing at 9:30am.

2. And we look forward to Fathers Day next Sunday (4/9). During all masses on this important day we will have our annual Collection for the retired and sick priests and deacons of our Diocese.

Have a great week, everyone.

God Bless you all

For John.

This Weeks Readers : 28.08.2022

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession:

Adrian Carroll

COUNTERS: 28 .08. 2022

Diane Stewart

SERVERS: 28.08 2022

Alan Skofic

CHURCH CARE:

Jim and Cathy McNamara

FLOWERS:

Julie Hodgkinson

NEXT WEEK READERS; 4. 09. 2022

1 St Reader: Connie Adams

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/ Intercession

Paul Harris

Server: Grahame Adams

Mt Victoria 27.08.2022

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton

2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

“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:

Sunday Mass at Sacred Heart Blackheath now commences at 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 ++

Maintenance Volunteers Needed:

Are you able to spare a couple of hours a month to help assist with the maintenance of our church buildings and grounds?

Please contact John Tweedie 0407 288 957

Bishops Fathers Day Appeal next weekend 3/4 September

Next weekend, our parish is proud to support the Clergy Support Foundation’s **Bishop’s Father’s Day Appeal**. Your gifts will support our 21 retired clergy and those who are in ill-health.

Your donations will enable our Clergy Health and Wellbeing team to provide our ageing clergy with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement. Ongoing assistance includes independent retirement living, aged care, or nursing home accommodation for frail priests; meals, transport and medical care as needed.

Please care for those who have cared for you and give generously via the giving envelopes which will be on the pews next weekend and [place them on either the First or Second Collection basket or hand them to John Tweedie \(Finance Committee Chair\). Alternatively you can go to the following link \[parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal\]\(http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal\) or use the attached QR code to make your donations direct by credit card.](#)

And please keep our retired priests in your prayers, as they keep you, their faith family, in their prayers. Thank you.



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



Accompanied by
FR JOHN MCSWEENEY
And Harvest Rep
MONICA MANSOUR

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

August 28 Social Justice Sunday: Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse

Australia’s bishops have used their annual social justice statement to condemn the scourge of domestic and family violence, saying relationships must be “marked by respect and freedom rather than coercion and control”. The document draws on data around family and domestic violence, and gathers the insights of people – especially women – on that data. It also reflects on the words and example of Jesus. Download your copy by searching for “Social Justice Statement 2022-23”. [LINK here.](#)

Australian Women Preach: This week’s guest is **Sr Christine Burke.**

Christine a member of Loreto sisters, was one of the founding members of WATAC in the early 80s. For many years she worked in the Adelaide archdiocese in Adult Faith development and lay leadership formation. As a theologian, Christine is interested in ways of helping people connect daily life with the Gospel. Christine has published “Freedom Justice and Sincerity: reflections on the life and spirituality of Mary Ward” and “The gift of Mary Ward”, as well as an earlier volume “Through a woman’s Eyes” which presented meditations and feminist insights into Gospel stories.

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Season of Creation Prayer Service

You are invited to the CARITAS PRAYER SERVICE for the Season of Creation on Saturday September 3, commencing at 10:00am at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath.

This prayer service encourages us to connect with and reflect on the reality of lives in crisis, the Cry of the Poor and the devastating effects of changing natural environments, the Cry of the Earth. Please bring along a “natural gift of creation” for the reflection time.

A cuppa will be shared on the church veranda following the prayer service. All welcome! Listening to the VOICE of Creation! If you would like to be a reader for this prayer service please speak with Paul Harris or Julie O’Keeffe- thank you!

Vinnies Food Pantry: Parishioners are invited help stock our Vinnies food pantry by placing non-perishable items in the basket by the main door of each of our Churches. The items are distributed by our Vinnies team to those in need in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

Community Kitchen Garden: Planting is underway and we are now preparing a berry patch against the paling fence in our garden beside the hall. We will soon receive a donated water crate to capture rain water for the garden. If you would like to donate any of the following items towards the garden, they would be really welcome: watering can, hose, hose reel, maddock, hand trowels, manure of any kind. Contact: Brian 0401 768 688

ANNIVERSARIES:

28th Kate and Robert Forbes (m 1982)



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: 2nd Chris Commens ,6th Madge Carey (d 2009 - Monica Bright’s mother),7th Flo Gillette

7th Dellas Holmwood (d 2013), 15th Francis Doyle. 23rd Barry Bowden (2019), Barbara Hodgkinson (2019)

26th Wladyslaw Ziolkowski (d 2006 – Marjanna Gilchrist’s father), 28th Ian Maguire (d 2015 - husband of Claire)



**The goodness of God is seen in the extravagant generosity with which God gives gifts. This is described in the psalm in the boundlessness and universal scope of God’s generosity. Like the rain that falls on the entire landscape, the blessings of God are showered on all. These blessings are true gifts. They have not been earned, nor can they be repaid. God’s openness is also seen in the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews and in the gospel. All are invited to approach the heavenly city; the heavenly banquet will be open to the poor and to those who have no way of repaying.

Only the humble can receive the gifts of God. Only those who can admit their neediness are open enough to realise that God’s blessings are gifts freely given, not compensation for a job well done. Without a humble spirit we are unable to receive gifts as gifts. This is either because we are too proud or we do not know how to receive with the open hearts of children, who never think that they must return in kind. This is the kind of humility recommended by Sirach. This is the kind of humility possessed by the disadvantaged pictured in the gospel.

As we have received from the bounty of God, so we are called to give to others. Only those who have received with a humble spirit can give with the generosity of God, for they know that they do not deserve God’s goodness and they do not require anything in return.

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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. Bring a neighbour and drop in for a cuppa on Wednesday morning!



WORKING BEE FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

Friday 2 Sept 2022 commencing from 8am. Please Call John on 0407 288 957 for further information, or just turn up on the day.



Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (Sir 3:17-20, 28-29)

My Child, be gentle in carrying out your business, and you will be better loved than a lavish giver. The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly, and then you will find favour with the Lord; for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble. There is no cure for the proud person's malady, since an evil growth has taken root in them. The heart of a sensible person will reflect on parables, an attentive ear is the sage's dream.

RESPONSE

God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (Heb 12:18-19, 22-24)

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a 'first-born son' and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 14:1. 7-14)

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this person." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For all who exalts themselves will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.' Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers or sisters, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

COMMUNION

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of
righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven .

Ordination of Fr. Andrew Rooney

This Friday 26 August, Deacon Andrew Rooney will be ordained to the priesthood at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, commencing at 7.30pm. This will be the first priestly ordination in the Diocese of Parramatta since 2018. The event will be livestreamed on the St Patrick's Cathedral YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/StPatricksCathedralParramatta. The link to the video is <https://bit.ly/ARooney22>