

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/SacredHeartParishCommunityBlackheath)

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

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: 16 Sept 2022

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-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 11 September 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

The fifteenth chapter of St Luke contains three parables: The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and The Lost

All three parables are really about the Love of God for the one that is lost...

- * the sheep that loses its way in the wilderness
- * the coin that hides from its owner, and
- * the son that falls prey to instant gratification born of selfishness

We can identify with these three for we, too, can lose our way; we can try to hide from the One who loves us; and we fall victim to selfish desires and a myopic viewpoint.

Yet it is God who rescues us always... The Lord is the Good Shepherd who brings us back to the one true fold, who sheds light on the hiding places of our hearts and reunites us with one another, and who waits patiently with unconditional love for the return of the prodigal.

As we hear these familiar parables this Sunday, let us approach the Word of God with an open mind, ready to accept and embrace the Father's Love for us all.

This coming Thursday evening in St Canice's Church, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated for the young people of the three parishes of the Upper Mountains. We welcome one of our Vicars-General, Fr Chris de Souza, as celebrant.

And we continue to keep the candidates for Confirmation in our prayers.

Have a great week, my friends.

God Bless you all

Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 11.09.2022

1 St Reader: Pamela Nash

2 nd Reader: John Tweedie

Welcome/Intercession:

Frank Portelli

COUNTERS: 11.09. 2022

Diane Stewart

SERVERS: 11.09 2022

Pat Wicks

CHURCH CARE:

Marilyn and Paul Rowe

FLOWERS:

Rasa Blansjaar

NEXT WEEK READERS; 18. 09. 2022

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/ Intercession

Pat Wicks

Server: Paul Harris

Mt Victoria 10.09.2022

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

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

Change of mass Times Mt Vic.

From 3rd Sept -6.00pm

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 ++

Nespresso Coffee and a Cuppa every Sunday after mass at the Hall

We now have a coffee machine for the price of a gold coin, sit and enjoy our made to order coffee. Espresso, De cafe, Cappuccino and Flat white.

Sit and enjoy a chat after mass every week with a cup of Tea/Coffee



Timor support

“The people of the Blue Mountains have been terrific supporters of the East Timorese for over twenty years now. The needs in that fledgling nation are still high in the areas of health and education. There is another opportunity to continue this support in the annual **TREK for TIMOR** event in October. Unfortunately owing to fire damage land slip damage to the walking tracks around Katoomba, the event again will be held **virtually!** This was quite successful last year.

All you need to do is to follow the link

<https://trek-for-timor-blue-mountains.raisely.com/> All the information you need is there. You can financially support other walkers or pledge to walk 10, 25 or more kilometres over the month of October . You can sponsor a walker or simply donate there.”

Pakistan Flood Crisis appeal

The devastating floods in Pakistan have left a trail of destruction across the country, claiming the lives of more than 1,100 people.

The United Nations estimates that around 33 million Pakistanis have been affected by the flooding.

More than one third of the country has been completely submerged by the heaviest recorded monsoon rains in a decade. There are fears that the death toll will continue to rise.

Caritas Australia’s partners are responding to support flood-affected communities who need immediate assistance. Your generous support can help provide emergency support to help families recover and rebuild from disaster.

Donate now by visiting

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pakistan-floods>

Personal Prayer time in Sacred Heart church

Our church is open on **Wednesday morning** for personal prayer from **9am-1pm**. Entrance is from the side door facing the hall. The opening time coincides with the weekly morning tea in the hall and the fortnightly working bee in the kitchen garden.

Forest Meditation Walk Monday 12- Sunday 18 September

A collection of cards with prayer, verse and quotes will be placed in our forest daily (weather permitting) for the week, starting on Monday from 9am-5pm. Enjoy this uplifting walk in your own time and pace. Bring a thermos for a cuppa on our beautiful park benches to reflect on the readings and take in the wonderful trees and birds!

POETRY and PLATE Saturday September 17

**Church hall, 167 Wentworth Street Blackheath
2:00-3:30pm**

Bring along one or two poems about **NATURE** and **CREATION** (they can be your own writing or others you love!) to read and share with the group. After the reading of each poem there is an opportunity to reflect, comment, delve or simply enjoy! Bring copies of poems as handouts if you like with the source acknowledged. Contributing a small plate of food for sharing for afternoon tea would be appreciated. Invite friends and neighbours to this lovely afternoon.

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.

Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is **Rev Julia Perry**. Julia has been ordained 35 years in the Anglican Church of Australia primarily in the Newcastle Diocese. Time as deacon-in-charge, Rector, Arch-deacon and member of councils. Julia says "being retired gives me increased scope to photograph, build nests for native bees and look outside institutions for our delightful God".

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Church Toilet Cleaning.

Are you able to spare a couple of hours every few weeks to go on a roster for the cleaning of our toilets? If so, please contact John Tweedie on 0407 288 957.

****The God who spoke to Moses is pained by the depravity of the people yet moved to show them mercy. Who could ever have imagined such a God? The God depicted in the gospel actually searches for what is lost. He seems to abandon the safe ones for the sake of the one who has strayed. She goes to great lengths to find one coin. As a spurned yet loving father, God patiently waits until we come to our senses. Who could ever have conceived of such a God?**



Our God seems consumed with an insatiable desire to reestablish a relationship with us after we have turned our backs on God, have chosen to commit our loyalties elsewhere, have thoughtlessly wandered off into danger that threatens our well being, not God's. What is it about us that makes us so desirable? The answer has less to do with us than with the magnanimous character of God. It is almost as if unconditional love is not simply a characteristic of God, but God's very essence and no human frailty or depravity can change this.

Paul insists that it is through Christ that all of this is accomplished. It is through the sacrifice of Christ that the depraved are forgiven, that sinners are saved, that the lost are found. It is through Christ that we are sought by God, and Christ is the very gift of mercy, the forgiveness of our sins, the celebration of our 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!



Community Kitchen-Garden Update: The berry patch is currently a work in progress in our garden beside the hall. Next on our agenda is to connect the donated water crate to the downpipe off the toilet block closest to the garden. If you would like to donate any of the following items towards the garden, they would be really welcome: tools such as maddock, hand trowels, garden fork etc; manure of any kind: hay or similar mulch; pavers for floor of future shed & green house; Monetary donations towards a picnic table under the gumtree in the lower lefthand corner of the block would also be most welcome. Contact: Brian 0401 768 688

Happy Birthday

12th Ron Walsh



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 Crowley, Maria Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli,

REST IN PEACE: 1st Lily Hanna 2010, 3rd Philomena Drummond (d 1991 - Pat Drummond's mother), 5th Bernie Tierney (d 2007 - Father of Sue Gracey), 8th Ray Thomas, 10th Mary Kingston (d 2016), 15th Elsie Carroll (d 2010 - Adrian's mother), 25th Ivan Naraj , 5th Aug Joseph Tassanyi(d 2022)



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel .

First Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus (Ex 32:7-11. 13-14)

The Lord spoke to Moses, ‘Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. “Here is your God, Israel,” they have cried, “who brought you up from the land of Egypt!” I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.’

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.’ So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

RESPONSE

I will rise and go to my father.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy (1 Tm 1:12-17)

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has
entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 15:1-32)

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” he would say “I have found my sheep that was lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous people who have no need of repentance.

‘Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” she would say “I have found the drachma I lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.’

He also said, ‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant, “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

COMMUNION

The chalice of blessing that we bless
is a communion in the Blood of Christ;
and the bread that we break
is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.