

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 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)

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 4 September 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

Once again we have a rather 'hard' saying from Jesus in our Gospel for this Sunday.

"If anyone comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife children, brothers, sisters, yes and one's own life too, that one cannot be my disciple.

Anyone who does not carry one's cross and come after me cannot be my disciple".

And so we are challenged by the words of Scripture to look at our intentions in three areas of our lives:

1. our material goods

How important are they to us? Are they more important than people, especially those in need?

2. our dearest bonds of affection

Where is Jesus Christ in our family life? Do we strive to follow Christian principles within our family? Or do we relegate the Lord to 'mass-on-Sunday', if even that?

3. our own life

When we stand before the Lord, will we truly be able to say that everything we said and did was for the Lord and his Gospel? Can we say that 'you increased in my life, Lord; I decreased'?

My friends, too often we find ourselves rejecting all that does not fit into our neat little picture of Jesus Christ, God, the Church, Christian ethics... We can reject the difficult areas of our Faith and its Practice, preferring the 'reasonable' religion of mediocre discipleship.

But this Gospel text among others calls us back to the heart of our Christian beliefs, encouraging us to be heroic in our following of the Lord in a world dominated by practical materialism, and by the contemporary idols of power, sex and money.

Let us recommit ourselves to taking up the challenge that Christ offers us once again, and strive to place the Lord first in all aspects of our lives.

1. As we have our annual Fathers Day Collection for the retired and sick priests and deacons of our Diocese, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity once again.

Please give what you can; and if you wish to take the envelope home with you and bring it back next week, that's fine too.

And a happy Father's Day to all the fathers within the parish!

2. Please continue to pray for the younger members of our parish communities who are preparing for Confirmation in a couple of weeks time.

God bless you all. Fr John

This Weeks Readers : 4.09.2022

1 St Reader: Connie Adams

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession:

Paul Harris

COUNTERS: 4.09.2022

Diane Stewart

SERVERS: 4.09 2022

Grahame Adams

CHURCH CARE:

Marilyn and Paul Rowe

FLOWERS:

Rasa Blansjaar

NEXT WEEK READERS; 11. 09. 2022

1 St Reader: Pamela Nash

2 nd Reader: John Tweedie

Welcome/ Intercession

Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Mt Victoria 3.09.2022

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart

2 nd Reader: Maria

“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 ++

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 this 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.



EMBRACE THE CALL TO GLOBAL MISSION

American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia  Palms Australia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these [Mission opportunities abroad](#) and mentor those with little other opportunity. You you will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.

[Enquire online](#) or Ph: 0422 742 567 and [Register](#) for a Webinar on Saturday September 24th at 11:30am where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already egaged in Mission with Palms on our [13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16th to 28th](#).

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Patricia Gemmell**. Patricia is a wife, mother and grandmother, and semi-retired teacher of French, Latin and Italian. Her lifelong interest in theology and spirituality finally led her to formal study and she graduated with a Masters in Theology in 2014. She belongs to the Grail, an international movement and community of women, founded in the Netherlands in 1921 by Jacques van Ginneken SJ. She currently serves on the National Leadership Team and is the co-ordinator of the International Spirituality Network.

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 in the church hall following the prayer service. All welcome! Bring gardening gloves if you would like to plant some herbs in the raised beds near the church car-park.

Listening to the VOICE of Creation!

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.

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Thursday September 1

A prayer for today

God of all creation, your spirit dances throughout the earth.

The flame of the Holy Spirit reveals your presence in all of creation. You give drink to the trees, shade for the birds and bread for the hungry. You bring life and make all things holy.

Flood our hearts with your grace, so we may sow seeds of love, justice and beauty, and reflect your kingdom here on earth.

We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Read Our Pope Francis' message for this World Day of Prayer on the link:

<https://slmedia.org/blog/pope-francis-message-for-the-world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation-2022>

Marion Crowley passed away last week and we give thanks for her living service to the Sacred Heart community as a catechist and for her generous spirit.

**The wisdom tradition from which the first reading is taken is rooted in the fact that life is a series of choices. The epistle and the gospel reading provide us with examples of the way Christians should choose. Finally, the psalm's description of the fleeting nature of life sets the context and tone of our decision-making.



Discipleship demands that, in the face of all the choices available to us, we keep our priorities straight. In the gospel, Jesus insists that we must be single minded. We must cling to the one thing necessary, and that one thing is authentic discipleship. In choosing Jesus, we choose other things as well. We choose new relationships with the very people to whom we have already been committed. Those who were slaves, or lower class, or employees, or providers of service are now regarded as sisters and brothers in Christ. In choosing Jesus, we also choose the cross. We choose to live in a way that calls us to travel the high road: to forgive offences committed against us; to live simply so that others can simply live; to take responsibility for the moral character of society.

The fleeting nature of life as characterised in the psalm forces us to look at the meaning of life. When the day dawns for us to return to dust, what will we have gained from life? The realisation of our finiteness and the transitory nature of life should help us to set our priorities right and should give us the courage to remain faithful to them.

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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: 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

Happy Birthday

5th Diane Stewart

8th Lance Hodgkinson



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-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Wisdom (Wis 9:13-18)

Who can know the intentions of God?

Who can divine the will of the Lord?

The reasonings of mortals are unsure
and our intentions unstable;

for a perishable body presses down the soul,

and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,
laborious to know what lies within our reach;

who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not
granted Wisdom

and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened
and people been taught what pleases you,
and saved, by Wisdom.

RESPONSE

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon (Phlm 9-10, 12-17)

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 14:25-33)

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating their father, mother, wife or husband, children, brothers, sisters, yes and their own life too, they cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry their cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if you had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if you laid the foundation and then found yourself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of you and saying, "Here is a someone who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless you give up all your possessions.'

COMMUNION

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.