

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: 21 Oct 2022

BLACKHEATH MASSES

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

FIRST FRIDAY

Mass, Adoration and Reflection: 10 am.

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)

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

16 October 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

A theme of perseverance in prayer pervades our Liturgy today.

Perseverance in Prayer is all about having an attitude of openness to God's Will rather than expecting 'results' because of our persistence. Indeed, it is a realization that the Lord knows the best 'result' for us. We trust God, no matter what!

The First Reading from the Book of Exodus portrays Moses as mediating between God and the People of Israel. When Moses lifted his hands in prayers, Israel was victorious; when they dropped, disaster struck. Similarly, when we 'lift our hands' in prayer, then we remain open to the Holy Spirit; when we fail to pray, then our relationship with God falters.

The Parable of the Widow and the Dishonest Judge is similar in that the widow's perseverance leads her to remain open to a benefit in her case. And Jesus assures his audience that God will act in a like manner for us if we persevere in faithful prayer.

And, finally, Paul tells Timothy that perseverance in prayer leads to mission: a constant and open relationship in prayer with the Lord impels and strengthens us to tell the Good News to all.

In the coming week let's review our practice of prayer...

Are we truly open to what the Lord will do for us and others?

Are we willing to trust in the Lord's response to our 'asking'?

Does our relationship with God in prayer impel us to Mission?

1. If you would like to continue or begin to be rostered as a Reader or Senior Server / Acolyte for Sunday masses, then please let me know in writing over the next two weeks.

There will be Training Sessions for ALL continuing or new Readers and Senior Servers / Acolytes in November. I would like to update everyone on recent changes and future directions.

There will be an option for a Tuesday night from 6pm or Sunday morning from 11:30am for each ministry.

Please respond IN WRITING concerning your intentions.

2. Next Sunday is Mission Sunday. There will be a special collection for this annual appeal to support the missions.

God Bless you all

Fr John



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 16 October

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY 17 October

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 18 October

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 19 October

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

Mass 6.30pm B/Heath

THURSDAY 20 October

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 21 October

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Confession after Mass

SATURDAY 22 October

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Confession 5.40-5.50 Mt Vic

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

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

Mt Victoria 15 .10.2022

1 St Reader: Peter Mc Auley

2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

This Weeks Readers : 16.10.2022

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Jim and Cathy McNamara

Counters: Diane Stewart

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Christine & Dominic Burke

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

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:

We have started harvesting the radish and are looking forward to cooking up something tasty with them. The Men's Shed is just getting our picnic table for the garden underway. So far we have received donations totalling \$150 towards the cost of \$700 for the picnic table. If you would like to contribute \$50 towards this it would be very much appreciated. Or if you would like to donate any of the following items towards the garden, they would also be really welcome: wheel barrow, maddock, hand trowels, straw, mulch, manure of any kind. Working bees are on Wednesdays at 10am or 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 11am.

Contact: Brian 0401 768 688

Next Weeks Readers : 23 .10.2022

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Alan Skofic

Morning Tea:

Parish Pastoral Council Formation Session:

With the release of the new Handbook for Parish Pastoral Councils, Alison from the Diocese *Mission Enhancement Team (MET)*, will lead a session to break open this document for all parishioners interested in or involved with the PPC. Saturday **October 29** at 2-4pmpm. Further information from Paul or Julie.

Annual Parish Assembly (Annual General Meeting):
To be held after Sunday morning Mass on **November 27**.
Could all ministry leaders submit their report to the Secretary (Adrian Carroll) by 1 Nov.

Cancellation of Mass at Mt Victoria

Please note that this week 15/9/22 there will be no mass at Mt Victoria as we are unable to get a priest or acolyte.

**CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND
22&23 OCT 2022**

Every year on World Mission Sunday weekend we hold our Catholic Mission Appeal. Envelopes will be available on the pews to contribute towards the leaving collection for this appeal. This year the appeal focus is the Church in Ethiopia, by reaching to support those in most need, like many families in Emdibir who are farmers and by addressing critical issues such as malnutrition. Donations can also be made online

catholicmission.org.au/ethiopia or Freecall: 1800 257 296

We hope you will take this opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Dr Jenny Close**. For many years, Jenny's working life was shared between secondary school teaching and freelance liturgical art making. She is a sessional lecturer in theology at Australian Catholic University and Broken Bay Institute. In her Brisbane parish, which is vibrantly Franciscan, she participates in the liturgical ministry, the RCIA process and adult education.

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

**The readings today offer various aspects of prayer for our consideration. There is the spiritual discipline of prayer itself, which is essential to the life of the disciple: there is the communal dimension of prayer; and there is the ministerial commitment that is born of prayer. Our personal prayer must be persistent. Like Moses and the woman in the gospel reading, we must be ceaseless in our prayer, not discouraged by difficulties that we might have to face. Regardless of how strange the first reading may appear to be, it very strongly emphasises the communal dimension of prayer.



As minister of the word, Timothy is admonished to keep preaching the gospel, to keep spreading the good news, to allow the scriptures to continue to be a source of wisdom for himself and, through him, for all of the people who hear him. To have this kind of facility with Scripture requires that one enter into the deep meaning of the Scriptures and make them the basis of one's prayer. One must engage in what the monks call lectio divina, prayerful reflective reading of the scriptures. This practice, or spiritual discipline, gives us access to God and it also gives God access to us. It gives us the courage and the gentleness to teach, to refute, to correct. When our ministerial activity flows from prayer, it also flows from and strengthens right relationships with God and with the community. When this becomes a reality, the Son of Man will indeed find faith on earth.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

Formation Opportunities: For a range of interesting and informative formation opportunities from the Diocese's "Mission Enhancement Team" (MET), sign up to their newsletter at met@parracatholic.org or the link <https://pfparra.org.au/#footer>

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.

ANNIVERSARIES:

21st Mark and Maria Slater (m 2006)

22nd Jennifer and Wayne Kelly (m 1983)

25th Joseph and Rasa Blansjaar (m 1968)



Happy Birthday

21st Maria Slater

23rd Rasa Blansjaar

24th Patricia Dee



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

Noeleen Cliff, Sue Gracey, Joe Blansjaar, Elizabeth Curran, Fred Paton, Andrew Krawczyk, Patricia Dee, Pat McCauley, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli,

REST IN PEACE: 1st Ced Ward, 2nd Lal Nott Mark, 6th George Cora, 8th Vera Noble, 11th Michael Cooper (d 2016), 16th Eileen Smith (d 2007), 18th Ron Drummond (d 2003 – Pat's brother), 20th Jaroslav Zeeman (d 1999) – Betty's husband, Jerry), 25th Leslie Dee (d 2015), 25th Edna Bentick (d 2010), 26th Patricia Davies (d 2013 - Barbara Grieves sister), 26th Barry Roberts(2017), 27th Brenda Pateman (d 2013 - wife of Fred for nearly 49 years),



Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Exodus (Ex 17:8-13)

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

RESPONSE

Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy (2 Tm 3:14 – 4:2)

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the one who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 18:1-8)

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for people. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for people, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

COMMUNION

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Preparing for Christmas!

25 copies of Incarnate—Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2022 have been ordered and will be available for purchase for \$5 a copy when they arrive

Vinnies Christmas cards, featuring new designs, will be on sale at Sacred Heart and St Paul's soon

Christmas In a Shoebox- supporting refugee children at Christmas time. Baskets for the collection of items will be available at our churches over three weekends, October 22/23, 29/30 and November 5/6.

What goes into the shoe boxes?

Something to love

eg teddy bear, blanket, soft toy

Something to play with

eg tennis ball, bouncy ball, wind-up toy, skipping rope, finger puppets, puzzles

Something to wear

eg t-shirt, beanie, cap, thongs, sandals, socks, scarf, football socks

Something for personal hygiene

e.g soap, toothbrush, hairbrush, hand-cream

Something for school

e.g. exercise books, sharpener and eraser, pencil case, coloured pencils, lead pencils, book to read

Something special

e.g carry bag, sunglasses, hair accessories, bracelets, stickers, craft kit

NO breakables, food, sharp or melty items. Age groups for the boxes are 0-5;

6-12 and 13-18. Our collected items will be delivered to Springwood where a team of volunteers from the BMRSB will pack the items into shoeboxes and deliver to families. Many thanks for your wonderful support!