

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)

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

9 October 2022.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Gratitude to God for all that the Lord has given us flows through all three readings for this Sunday's Liturgy of the Word.

Naaman, the Syrian leper, wants to give the Prophet Elisha a gift to say thank you for his cleansing from leprosy. But the Prophet makes clear that it is GOD who has done the healing and it is the Lord who should be thanked because of this. Elisha is merely God's servant.

The Samaritan leper returns to give thanks to Jesus for his healing; indeed, he is so grateful to the Lord for doing what he did that he 'turned back praising God at the top of his voice'. And this grateful man is designated by Jesus as having been saved!

And even in the text from Paul to Timothy we can sense an attitude of gratitude: Jesus Christ has died for us, and this has brought about our salvation. And so we should express our thanks through holding firm and not being unfaithful to God's Word.

Our lives are full of moments in which our loving and compassionate God gifts us with untold graces. Such generosity from our Creator demands our gratitude. Like Naaman and the Samaritan leper, we need to offer thanks where it is due. Indeed, Thanksgiving is a very powerful aspect of prayer... our Eucharist is the Thanksgiving Prayer par excellence!

Of course, it's quite easy to thank God for the positive gifts given to us. What is much harder, but no less necessary, is to thank God for the things we do not understand, the difficult times in our lives.

Naaman and the Samaritan leper were both healed, which resulted in their gratitude to God, to Jesus.

What would have happened if they had remained unwell? It is then that FAITH is demanded of the believer: faith and trust in the God who brings good out of evil, who leads every creature to New Life.

And so, my friends, let us always give thanks to our loving and merciful God for all things that come our way... the good and the bad and everything in-between. And then 'everything' can become a reason for gratitude to God, for, after all, as Jesus says to the Samaritan leper who returned to give thanks: "Your 'faith' has saved you"!

1. After 10:30am Mass on the 9/10 (commencing around 11:30) there will be a Blessing of the Animals at St Canice's Katoomba

2. The Funeral Liturgy for the late Amanda Day will be in St Bonaventure's Church, Leura, on Tuesday 11th, commencing at 1pm.

Let us continue to keep each other in prayer during the week ahead.

God bless you all. Fr John



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 10 October

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY 11 October

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 12 October

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 13 October

Mass 6.30pm B/Heath

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 14 October

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 15 October

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Adoration, confession

SATURDAY 16 October

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria **(Cancelled)**

SUNDAY 17 October

11.30am: Blessing of the Animals at Katoomba

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 08.10.2022

1 St Reader: Peter Mc Auley

2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

This Weeks Readers : 09.10.2022

1 St Reader: Brian Bright

2 nd Reader: Monica Bright

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Alan Skofic

Church Care: Phil & Pat Wicks

Counters: Laurie Noyes

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Monica & Pamela

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

WORKING BEE THIS FRIDAY 7 October

Friday 7 October 2022 commencing from 8am. Please Call John on 0407 288 957 for further information, or just turn up on the day.



CONTACT DETAILS.

The office staff are endeavouring to update parish details for our parishioners, If you have not already done so could you please fill out the yellow form which are located inside the church and leave in basket inside the church on the pew near the door.

Thank you for your assistance. Parish Staff

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 2-4pm. Further information from Paul or Julie.

Next Weeks Readers : 16.10.2022

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Christine & Dominic Burke

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!



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

Office for Safeguarding Spring Training Opportunities

The Office for Safeguarding is offering a range of opportunities to complete your Safeguarding training this spring.

Full-day training session on Monday 17 October from 9.30am to 2.30pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown

Weekly training sessions on Monday 24 and 31 October and Monday 7 November from 10am to 11.30am at St Andrew the Apostle Parish, Marayong.

- Full-day training session on Saturday 29 October from 10am to 3pm at St Matthew's Parish, Windsor.

To register for one of these options, please email safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Dr Angela McCarthy**. Angela is an adjunct senior lecturer in theology at The University of Notre Dame Australia, and a member of the Plenary Council of the Catholic Church in Australia. Angela has published in the areas of liturgy, icons, art and theology, liturgical music, educational practice and theological aesthetics .

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

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.

You are warmly invited to a **Diocesan Ecological Spirituality Retreat Day:**

Saturday 8 October, 9am – 4pm

Winbourne Retreat Centre, Mulgoa

facilitated by the Diocese of Parramatta's Laudato Si' Action Team and expert speaker Trish Hindmarsh

The program for the day will explore the deeply spiritual foundations of caring for God's creation and will be based on Trish Hindmarsh's book [Ecological Spirituality: Caring for our Common Home](#). The retreat day will provide time and space for personal reflection, and to enjoy the hospitality of Winbourne Retreat Centre within the beautiful nature surrounding the site.

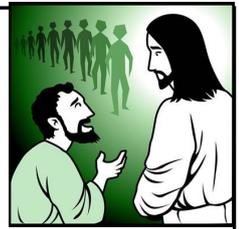
If you would like to attend, please register at parracatholic.org/PJERetreat (limited availability; registrations close 30 Sept, 12 noon). Cost: \$25 (incl. morning/afternoon tea and lunch)

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

Pat Frazer, Sue Gracey, 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 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), 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),

****The leprosy of Naaman and the ten men in the gospel serves as a metaphor for sinfulness, the condition that makes us unfit for the presence of God and despicable in the eyes of others. Separated from God and alienated from society, we are truly in a deplorable state, a state out of which we are unable to extricate ourselves. Into these seemingly hopeless conditions step the prophet Elisha and Jesus. Each in his own way brings the healing power of God, the saving grace of God. Paul is such a mediator as well. He brings the gospel to those who are in need of salvation. When people are open to his preaching, they are transformed and made ready to receive eternal glory. After healing come gratitude and praise. Both Naaman and the lone Samaritan are so filled with gratitude that they return to the one responsible for their healing. They are not so preoccupied with their good fortune as to forget that it came to them as a gift. Their response is the kind of thanks and praise that is proclaimed in the psalm and that is also celebrated at each Sunday Eucharist. We have been saved from our alienation from God and from each other so let us give thanks to the Lord.**



Those who know that they have been healed, who realize that this was a gift freely given to them, and who return to give thanks have, by these acts of devotion, stepped over a threshold into a new way of living. Their thanks and praise usher them into a new age, the age of eschatological promise.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORTANK YOU

A big thank you to all those who baked, pottered & help last Sunday for our fundraiser Cake & Plant stall held at Sacred Heart Blackheath. We raised \$447 on the day.



Many thanks from your Social & Fundraising Committee

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>

Happy Birthday

14th Fr Paul Hanna (1940)



ANNIVERSARIES:

9th Fr Bob Sheridan's ordination 2004



25th

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

ENTRANCE

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

First Reading

A reading from the second book of the Kings (2 Kgs 5:14-17)
Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child.
Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. 'Now I know' he said, 'that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant.' But Elisha replied, 'As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing.' Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, 'Since your answer is "No," allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord.'

RESPONSE

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy (2 Tm 2:8-13)

Remember the Good News that I carry. 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal – but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:

If we have died with him, then we shall live with him.

If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.

If we disown him, then he will disown us.

We may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful,
for he cannot disown his own self.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

For all things give thanks to God,
because this is what he expects of you in Christ Jesus.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 17:11-19)

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

COMMUNION

When the Lord appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

Fridays at 125!

5-7pm first Friday of the month

125 Wentworth St

Everyone is welcome!

Free pizza! games, music, dancing and family fun!

A BANC initiative supported by the St Vincent de Paul Society

A great evening out with your grandchildren these school holidays on Friday October 7

'Christianity is the world's most persecuted religion' – Catholic Outlook

Follow the link:

<https://catholicoutlook.org/christianity-is-the-worlds-most-persecuted-religion/>