

# 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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

**Parish website:**

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://sacredheartblackheath.org.au)

**Parish Facebook:** [Sacred Heart Parish](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParish)

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

## **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: 18 Nov 2022 at 4.00pm**

## **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: 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](mailto: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](mailto:pauls_harris@hotmail.com)) or Julie O'Keeffe  
([julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com))

## **First Sunday of Advent Year A**

**27 November 2022.**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Both NT Readings for this First Sunday of Advent invite us to reflect on our living out of the Gospel of Jesus in our own time and place.

They encourage us to examine how we are faithful or otherwise to our Christian ethics in our day-to-day lives.

In preparation for that moment when we will see the Lord face-to-face, can we say that we are people of moral integrity, whose lives witness the love of Christ to all?

Do we strive for what is the right thing to do in all circumstances: for ourselves, our family, our friends, our neighbours, the strangers whom we meet?

As with last week (the end of our Church's Liturgical Year), so with this week (the beginning of a new Liturgical Year), it is the appropriate time to ask ourselves: are we in need of conversion and renewal?

Indeed, are we willing to prepare for the Lord's coming to us once again this Christmas by doing all we can to be reconciled with the Lord and one another, so that our celebration of Christmas 2022 may truly be a celebration of New Birth?

1. Today (27/11), Sacred Heart Parish has its AGM or Annual Parish Assembly. All are welcome after the 9:15am Mass to gather in the Blackheath Parish Hall for this important event.

2. Today (27/11), UBM Parish will hold a Christmas Luncheon for all after the 10:30am Mass in the Katoomba Parish Hall. Our thanks to all who have donated time and effort and food for this annual event.

3. This weekend we will have our third Catholic Foundation Appeal for the charitable activities of our Diocese. Please give generously to this tax-deductible collection, which will be taken up immediately after the Second Collection. If you prefer, feel free to take the envelope home and bring it back next week.

4. The Funeral Mass for Betty O'Connor will take place in St Canice's Church on Thursday 1/12 at 10:30am. The evening mass at Leura on that day will be cancelled

5. Thanks to all who attended the Readers' Sessions and the first Servers' Session last week; the second Servers' Session will be after the 10:30am mass next week (4/12).

6. All who are going on the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in January are invited to a gathering with Monica from Harvest Journeys in the Katoomba Parish Hall after 10:30am mass on 11/12.

God Bless you all during this Advent Season

Fr John



## WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY 27 November

1st Sunday of Advent Year A

### MONDAY 28 November

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 29 November

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

### WEDNESDAY 30 November

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

Mass 6.30pm Blackheath

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

### THURSDAY 1 December

Mass 5.15pm Leura (Mass Cancelled)

### FRIDAY 2 December

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Adoration, confession

### SATURDAY 3 December

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

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 Victoria**

From 3rd Sept -6.00pm

Mt Victoria 26.11.2022

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart

2 nd Reader: Maria

This Weeks Readers : 27.11.2022

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Alan Skofic

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Laurie Noyes

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Christa and Connie

### 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 ++

### **Sunday Morning Tea**

There will be a special Christmas theme morning tea held Sunday 11th December, making it the last for 2022

Morning teas will resume again, Sunday 15th January 2023.

If you would like to be part of our fantastic team of volunteers the new year and be put on a roster, please see me after Mass or contact me on 0419 651 947

Thank you for your support. Connie Adams



**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!



### **Teaspoons and tea strainers for Wednesday morning tea**

Teaspoons need topping up for the Wednesday morning tea and we are looking for tea strainers for our pots of tea. If you are able to contribute either of these items for our use on Wednesday's it would be most appreciated.

### **CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE**

It's that time of the year again to start preparations for our Christmas Hamper Raffle. As in the past we are asking parishioners to contribute to this **FUNDRAISING EVENT**. There will be a basket left inside the church for your contributions. Also on the noticeboard at the front of church there is a list of goodies required to make this Hamper bigger and better than last year. Please put your name against any of the items you would like to donate.

**We are then asking that you then get a book of raffle tickets from Marilyn or Diane and Sell! Sell! Sell!.**

Thank you in anticipation for your help with our end of year Fundraiser.

### **Social committee**



Next Weeks Readers : 04.12.2022

1 St Reader: Pamela Nash

2 nd Reader: John Tweedie

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Karen and Margaret

**Annual Parish Assembly (Annual General Meeting):** To be held after Sunday morning Mass THIS WEEKEND. All are welcome.

**THANK YOU** to our SRE Teachers: As the year winds up for our Catechist classes in our local primary schools, we thank our Special Religious Education teachers Claire Maguire, Connie Adams, Jennifer Milani and Pat Drummond for their dedication in bringing the love of Jesus into the hearts of the children. The SRE team is seeking people to help continue this vital ministry. For more information please speak to Claire, Fr John one of the team.

**Parish Christmas Celebration Meal at our Sacred Heart Hall**

Friday evening December 16 from 6pm-8pm

“Bring and Share” a meal –if you are planning to come along to this festive evening please pop your name and the meal you are bringing along, either a Main or a Dessert on the sheet at St Paul’s or Sacred Heart over the next few weekends.

A date for your diary-16 December, 6pm.

**Australian Women Preach:** This week’s guest is **Cecilia Francisco-Tan**. Cecilia is an alum of the University of Divinity, Australia, where she received her PhD in systematic theology. She currently lectures at Yarra Theological Union. Cecilia was a resident fellow with the Lonergan Institute, Boston College. Her ongoing association with Boston College allows her to deepen her research on the work of Bernard Lonergan. Cecilia is a wife, mother of five and grandmother to 10

[www.australianwomenpreach.com.au](http://www.australianwomenpreach.com.au)

**Retiring Catechists:** The Parish extends its wholehearted thanks and appreciation to Claire Maguire and Connie Adams who have served as Catechists in our local primary schools and are retiring from their service. A particular mention to Claire who has faithfully served in this role for 17 years with 10 of those years as coordinator. Claire, your commitment to your faith and the love you have for sharing this with the children and families of our community is acknowledged and admired. On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, and indeed the parish community, we thank you and wish you many blessings as you move to be closer to family in Bathurst. Paul Harris, Chair

**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.

**Advent reflection mornings** –Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord! Commencing on Saturday November 26, from 10-11am at Sacred Heart church, with a cuppa on the church veranda afterwards. A time for quietness, prayer, conversation and reflection on the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day. See the attached flyer for an enriching creative approach for this year’s journey through Advent and view the upbeat you tube link, Advent in Two Minutes! for inspiration and reflection. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eC0FGQLBp7w>

**\*\*We may be accustomed to think of Advent as the time when we prepare for the coming of God, but the readings also train our attention on our own journey to God. We see this most clearly in this first Sunday with readings that tell us the identity of the pilgrims, the destination toward which they travel, and the way of life that is required of them on their journey. As the Vatican Council has proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.**



Both the reading from Isaiah and the psalm response speak of the pilgrimage to the mountain of the Lord, the place where God can be found. Although the psalm speaks about Jerusalem and refers to the temple there, the broader theological significance of the mountain, the city and the temple is one and the same. They represent the presence of God in our midst, and this presence is the goal of our striving. There are clear directions about how we are to live while we are on this pilgrimage to God. In Isaiah we learn that we must put away our instruments of violence and hatred, our swords and our spears. Lest we pick them up again, we are told to convert them into life-producing implements, into ploughs and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us to put away our deeds of darkness and self-indulgence and to clothe ourselves instead in the deeds of Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the need for alertness, attentiveness, a disposition that is open to a change of heart.

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**Bishop’s Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care’s Assistance with Care and Housing next weekend 26 & 27 Nov 2022**



No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please stretch out your hand to the poor and give generously via the Bishop’s

Christmas Appeal envelopes, at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you for your prayers, heartfelt compassion, and help to end homelessness.

**”QUO VADIS?” PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL AND ROME**

5 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2023. At the request of many of his previous pilgrims, Fr Wim Hoekstra is leading a pilgrimage to Israel and Rome next year. Our pilgrimage will be following in the footsteps of St Peter. Details can be found at [www.olivetreetravel.com.au](http://www.olivetreetravel.com.au) under Upcoming Tours, via the QR code or please contact Fr Wim on 0409908361 or email [wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org](mailto:wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org)



**Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:**

Leashy Dowling, 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:** 7<sup>th</sup> Lewis Hodgkinson (d 2004), 9<sup>th</sup> Melanie Hinklemann, 14<sup>th</sup> Fr Jim Dooley (d 2007), 21<sup>st</sup> Craig Charles Huckstepp (d 2014 – Francesca Huckstepp’s husband), 25<sup>th</sup> Jason Bentley, 27<sup>th</sup> Iris Jones





## **First Sunday of Advent Year A**

### **ENTRANCE**

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.  
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever .

### **First Reading**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is 2:1-5)  
The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
In the days to come  
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord  
shall tower above the mountains  
and be lifted higher than the hills.  
All the nations will stream to it,  
peoples without number will come to it; and they will say:  
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the Temple of the God of Jacob  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
since the Law will go out from Zion,  
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’  
He will wield authority over the nations  
and adjudicate between many peoples;  
these will hammer their swords into ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles.  
Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war.  
O House of Jacob, come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

### **RESPONSE**

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord

### **Second Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Rom 13:11-14)  
You know ‘the time’ has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 24:37-44 )

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

### **COMMUNION**

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.



*Christmas* 2022

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**  
Leura 5pm  
Blackheath 6pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**  
Katoomba 12am Midnight  
Wentworth Falls 8am  
Blackheath 9:15am  
Katoomba 10:30am