

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: 16 Dec 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

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 Adrian Carroll (ajandra@bigpond.com)
or Julie O'Keeffe (julesongodson@bigpond.com)

Third Sunday of Advent Year A

11 December 2022

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Third Sunday of Advent is a day of Rejoicing, as we have reached the 'halfway' point in our preparation for the celebration of the Lord's First Coming at Christmas.

However, in today's Readings, another theme is very much present: the idea of Christ's Coming bringing Salvation for all.

Isaiah speaks of the Coming of the Lord: 'Look, your God is coming...He is coming to save you'. Pointing the way to the First Coming of the Messiah, this text offered hope in the midst of difficulty to a suffering Israel.

And Matthew's text speaks of John the Baptist's message concerning the completion of the old order and the ushering in of the new: Prepare the way of the Lord, the One who will save the people from their sins.

As Church, as the new People of God, we are to imitate the OT Prophets and John the Baptist. They proclaimed the First Coming of the Lord, brought to fruition on that first Christmas Day. We are to proclaim His Second Coming, which will bring all things in creation to completion, offering Salvation for all.

St James picks up this idea, as we heard in our Second Reading: "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's Coming...the Lord's Coming will be soon..."

So, as we joyfully wait to celebrate the Lord's Coming to us once again at Christmas, let us also pray for the Second Coming of the Lord. Perhaps, as last week, we could use a petitionary mantra in our times of prayer:

Lord, come and save us!

1. The Gathering for all going on Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is today (11/12) after the 10:30am Mass in St Canice's Hall from 11:30am.
2. There will be two School Masses in St Canice's Church this week: Wed 14/12 at 9:30am for the whole school; and a Year 6 Graduation Mass on Thursday 15/12 at 10am.
3. There will be Mass at St Joseph's, Church, Megalong Valley, on Friday 16/12 at 4pm. All welcome.
4. Sacred Heart Parish will have its Parish Christmas dinner of Friday 16/12 from 6-8pm in Sacred Heart Hall.
5. Our newly ordained Permanent Deacon, Rev. Mr Alan Skofic, will exercise his diaconal ministry for the first time at the 10:30am Mass next Sunday (18/12).

God bless you all! Fr John



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 11 December

Third Sunday of Advent Year A

MONDAY 12 December

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 13 December

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 14 December

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

Mass 6.30pm Blackheath

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 15 December

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 16 December

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Adoration, confession

SATURDAY 17

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 10.12.2022

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kaness

This Weeks Readers : 11.12.2022

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Grahame Adams

Church Care: Jim and Cathy McNamara

Counters: Diane Stewart

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea:

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 : 18.12.2022

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Morning Tea: No morning tea until Jan 15th 2023

Community Kitchen-Garden: This last week we started on our latest garden bed as well as planting out a lot of seedlings we were given by the Cliff View Community Garden.

Our next greatest need for the garden is a rainwater tank. If you have or know of someone who has a tank that is no longer needed, we would give it a good home.

For anyone with an interest in helping in the garden, see the times in this Bulletin under "What's on" All are welcome and no prior experience is needed. Donations to the garden picnic table are also still welcome. Contact Brian on 0401 768 688

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 **Dr Margaret Scharf**. Margaret is a member of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of Western Australia. Margaret works with the Catholic Institute of WA, and the Centre for Faith Enrichment, also providing Staff PD Days in Catholic Schools and presenting parish programs wherever the need is in the State. Margaret is a composer of Liturgical music with works published in Australia and the United States....

www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Parish Council

We would like to welcome our new PPC members Eve McDonnell, Barry McDonnell and Clive Kanen. Thank you also to the outgoing members, Diane Stewart, Paul Harris and Brian Bright for their service to the parish. A new chairperson will be elected at the next PPC Meeting in February 2023. Contact the PPC through Julie O'Keeffe (julesongodson@bigpond.com) or Adrian Carroll (ajandra@bigpond.com).

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!

This Saturday morning, December 10, at Sacred Heart Church from 10-11am hosted by Sister Jacinta Shailer – a joyful gathering of prayer, reflection, song and accompaniment as we move closer to Christmas Day! The fourth and final reflection morning, December 17, will be led by Frances Huckstepp. A cuppa on the church veranda (or in the hall, weather dependant) will be enjoyed after the Advent preparation sessions. All welcome!

****Half way through Advent we pause for a moment to celebrate Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday for rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; eyes that lacked sight, ears incapable of capturing and holding sound, limbs without strength, and tongues devoid of speech are all given new life. There will be no death in that age of fulfilment, no limitations, no mourning. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we will discover the meaning of true fulfilment.**



John the Baptist is a standard for judging the privilege of entering here and now, the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, the one who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the flood gates of the eschatological tide. By comparison, even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than this prophetic herald. John also serves as a model of patience in suffering. His circumstances teach us that moving toward eschatological fulfilment is not without cost. Just as Matthew presents us with the example of John the Baptist, so James describes the patience required of those who await the age of fulfilment. That age of fulfilment will dawn in its time; all we can do is discharge our responsibilities regardless of how demanding they might be, and wait for that day patiently, convinced that it will come in God's due time.

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Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life

If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards that reflect real items that support vulnerable communities around the globe.

Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.

"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 under Upcoming Tours, via the QR code or please contact Fr Wim on 0409908361 or email wim.hoekstra@parracatholic.org



Happy Birthday Dec

9th Julie Hodgkinson



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: 13th Rosalie Sandor, 13th Marjorie Cullen (d 2014 aged 92 – Julie Hodgkinson's mother)

29th Jorgana Kallane (2016)



Third Sunday of Advent Year A

ENTRANCE

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is 35:1-6, 10)

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSE

Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St James (Jas 5:7-10)

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming.
Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious
fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the
spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart,
because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make com-
plaints against one another, brothers and sisters, so as not to
be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to
be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers and
sisters, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who
spoke in the name of the Lord.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 11:2-11)

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the one who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

COMMUNION

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



Christmas 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
Leura 5pm
Blackheath 6pm

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