

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: 20 Jan 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)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 8 2023

PART OR AN ARTICLE FROM LA CROIX about Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

There is a risk that we will remember only one thing about Benedict XVI: his departure. With his "renunciation" in February 2013, the German pope had taken everyone by surprise. Above all, he made a quasi-revolutionary gesture, unthinkable until now for a pope: the successor of Peter, the vicar of Christ, does not resign! But Benedict XVI did.

This rather shy man, not very inclined to media stunts, was able to take his leave in a particularly spectacular way. However, we should not have been surprised by his resignation. It was part of the logic of his pontificate. All we had to do was listen to him, which we didn't do enough of. All his life as Pope, Benedict XVI considered himself as the "humble worker", one there only to be at the service of the Church and therefore of Christ. And it is in this sense that his resignation must be understood. We thought this pope was concerned with defending the Church as a besieged fortress. Another false idea! Never has the Pope been more sensitive and lucid about the illnesses and weaknesses that plague the institution. The prestigious theologian felt it was also his duty to tackle what is perhaps the worst aspect of the history of the Catholic Church in the last fifty years, the scandal of sexual abuses by some priests.

As he said in 2010 in Portugal, "the greatest persecution of the Church does not come from outside but from within". It is this same radicality that explains, in the end, his gesture of resignation.

Faced with a Curia that, completely forgetting its own legitimacy, obstinately pursued the preservation of its privileges and temporal power, Benedict XVI has chosen to use spiritual power. In this sense, the resignation of Benedict XVI was intended to prepare the pontificate of Francis for a necessary renewal, by doing the work of Truth. Applying for himself what he said of his master, St. Augustine: "He did not feel he had a vocation to pastoral life but realized later that God was calling him to be a pastor among others and thus to offer people the gift of the truth". Isabelle de Gaulmyn is a senior editor at La Croix and a former Vatican correspondent.

Read more at: <https://international.la-croix.com/news/editorials/benedict-xvi-a-lesson-in-humility-for-the-church/17103>

Biography

A biography of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is available on the Vatican website at <https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/biography/index.html>



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 7.01.2023

Mass 6.00pm My Victoria

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY

9.15am Year A

MONDAY 9 January

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 10 January

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 11 January

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

Mass 6.30pm Blackheath

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 12 January

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 13 January

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Adoration, confession

SATURDAY 14 January

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

6.00pm Mass on Saturday this week.

Mt Victoria 7.1.2023

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart

2 nd Reader: Maria

Sunday 8.1.2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Jance & Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Not until February 12 2023

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 ++

CUPPA'S goes ALFRESCO!

Wednesday's morning cup of tea will be held on the church veranda for two weeks on January 18 and 25 from 9:30-12:00.

There will be NO morning tea on Wednesday February 1.

Cuppa's Together will resume in the hall on Wednesday February 8.

Cuppa's Together!

Help us promote this opportunity for support and connection by telling your neighbours, new people into our town and anyone you know who would enjoy a chat. Thank you so much for the donation of teaspoons- we are most appreciative.



Sunday

Morning Tea

Sunday's Morning Tea in the hall will resume after the garage sale.

Recommencing Sunday 12th February.

If you would like to be part of our fantastic team of volunteers in 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



Save the date- January 26 for our parish picnic

Father Abraham will celebrate Mass for us at **11:00am on January 26**, Australia Day along with the opening of our Sacred Heart Church 121 years ago! A long table BYO picnic lunch is proposed in our beautiful pine forest following the Mass, weather dependent! May these sunny days continue and shine brightly on us on January 26!

Sunday: 15.1.2023

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Grahame Adams

Morning Tea: No morning tea until Feb 12th 2023

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.

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ, the Vatican's most influential female, is coming to Australia in February 2023 and will be holding public forums and lectures in Sydney

Recently listed on [BBC's 100 Women for 2022](#) list, Sr Nathalie is one of the most prominent and significant women in the Vatican. A French nun of the Congregation of Xavières, Sr Nathalie was appointed by Pope Francis in May 2019 as Consultor to the Synod of Bishops. In 2021 she was again appointed by Pope Francis as Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops. She is the first woman to ever hold this position in the Vatican and the first woman to have voting rights in the Synod of Bishops.

Sr Nathalie will be in Sydney for one day only on Friday 3 February and you're invited to attend one, or both of her free public events held at St Patrick's Cathedral. The public forum "Walking Together: What lies ahead on the journey to a Synodal Church" will be held at 4pm. The public lecture "Towards a Spirituality of Synodality" will commence at 7pm.

Places are limited, so please register on the Diocese of Parramatta website: <https://parracatholic.org/srnathalie/>

Nathalie will also be in Melbourne on 31 January for one day only.

The Christmas season reaches an apex with the Epiphany. In some liturgical traditions, it is the central celebration of Christmas. It commemorates not only the birth of Christ and the visit of the Magi, but also his baptism in the Jordan and the manifestation of his glory at the wedding feast of Cana. In the Roman Catholic tradition, the focus is on the visit of the Magi and the implications of that visit for the glorious manifestation of God to all the peoples of the world.



There is a wonderful summons to alertness and presence of mind and heart, a call for all the nations to witness the marvellous works of God that shine as light in the midst of the surrounding darkness. The light of God is known in the ways in which the most vulnerable in the city are cared for and acknowledged. In just action and righteousness, the city becomes the beacon of God, and all the nations are attracted by this light. The quality of the light leads the way through the darkness and sustains the world in goodness and peace.

The manifestation of God among us changes the ways in which we perceive each other. Christ's birth provides us with the light by which we see a new criterion for relating. The Magi represent the multi-ethnic and cultural diversity in civic and parish situations, as well as the many religions of the world. All people, regardless of race or ethnic origin, can be co-heirs with Christ.

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Epiphany Pilgrims arrive on January 8!

The Epiphany Pilgrims arrive at our hall on **Sunday January 8** for Mass at **3pm** in the church. We are all invited to participate in this Mass.

The Pilgrims Evening Meal

January 8 is the final evening of the pilgrimage and will conclude with a shared meal commencing at around 5:15pm. In the past we have contributed mains and desserts for their meal. If you are able to offer a meal for the pilgrims please let Julie O'K know. **Thank You** so very much! **Palms Australia – Roll up your sleeves, make a difference overseas**



Recycling Plastic Bread Bag Tags

If you have been saving up plastic bread bag tags please drop them off at our church over the next week as I will be sending a box load of tags to Robe in South Australia for processing. See how Brad and Narelle Scott from Transmutation use the tags <https://ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au/our-recycler/> Only plastic bread bag tags thank you.



GARAGE SALE ~ If you are doing a Spring Clean, please remember our Garage Sale on February 4 and 5, and donate your unwanted items (in good condition please) to our sale. The items can be delivered to the parish hall in the coming weeks.

We will also be looking for some volunteers to help with the setting up and selling on the days.

Happy Birthday January: 1st Robyn Ann Bogart; 20th Connor Lillis; 22nd Grahame Adams (b 1947)
23rd Marjanna Gilchrist (b 1960); 25th Patricia Frazer - (b 1931); 30th Jeremy Lillis (b 2006)



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:

John Tweedie, Leashy Dowling, Noleen 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: 11th Gerard Johnston; 14th Joyce Malkin (d 2012); 19th Roma Ziolkowski (2018); 20th Jan Roberts (2019); 20th Henry Columbine; 22nd Bridget Chan (d 2011); 28th Jean Walsh; 31st Trevor Drummond (d 2016 -father of Pat)



The Epiphany of the Lord

ENTRANCE

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is 60:1-6)

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

RESPONSE

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
(Eph 3:2-3. 5-6)

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted
by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it
was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of
the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed
through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets
was unknown to any one in past generations; it means
that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they
are parts of the same body, and that the same promise
has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the
gospel.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 2:1-12)

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during
the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusa-
lem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?'
they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to
do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was per-
turbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called to-
gether all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,
and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At
Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the
prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,

for out of you will come a leader

who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately.
He asked them the exact date on which the star had ap-
peared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out
all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found
him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him hom-
age.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set
out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen
rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the
child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight,
and going into the house they saw the child with his moth-
er Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage.
Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of
gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in
a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own
country by a different way.

COMMUNION

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

World Day of Prayer

Sacred Heart Parish will be hosting World Day of Pray-
er this year on 3rd of March .

As we are hosting it, there will be a meeting with the
other Blackheath churches on Wednesday 18th January
at 2.30 pm at St. Pauls catholic church Mt. Victoria.If
you are able to attend would like some support.