

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: 17 Feb 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)

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 12 February 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In today's gospel from Matthew Jesus tells his listeners three times: "you have heard how it was said..."

And then, after having given the contemporary understanding of Mosaic laws...

Do not kill

Do not commit adultery

Do not break your oath

Jesus reinterprets these commandments from a more mature standpoint.

No longer is the 'letter of the law' to be insisted upon. Rather, the 'spirit of the law' (what the law is intended to encourage) is what Jesus of Nazareth insists upon.

The Christian message is NOT a legalistic message (although many Christians of various persuasions down through the ages have made it so!)

Rather, the message of Jesus Christ liberates one from a primitive and childish slavery to rules and regulations, and frees us for a more mature and adult life in the spirit.

And this is a life based on LOVE: love of God and neighbour in imitation of the unconditional love of Christ for all!

Let's reflect on what this means practically for us in the coming week, remembering the words of St John in his letter:

"If we do not love the brother or sister whom we do see, then how can we love the God whom we don't see".

1. After 9:15 mass at Blackheath today we will have a brief 'update' on the ministries or Reader and Server for Sacred Heart Parish.

On Sunday 26 Feb after 10:30 mass at Katoomba we will also have a brief 'update' on these same ministries in UBM parish for those who missed out last year.

2. The Sacred Heart PPC will meet on Thursday 16/2 at 7pm in the parish hall.

3. Please note that Lent this year commences on Wednesday 22/2. Masses will be at Wentworth Falls at 9:30am, Katoomba at 6pm and Blackheath at 6:30pm.

Have a great week, everyone!

Fr John



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 11 February

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

SUNDAY 12 February

9.15am Year A

MONDAY 13 February

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 14 February

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 15 February

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

Mass 6.30pm Blackheath

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 16 February

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 17 February

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 18 February

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

ASH WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY MASS TIMES:

Wentworth Fall 9.30 am

Katoomba 6 pm

Blackheath 6.30 pm

Mt Victoria 11.2.2023

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 12.2.2023

1 St Reader: Christa Buckley

2 nd Reader: David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Monica 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.



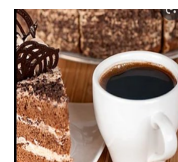
Being a Covid Safe Parish:

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 ++

Cuppa's Together! This weekend 12th February.

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.



Community Kitchen Garden:

We Harvested some potatoes this week and we have made Stephanie Alexander's Kitchen Garden soup for the Uniting Church Monday Soup Kitchen with these. We plan to make some soup each week with produce from the Kitchen-Garden for the Monday Soup Kitchen. Come and join us in the garden on Wednesdays at 10am.

We are holding a special workshop this Saturday 11th February at 10am to begin building a tool shed for our Kitchen-Garden.

Contact: Brian 0401 768 688

Saturday April 1 at Sacred Heart church 10-11am

Sister Jacinta Shailer will facilitate a reflection session consisting of prayer, song, readings, quiet time and conversation. Morning tea will follow on the church veranda

Sunday: 19.2.2023

1 St Reader: Brian Bright

2 nd Reader: Monica Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

LENTEN GROUP WEDNESDAYS

Commencing Ash Wednesday 22/2.

Morning group 10.30am

Evening group 7.00pm. Location: 3 Easter Street Leura. Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson. Please contact Barbara for more information. Lenten Programme participant books will be available.

Suggested donation \$5 per book to help cover costs.

Pope Francis asks us to pray together as a worldwide community: February- For Parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need

Project Compassion 2023.

The Boxes and envelopes will be available in the church from next week. Please take a box or envelop to support Caritas Australia this Lenten Season.

World Day of Prayer

Sacred Heart Parish will be hosting World Day of Prayer this year, it will be held on the 3rd of March at 1.30 pm as we are hosting it there will be afternoon tea in the church hall after the service. .please bring a plate. Thank you .

WORKING BEE SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Saturday 18 February 2023 commencing from 8am. Lots of mowing and edging to do. Morning tea will be supplied. Enquiries to Lance 47878096



Building Safe Parishes Together:

An Update from the Office for Safeguarding. New Year's Dash: Face-to-Face Safeguarding Training Opportunities to Kick Off the New Year! Have you had a chance to complete your Safeguarding Training yet? April 2023 will mark the first two years of our Mandatory Safeguarding Training Program. This year over 700 people across the Diocese have completed their training in face-to-face sessions. For those who are yet to complete their initial Mandatory Safeguarding Modules, we are offering a 'New Year's Dash' Package of Training Opportunities in readiness for ministry in 2023. Contact the Parish Office to find locations, days of the week and times of Training Packages that best suit you. You can register for these by emailing: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org Of course, you are still most welcome to 'sign up' to our online Safeguarding Training Platform at: <https://ning.safeguarding.org.au>

GARAGE SALE REVIEW

Thank you to all the people who supplied, purchased and worked at the sale on the weekend.

It was great day all round with lots of bargains to be had.

The amount raised to day (and we are still selling) is \$6877.85.

Well done everyone who worked so hard all through January to set up & price most of the items.

Without our core group this sort of event just couldn't happen.

Thank you again. Marilyn Rowe

WISHING FR ABRAHAM A HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR-NEXT WEEK THE 14TH FEBRUAR.

Happy Birthday January: 3 Beryl Cornish 8th Joe Landsberg 8th Freya McNair, 11th Kenya Burke (2002), 14th Betty Zeman, 14th Fr Abraham, 16th Monica Bright, 23rd Janet Lamerton, 23rd Diana Landsberg

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: John Tweedie, 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: 10th Frank Farsaci (Frances Huckstepp's father - 2018), 15th Sarah Frazer (2012), 16th Gladys Gronlund (2015) - Carol Drummond's mother, 17th Charles Edward Hodgkinson, 22nd Rick Frazer (1986) - Kate Forbes' father, 23rd William (Bill) Grieves (d 2018), 26th Rita Jenner (2017), 26th Nancy Etccl (2016) - Mt Vic resident, 27th Ken Kirkham (2017), 28th Anthony Gilchrist (2015), 25th Peter Potts (2022)

***We live in a world where appearances frequently matter more than they should. Contrary to this predominating tendency, Jesus teaches us that what we do flows from who and what we are. We can enlighten the world with the message of the gospel, because our lives have been transformed by that gospel and now we ourselves are light for others. We can serve others in various ways, only because we have been saved by God's grace and now we are agents of that grace in the lives of others. Our own renewal becomes the means through which God renews the world.



This may sound grandiose, but it isn't. It is the truth about the way God works. Extraordinary things are accomplished through ordinary people. Jesus grew up as the son of a carpenter; some of the apostles were fishermen; Paul was a tentmaker; we are clerks and teachers, bus drivers and doctors, bank tellers and engineers. Like Paul we come to ministry in weakness and fear and much trembling. It is the Spirit and power of God that work the wonders, and God works them through mundane elements of life such as light and salt.

As children, many of us learned the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy. We learned that we can practise them in every walk of life. Today's readings remind us of this. We may not be asked to perform extraordinary feats, but all disciples of Jesus are called upon to do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way.

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To share in Fr Bob Sheridan's 90th Birthday Lunch

Where: Blackheath Golf Club

When: Sunday 19th March

Time: 12pm Cost: \$30 p.p.

If you would like to pay direct you will just need to put your name in the reference section of you banking.

Bank details: BSB 067-950 Account No. 00000230

If you choose to pay cash the final date for payment and numbers is 12th March for catering purposes.

If you need any further information, please contact:

Marilyn Rowe 0414536601 marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au

Diane Stewart 0401269956 mdstewart21@bigpond.com

ANNIVERSARIES:

9th Joe and Diana Landsberg (m 1963)

11th Pope Benedict resigned 2013



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

ENTRANCE

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!

First Reading

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (Sir 15:15-20)

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Humanity has life and death before us;
whichever one likes better will be given one.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of person.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

RESPONSE

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
(1 Cor 2:6-10)

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of humanity, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of
the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 5:17-37)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the one who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the one who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with their brother or sister will answer for it before the court; if someone calls their brother or sister "Fool" they will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if someone calls them "Renegade" they will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother or sister first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or they may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

COMMUNION

God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life