

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](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: 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)

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 February 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Continuing on from last Sunday's reinterpretation of Mosaic Laws from a position of seeing to the heart of the law, Jesus of Nazareth again challenges his Disciples to go beyond the 'letter of the law' to the 'spirit of the law'.

Firstly, the law of retaliation ('eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth...') helped control acts of revenge in primitive societies. But as humanity has progressed so a more mature ethic is needed. For, if we act out of strict sense of justice alone, then we can quite easily be guilty of injustice ourselves! Our so-called 'righteousness' can become a sin itself. Rather, our condemnation of wrongdoing needs to be tempered with mercy and forgiveness - in imitation of our merciful God!

Secondly, Jesus deliberately develops the concept of neighbour, moving from only those within our own group to all human beings. The parable of the Good Samaritan surprised his fellow Jews with its embrace of a Samaritan as a neighbour to all! The Lord wants his Disciples to be loving and caring to all people - **NO MATTER WHO THEY MAY BE!**

And so He summarises all these teachings with the line: "Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect". Thus 'perfection' is not about keeping rules; rather it refers to the Disciple of the Lord as one who imitates the mercy and unconditional love of God towards all.

1. Lent commences on 22/2 with Ash Wednesday. Masses will be at 9:30am (Wentworth Falls); 6pm (Katoomba); and 6:30pm (Blackheath). Please remember that this is a Day of Fast for those between 18 and 60; and a Day of Abstinence for those over 14. It is not a holy day of obligation.

2. After 10:30am mass next Sunday (26/2) there will be a brief opportunity for any Reader or Server who didn't get to attend the recent updates for Upper Blue Mountains parish to receive some training in these two ministries.

3. If anyone would like to volunteer their time for our parish, please fill in the sheets available. We really need more members of our community to offer help to all in our church communities through those ministries and services that are listed on the sheet.

God Bless you all

Fr John

Megalong Valley Mass:

The Next Mass is Friday 17th February at 4.00pm



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 18 February

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

SUNDAY 19 February

9.15am Year A

MONDAY 20 February

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 21 February

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 22 February

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

Mass 6.30pm Blackheath

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 23 February

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 24 February

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 25 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 18.2.2023

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

Sunday 19.2.2023

1 St Reader: Brian Bright

2 nd Reader: Monica Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

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:

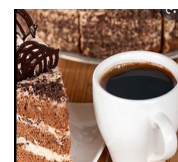
We are following NSW Health mandates, Paramatta diocesan directions and our own parish decisions to keep our community safe and welcoming for all. Please remember to:

- + 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 ++

Morning Tea after Mass resumes today in the hall.

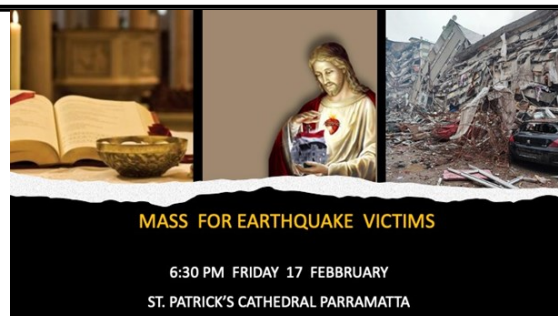
Due to Lent beginning this coming week, we are having a special pancake morning tea for the cost of a gold coin donation.

Come and enjoy a social get together after Mass.



Dear Brothers and sisters,

You are cordially invited to attend a MASS on Friday the 17 th of February 2023 at 6.30 pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Parramatta to offer our prayers and support for the repose of all the souls of those who have passed away in the recent earthquake in Syria, as well as for those who have been affected by this tragedy. Fr Chadi Ibrahim SDB



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: 26.2.2023

1 St Reader: Connie Adams

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Grahame Adams

Morning Tea: Christa and Pamela

Virtual Lent Series. Garrett Publishing presents a series of FREE online Lent talks by four Australian biblical scholars. Each week this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the readings for the week. Speaking to us from their own area of expertise will be: Prof Mary Coloe PBVM, Dr Mary Reaburn NDS, Dr Chris Monaghan CP, Dr Janina Hiebel. This is a perfect opportunity to enrich your Lenten journey.

WHEN: Tuesdays February 21 & 28, March 7, 14, 21 & 28

TIME: 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT*

Google "virtual lent series 2023 australia"



Project Compassion Sunday 18 & 19 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **For All Future Generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Australian Women Preach: This week's guest is **Dr Sally Longley**. Sally is a Spiritual Director, Supervisor and Retreat Leader based in Sydney; she has studied at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in the USA and has a D Min. Sally leads silent and themed retreats and is a Giver of the Ignatian Exercises. She is a pastor of Avalon Peace church, and a team member on Listen into Life, which is a formation program for spiritual directors. Sally has authored 3 books, the latest being "Conversations with Silence: Rosetta Stone of the Soul" (2021) (www.longley.com.au). www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.



Palms Australia

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know:

RING: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567. WEB:

www.palms.org.au



*** At times it seems we have rewritten the 'Golden Rule' to say: Do unto others before they can do unto you! In saying this we are not encouraging each other to do good, but to be defensive. Jesus tells us to go the extra mile, turn the other cheek, outdo ourselves in generosity and rise above the fray. He is not suggesting that we allow ourselves to be abused, but that we not perpetuate the antagonism out of which the mistreatment arose. He is not advocating passivity, but he is saying that we should not retaliate. Jesus is describing what we today would call active non-resistance, the attitude taught by Gandhi and Martin Luther King.

We are familiar with the answer to the question: Who is my neighbour? We usually interpret it to mean those we do not particularly like. It is important to love them, to be kind to them, to help them when they are in need. But these are not the people whom Jesus is talking about in today's reading. He tells us that the neighbours whom we are to love are those people who do not like us. We are to love those who deliberately exclude us from their social circles, who talk about us behind our backs. We are to love those who make us feel that we are not good enough for them, those who resent us for our accomplishments. We are to love those who exploit us or do us harm. This is indeed a radical teaching

© Dianne Bergant CSA



Pat McGloin – Rest in Peace

Many in our Upper Mountains Catholic Community and in the St Vincent de Paul Community will be saddened to learn that Pat McGloin passed away peacefully on Monday night – after a prolonged illness.

Pat had a lifelong commitment to the works of the St Vincent de Paul Society – he was an active member of our Blackheath Conference as well as the Katoomba Conference.

Our deepest sympathy and Prayers are extended to Pat's wife Kathy and to the daughter Sally and her family.

Arrangements for a Celebration of Pat's life will be advised when known.

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



ANNIVERSARIES:

9th Joe and Diana Landsberg (m 1963)
11th Pope Benedict resigned 2013



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)



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

ENTRANCE

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Leviticus (Lv 19:1-2. 17-18)

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the Children of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. You must openly tell your neighbour, of his or her offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

RESPONSE

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 3:16-23)

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy them, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of yourself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then you must learn to be a fool before you really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows people's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 5:38-48)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked person no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer them the other as well; if someone takes you to law and would have your tunic, let them have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with them. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be children of your Father in heaven, for God causes his sun to rise on bad people as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest people alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers or sisters, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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

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 your 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

