

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 March 2023 at 4.00pm

BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9:15am.
WED: 6:30pm.

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 Graham Beal. beal@hotmail.com or Julie
O'Keefe julesongodson@bigpond.com)

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A 26 March 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

There are times in our lives when we believe and trust in God, but still hesitate to accept all that is offered to us. And yet, deep down, we know that the only way forward is to accept what the Lord is asking of us. We need to put out into the deep and embrace the unknown.

In today's gospel from John, Jesus tries to move Martha from her traditional belief in the Resurrection at the end of time to a new way of thinking which sees Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life NOW!

And, like with Martha, if we can embrace the unknown that is offered to us by a compassionate and understanding God who is pure Love, then we will also hear the words spoken to the bystanders in today's text of the Raising of Lazarus: 'Unbind him/her; let him/her go free'!

1. Congratulations to Fr Bob Sheridan on the occasion of his 90th Birthday!

A great luncheon occurred last Sunday to celebrate this important milestone.

2. Please note that this weekend we are having our first Catholic Foundation appeal for 2023. Please give generously to this tax-deductible collection for the Diocese's charitable works. Also, feel free to take the envelope home and bring it back with your donation next week.

3. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday. There will be Processions prior to 9:15am Mass at Blackheath and prior to 10:30am Mass at Katoomba.

4. Please remember that Daylight Saving Time ends early Sunday morning. Yay!

God Bless you all as you enter into these final weeks of Lent.

Fr John



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 25 March

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 26 March 5th Sunday of Lent

9.15am Year A

MONDAY 27 March

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 28 March

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 29 March

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

Mass 6.30pm Blackheath

THURSDAY 30 March

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 31 March

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 1st April

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

For the Month of April please note
Wednesday Masses are not Scheduled.

Lenten Group WEDNESDAYS

Morning group 10.30am

Evening group 7.00pm.

Location: 3 Easter Street Leura. Groups
facilitator: Barbara Davidson. Please
contact Barbara for more information.
0417 490 103

Mt Victoria 25.3.2023

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanans

Sunday 26 .3 .2023

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2 nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Marilyn and Paul Rowe

Counters Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Christa and Pamela

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.



Cuppa's Together! Every Wednesday 9.30 - 12 pm

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.



Social & Ecological Justice Networking and Formation Day:

When: Saturday 1 April 2023, 9am-4pm

Where: Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 26 Swanston St, St Marys

Who: Parish social justice groups and individual social justice champions, as well as Catholic Earthcare parishes.

Please BYO food to share for morning tea. Tea/coffee and lunch will be provided. **To Register:** Contact James Atanasious - Peace, Justice and Ecology Facilitator.

Sunday Lunch and the Sacred Scriptures Reminder: As a conclusion to our Lenten preparation for Easter, why not attend the **Sacred Scripture Lunch** on Palm Sunday at Lawson? It's at 12noon at Our Lady of Nativity Catholic School Hall. Our Keynote speaker about **forgiveness in the Scriptures** is Dr Laurie Woods.

A reminder to **bring your own lunch and a drink** . The RSVP has been extended until 31st March . However, it would be appreciated if you could please RSVP Maureen Ryan maureenpr8@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Maureen Ryan Chair, Deanery Pastoral Council

SACRED HEART BLACKHEATH HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

HOLY Thursday: 7.00pm

Good Fri Stations of the Cross:10.00am

Good Friday: 3.00pm

Easter Vigil 7.00pm

Easter Sunday: 9.30am

Sunday: 2.04 2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Grahame Adams

Morning Tea: Karen and Margaret

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC PARISH

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Holy Thursday: 7.00pm (Katoomba).

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: 9.00am (Wentworth Falls); 9.30am (Leura); 10.00am (Katoomba)

Good Friday: 3.00pm (Katoomba)

Easter Vigil: 7.00pm (Katoomba)

Easter Sunday: 8.00am (Wentworth Falls)

Easter Sunday: 9.00am (Leura) No evening Mass



Project Compassion

The project compassion boxes and envelopes are now available to be picked up from the church. Please take one home to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season. 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 by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413. or scan the QR Code.



Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal THIS Week 26 and 27th

March for our Holy Spirit Seminarians Our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is preparing men who have been called by God to be good shepherds to serve His people. Will you support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their spiritual journey to become priests.



Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is **Rev Rachel Kronberger**. Rachel was ordained as a Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia in 2002 and since then has served in congregational ministry. She is currently the Minister in Placement at Wesley Church Melbourne, where she preaches twice most Sundays, rejoicing in the steadfastness of God. Rachel also enjoys encouraging deeper connections in Christian community, supporting the curiosity of visitors and newcomers, and exploring the place and role of an inner-city church in a post-

Mission: One Heart, Many Voices Conference: 3-5 May

Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) invite you to save the date for the sixth biennial national Mission Conference. Three days of professional and personal development focused on mission.

Date: Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May 2023.

Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney.

For more information, visit www.mohmv.com.au.

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.

Happy Birthday March: 10th Joe Blansjaar ,16th Fr Bob Sheridan (b 1933), 23rd Oliver Burke (b 2005), 28th Ray Wood
29th Carmen Beard



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Leashy Dowling, Noeleen Cliff, Sue Gracey, Joe Blansjaar, Elizabeth Curran, Andrew Krawczyk, Patricia Dee, Pat McCauley, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli,

REST IN PEACE March: 7th Fred Pateman, 8th Judy Harris (2014), 14th Pete Juhas, 17th Mary Potts (Diane Stewart's Mum), 19th Tom Boylan, 28th Jim Grainger (2014) friend of Fr Paul



***Humans see and judge by appearances, but God looks into the heart, and there finds the real person. God's standards are not superficial, as are so many of the standards of the world. It is not age, beauty or physical strength that is important; it is not social position or religious role that is preferred. God chooses whom God chooses. God saw in David, the insignificant shepherd, the potential for being the chief shepherd of his people. The man who was born blind became the one through whom others would see the mighty works of God. Yet, neither young David nor the man in the gospel made the initial step; each simply responded with openness to God's choice of him.



By what criteria do we judge others? Do we consider some people too insignificant for greatness? Are we overly concerned with status? Do we categorise people according to the disease or physical limitation that they must endure? Do we sometimes blame them for their disability? Do our eyes perceive life in accord with the standards of a materialistic, body-orientated, pleasure-seeking society? Or do we look into the other's heart, as God does?

As with the other scrutiny Sundays, catechumens and long-standing members alike are exhorted to make a choice. Jesus is the one who gives sight to blind eyes and religious insight to those open to receive it. However, there is a price to pay. Will it be the standards of the world, or the power of God in Jesus Christ?

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Journeying with Jesus

Ecumenical Prayerful Preparation for Holy Week and Easter

(A time of prayer, song, sharing, silent prayer and blessing of palms.)

Time: 10 am till 11 am followed by Morning Tea.

Place: Sacred Heart Catholic Church,
Wentworth Street,
Blackheath.

DATE: SATURDAY 1st APRIL



BYO A palm branch and a small plate to share.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A.

ENTRANCE

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (Ez 37:12-14)

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

RESPONSE

With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Rom 8:8-11)

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 11:1-45)

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. – It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’ The disciples said, ‘Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?’ Jesus replied:

‘Are there not twelve hours in the day?’

People can walk in the daytime without stumbling

because they have the light of this world to see by; but if they walk at night they stumble, because there is no light to guide them.’

He said that and then added, ‘Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.’ The disciples said to him, ‘Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.’ The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by ‘rest’ he meant ‘sleep’, so Jesus put it plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.’ Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, ‘Let us go too, and die with him.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.

If anyone believes in me, even though they die they will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, ‘The Master is here and wants to see you.’ Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him, ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied, ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.

I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

COMMUNION

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.