

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 April 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'Keeffe julesongodson@bigpond.com)

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. 2 April 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

When we read the Gospel, we often see the Pharisees referred to as "the Jews". This is a deliberate reference to highlight that they are not Israel. Christ says of these Pharisees and people like them that they worship God with their lips but their hearts are far from Me (Mat 15:8)

Israel is not defined by religious observance or national identity.

The State of Israel is not the Israel of the Bible.

Israel is the people of God. The people who are related to God because they hear His word and do His will (Luke 8:21). This is what is meant to worship God in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23).

Now it's Palm Sunday and this is what confronts us. Are we Israel or are we like the Pharisees and the other Jews?

The people of Jerusalem called out "Hosanna to our King" but they wanted a King who would obey them. Do what they wanted. Be the person and ruler they wanted. They wanted things their way. They hadn't been listening to Christ, His message, the message of a New Heaven and New Earth which was dawning.

Likewise, the Pharisees didn't want any other authority, except their own. Their very self-identity was at stake as well as their wealth, influence, and prestige.

That's why they crucified Christ, the Lord of Life.

Now as we enter Holy week let's really look at what is most important to us. What do we think about most. What would hurt us most if it wasn't there.

Let's walk with Christ this week. He is not going to reject us or judge us. His Judgement is putting things back in order in our lives. Healing, restoration, and renewal. Let's spend time in prayer with Him. Let's run to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and enthrone him Christ our King.

May God bless you all

Deacon Alan.

Easter message 2023

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, has released his video message for Easter 2023.

You can view on:

YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=331B11hZSWo>



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 1st April

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 2 April Palm Sunday

9.15am Year A

MONDAY 3rd April

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 4 April

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 5 April

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

7.30pm CHRISM MASS (Cathedral)

THURSDAY 6 April

Mass 7.00 pm Blackheath

Mass 7.00 pm Katoomba

FRIDAY 7 April

Confession 10.00am Katoomba

Good Friday: 3.00pm Blackheath

Good Friday: 3.00pm (Katoomba)

SATURDAY 8 April

Easter Vigil 7.00pm Blackheath

Easter Vigil: 7.00pm (Katoomba)

Easter Sunday 9 April

Easter Sunday: 8.00am (Wentworth Falls)

Easter Sunday: 9.00am Leura

Easter Sunday: 9.30am Blackheath

Easter Sunday: 10.30am (Katoomba)

Mt Victoria 1.04.2023

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 2 .4 .2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Grahame Adams

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: David Buckley

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. <James.Atanasious@parracatholic.org>

Sunday Lunch and the Sacred Scriptures Reminder:

12noon TODAY (Sunday) at Our Lady of Nativity Catholic School Hall, Lawson. Our Keynote speaker about **forgiveness in the Scriptures** is Dr Laurie Woods. You are assured of faith building experience. A reminder to **bring your own lunch and a drink** .

CYP Good Friday Night Walk: 7 April

Young people are invited to join Catholic Youth Parramatta and Bishop Vincent for the annual 21km Good Friday Night Walk from Blacktown to the Cathedral. For more information and to register visit <https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/>

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: 9.4.2023

1 St Reader: Mary Roberts

2 nd Reader: Connie Adams

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Monica and Connie

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

Easter Sunday: 10.30am (Katoomba)



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:

For this Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, we were privileged to record on country in the Kimberley. These First Nations Women are in conversation with Diana Jans, the CEWA Broome Regional Office Religious Education Consultant and over 25 years as an educator in Catholic Education. www.australianwomenpreach.com.au

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

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 April:

2nd Pat Drummond , 11th Heidi Lamerton



***As we prepare to enter the sacred time of Holy Week, we look again at the significance of Christ in our lives. Though he was really in the form of God, Jesus came in the form of a slave. We have a saviour who was crushed for our iniquities, nailed to a cross as a convicted felon, and there endured the sense of abandonment. We have a saviour who was finally lifted up and exalted precisely because he emptied himself of his divine privileges. Unlike conquerors who triumph by putting down their opponents, Jesus was raised up because he himself was first willing to be put down. We have a saviour who first offered himself for us and then continues to offer himself to us as an example to follow. As he was willing to empty himself for our sake, so we must to be willing to empty ourselves for the sake of others.



The best way to enter Holy Week with Jesus is in the company of those with whom he has identified himself: the poor and the broken; the humiliated and the marginalised; those who suffer the abuse of others; those who never use rank to force their will. If we are to be saved, we must go where salvation takes place: in our streets and in our homes where violence rages; in the dark corners of life where despair holds sway; wherever the innocent are abused or the needy are neglected; wherever there is misunderstanding or fear or jealousy. We must go wherever Christ empties himself for our sake.

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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.

ANNIVERSARIES:

9th Adrian and Robyn Carroll (m 1983)



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: 1st Ken Cullen, 2nd Edna Moran, 2nd Mathew Walker, 2nd Pope John Paul II (2005), 4th Roma Ward (2007), 11th Michael Hanna (d 2012 – Fr Paul's brother), 11th Barry Leeder (2015), 12th Mary Hart (d 2014), 12th Andrew Ziolkowski (d 1994 – Marjanna Gilchrist's only sibling), 14th Una Woods, 15th Terrence Bucknel (2018), 16th Lila Anthony, 17th Daisy Lillian Perriam (d 2010), 18th Kenneth Vandenberg (2018), 19th Mary Edna Forster (d 2016 -aged 94



Palm Sunday of Lent Year A.

ENTRANCE

Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:
* Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!
O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!
Who is this king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.
* Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is 50:4-7)
The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

RESPONSE

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Phil 2:6-11)
His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as people are,
and being as all people are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim

Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (Mt 27:11-54)

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."'" Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

COMMUNION

Father, if this cup cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.