

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: 19 May 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 grahambeal@hotmail.com
or Julie O'Keeffe julesongodson@bigpond.com

Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A 30 April 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Christ has come that we may have life and have it to the full.

Our faith is about flourishing. Both as individuals and as the world.

In the Gospel Christ calls us into relationship with Himself. We need to know His
voice so that we don't get lead astray.

The importance of this is borne out if you read the bible verses preceding this
week's reading (John 9: 13-41). It's about Jesus healing the man born blind and
the Pharisees refusing to believe, hiding behind their rules to find an excuse to
reject Christ. They eventually had Christ executed, again using their rules to
justify their selfish motives.

That's the reason for the failure of the Covenant of the Old Testament. The Jews
took the Covenant and used it as a status symbol both individually and as a
nation to differentiate themselves from others and claim moral superiority. It
was a grab for status, power, self-image, instead of a means for relationship with
God and the world around them. This is what St Peter points out in the first
reading and calls them to change.

The teachings, attitudes and values propagated by the Pharisees, taken on and
espoused by the people led to death. Not only the death of Christ but misery,
poverty, injustice and the eventual destruction of Jerusalem (Mathew 23).

So, we need to desire with all our hearts, a relationship with Christ. To hear His
voice and differentiate it from the voices of those who speak to us not through
Him. Then we will open ourselves to others, stand with them, suffer with them,
and understand them. We need to pray for this, to contemplate this and to strive
to see the Kingdom come where we will flourish.

May God bless you all

Deacon Alan.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 29 April

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 30 April

9.15am Blackheath

MONDAY 1 May

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 2 May

Confession 4.45 - 5.00pm Leura

Mass 5.15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 3 May

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

THURSDAY 4 May

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 5 May

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 6 May

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

Mt Victoria 29.04.2023

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 30.4.2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Dianne Stewart

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Diane Stewart

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

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

Do you enjoy a game of scrabble or chess?

Drop in on any Wednesday morning for an hour or so and enjoy a game of scrabble or chess-our little grey cells love the challenge!

Pop by for a good coffee, fun company, catch up with fellow parishioners and meet new people.

Celebrating one year of Cuppa's Together! Sharing our welcoming hospitality and lifting up the lives of others! Our church is open from 9:00-1:00pm on a Wednesday morning for private prayer, with access through the side door facing the hall.



Invitation to a Free CPR Training

You are invited to attend an accredited CPR training session hosted by the Diocese of Parramatta on behalf of FirstCPR. The training will be conducted by Surf Life Saving NSW.

Details of the session are as follows:

Time: **10:00am – 12:30pm**

Date: **Saturday, 13 May 2023**

Venue: **St Thomas Aquinas Parish, 168 Hawkesbury Rd, Springwood NSW**

Please arrive at least 15 minutes earlier.

Places are limited, if you wish to attend

kindly register your interest here,

<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=CA84KKR7PLE83WNE>

Invitation to Information Night at St Finbars on Substance Use in the Blue Mountain Area.

As you may already know, drug addiction can have devastating effects on personal life.

While the Blue Mountains Area enjoys many "protective factors" mitigating the consumption of illicit drugs, young people in our local communities are still exposed to the risks and dangers of substance use.

Jim McLoughlin, parishioner and member of the Police Force Parramatta, will present a talk on "Life is precious gift, don't waste it on drugs!" **on 2nd May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

Sunday: 7.05.2023

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2 nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Ray Wood

Morning Tea: Karen and Margaret

Pope's Prayer Intentions

Each month, Pope Francis asks us to pray as a global community

April 2023

For a culture of peace and non-violence
We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

Dear Friends.

I am very happy to be here at Sacred Heart, Blackheath. I arrived last Thursday and am still settling in. My mission as a priest is to serve God and the parishioners of Sacred Heart and Upper Blue Mountains Parish.

May the Lord bless you all.

Fr Peter Lamont

***This is 'Good Shepherd Sunday' and a particular focus taken today is leadership. Which voices do we follow? Why do we follow these voices and not others? Authentic leadership is rooted in authority, and authentic authority is the ability to author or bring life to birth. Genuine authority cherishes, guards and encourages the best in life; it provides rest and refreshment; it guides our steps; it nourishes us; it leads us to God. Peter is an example of authentic authority: he proclaims the truth, even if others find it hard to hear; he denounces error, even when this places him in jeopardy; he calls for a change of heart, even when it makes great demands.

Authentic leadership is patterned after the leadership of Jesus. It is gentle and familiar, like the true shepherd; it has won the confidence of those who follow, as did the true shepherd; it is committed to the enhancement of the lives of others, as was Jesus. Authentic leadership is willing to forgo its own needs and to deny its own interests in favour of the needs and interests of others.

Heavy demands are placed on those who follow authentic leadership. Those who follow the Good Shepherd must follow him in the dark valleys as well as to the refreshing streams. They must be willing to relinquish some of their own plans and self-determination and entrust themselves to his leadership. They must never forget that they are following a shepherd who has paid the ultimate price on their behalf.

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ANZAC Day thank you!

Thank you from all of us to Karen Hayward and Paul Harris for representing our Sacred Heart parish at the 11:00am service at Blackheath and for placing our floral sheath on the cenotaph on our behalf.

Thank to you to Julie Hodgkinson and David Buckley for the beautiful floral arrangements for both the ANZAC service and for our church. Lest We Forget

Be part of the journey towards our DIOCESAN SYNOD!

Have your voice heard and listen to how the Holy Spirit is guiding us here in the Diocese of Parramatta.

You're invited to the **Blue Mountains Deanery Listening Consultation on Saturday 20 May from 7:30pm to 9:30pm**, at Springwood. Since Bishop Vincent's installation as pastor of our Diocese **he has wanted to build on the previous pastoral plan and "chart a new pathway for the Diocese."**

We are very pleased that Bishop Vincent will be attending the Blue Mountains Consultation on 20th May.

Please RSVP by 16th May by registering on this link https://parracatholic.org/synod_getinvolved/

Click on **"Attend your Deanery Consultation"**. For more information about the Synod visit www.parracatholic.org/synod2023.

Rest In Peace.

Ann Dooley was a friend to many in Blackheath Parish. With sadness we share the news of Ann's death. We were blessed to have Ann in our lives & in our Parish (despite Ann splitting her time between Blackheath & Sydney). May God's loving arms cradle Ann with his mercy. May she rest in Peace

Biggest Morning Tea

The Combined Churches of Blackheath will be hosting a Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser on Thursday May 25 commencing at 10:30 in the RSL sub branch hall, Blackheath. Members of Sacred Heart parish, Blackheath Uniting Church, the Baptist church and St Aiden's Anglican church have been meeting to plan this exciting important event. Save the date on your calendar and join us for a delicious morning tea raising money for cancer research.

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.

Happy Birthday April:

26th Sue Gracey, 28th Paula Schreiber (b 1922)

29th Sheilagh Kirkham ,



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Duncan Hayward, John Barclay, 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 April: 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 (d1994 – 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



Fourth Sunday of Easter Year A.

ENTRANCE

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:14. 36-41)

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number

**RESPONSE The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter (1 Pt 2:20-25)

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 10:1-10)

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

they will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

COMMUNION

The Good Shepherd has risen,

who laid down his life for his sheep

and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.