

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

Second Sunday of Easter Year A

16 April 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The common thread in today's readings is faith.

In the first reading we encounter a utopian society built on faith. Liberated from fear of not having financial security, being cheated by others and the existential threat of loss of identity. Their identity was being the children of God, better than money in the bank according to the second reading.

What is faith?

Is it believing that God exists?

No, that's not it. Satan not only believes God exists; he knows it, but it's not doing him any good.

He trusts in himself and his agendas, agendas twisted by billions wrong decisions.

Faith is trusting in God. Christ points out to Thomas the holes in his hands and feet. The hole in His side. These are the signs that God can be trusted. Look at what He has endured to set us free. Free from our twisted agendas which are the manifestations of our own psychological issues brought about by our own wrong decisions and those of others.

Being Divine Mercy Sunday, it's very important to point out how Christ sets us free. It's through the Holy Spirit. Look at the Gospel reading. It's the Holy Spirit which Christ imparts that gives the power to forgive sin. But God's mercy is much, much more than just forgetting what we've done wrong. It's the gift of the Holy Spirit which comes to heal our minds and souls, our psyche. God's mercy is healing and he's longing to impart it to us. It comes through the Holy Spirit, that's why the Sacrament of Reconciliation can only be administered by a Priest, because only a Priest can evoke the Holy Spirit. It is only through this healing that we will be able to really turn to God, to stop making so many wrong decisions and live in the freedom of the children of God.

May God bless you all.

Deacon Alan.

Notices

1. Next weekend we welcome Fr Peter Lamont to our two parishes in the upper Mountains.

2. There will be a Liturgy of the word with communion on Tuesday 18/4 at 5.15 pm, in place of Mass. Obviously no confessions beforehand.

3. There will be a Funeral Mass for Lloyd Stoermer on We 19/4 at 1.00 pm in St. Canice's church. As a result, there will be NO MASS AT Wentworth Falls that morning.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 15 April

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 16 April

9.15am Blackheath

MONDAY 17 April

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 18 April

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura (Liturgy of the word)

WEDNESDAY 19 April

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

THURSDAY 20 April

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 21 April

Mass 12pm Katoomba

4.00pm Megalong

SATURDAY 22 April

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 15.04.2023

1 St Reader:

2 nd Reader:

Sunday 16.4.2023

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: David Buckley

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.



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>

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.

Sunday: 23.04.2023

1 St Reader: Connie Adams

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

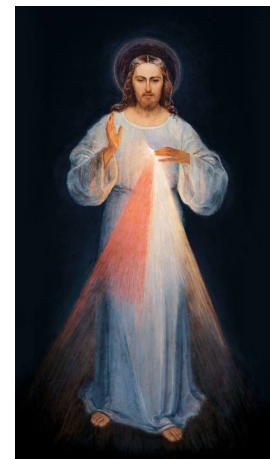
Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Connie Adams

Morning Tea: Christa and Pamela

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 16th April

at Leura. Come celebrate this great Feast Day. Starting at 3.00pm.



Thank You for Supporting our Holy Spirit Seminarians

Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, and our Holy Spirit seminarians thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support for our future priests. Our Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal will help our Holy Spirit Seminary to support the faithful men who have answered God's call to become priests for His people. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code.



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.

Easter Cakes and Plants Stall

Thank you to all our talented and generous Bakers, Craftspeople and Gardeners for your donations to our Stall on Easter Sunday. We raised \$484.00.

Thank You

On behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to making the Holy Week liturgies as moving as they were. From the church cleaners, those who prepared the grounds, readers, servers, musicians, flowers, baking and sewing for the fundraiser stall, people who provided the plants, our priests, deacon, promotion on face book, cleaning and washing of all the items of cloth used for our Mass services and any others who I have missed, a big and heartfelt "thank you"! Graham Beal, Chair – Parish Pastoral Council.

Faith in Marriage Seminar: 19 May

The annual Diocesan Faith in Marriage Seminar returns in 2023 with Chris Padgett, American Speaker, Musician, Author and Professor of Theology. This free event will be held on Friday 19 May at 7:30pm at St Paul the Apostle Church, 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills. Please register your attendance at marriage@parracatholic.org

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: 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 (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

***The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.



Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them.

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'Catalyst for Renewal' Reflection Morning

Santa Maria Hall, Lawson 9:30am-12:30pm

Saturday April 15

"The Continuous Thread of Mysticism in our Christian Tradition"

Presented by Sr Patty Andrew osu

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:

15th Frank Portelli, 15th Francesca Huckstepp,
19th Noeleen Cliff



Second Sunday of Easter Year A.

ENTRANCE

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:42-47)

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

RESPONSE Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love is everlasting. .

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter (1 Pt 1:3-9)
Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 20:19-31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Blessed are those who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may that believing this you may have life through his name .

COMMUNION

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.