

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

Third Sunday of Easter Year A

23 April 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The story of the Road to Emmaus (which we hear on this 3rd Sunday of Easter) is one that speaks to us of our own journey in this world as we walk the roads of life towards the Loving Father of all.

Like with Cleopas and his companion (perhaps Mary, the wife of Cleopas?) we are enabled by the Risen Lord to understand the revelation contained in the Scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread.

Every time we come to mass we are repeating the encounter with Jesus on the road (as we listen to the Word of God proclaimed in the Readings and reflected upon in the Homily); we are also participating in the meal they shared with the Lord, experiencing his Presence in the Eucharist, rejoicing in this great Gift of the Bread of Life!

As we participate in our Mass today, let's be ready to see and hear, touch and know the presence of the Risen Christ in all aspects of our lives.

Indeed, may our hearts burn within us as we listen to His Word; and may we recognize him always in the Breaking of the Bread!

1. We welcome Fr Peter Lamont to both parishes in the Upper Mountains; indeed, to our 6 Church Communities.

2. Next Saturday afternoon (29/4) there will be a presentation in St Canice's Church from 2pm, presented by some of our pilgrims who went to the Holy Land in January. All are welcome to attend and participate in a time of reflection and prayer.

God Bless you all!

Fr John



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 22 April

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 23 April

9.15am Blackheath

MONDAY 24 April

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 25 April

Anzac Mass: 9.30am Katoomba

WEDNESDAY 26 April

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

THURSDAY 27 April

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 28 April

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 29 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 22.04.2023

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart

2 nd Reader: Maria

Sunday 23.4.2023

1 St Reader: Pat wicks

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Laurie Noyes

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Christa and David Buckley

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>



SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 20 May. We are all invited to attend a special gathering in **Springwood for the whole Blue Mountains Deanery** (Emu Plains to Blackheath Parishes) on Saturday 20 May.

This gathering is being held in preparation for a local Synod to be held in the diocese of Parramatta. This is an initial opportunity for us all to have a voice. **Bishop Vincent**, will attend the gathering, and he is keen to hear from everyone.

Please consider attending and sharing your stories, reflections and experiences of your community . More details to come.

WHAT IS A DIOCESAN SYNOD?: Zoom information nights are Thursday 27 April 6:30pm to 7:30pm or Friday 28 April 6pm to 7pm. Select a session and RSVP: synod2023@parracatholic.org

Sunday: 30.04.2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Dianne Stewart

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

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.

Project Compassion

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Project for Compassion collections.



Your generosity has amounted to \$638.35

Update on the Community Kitchen Garden (CKG): The Table and Seats that the Blackheath Men's Shed have made for us are being delivered this week. They will go in the CKG under the gum tree at the end of the path in the bottom left-hand corner of the garden. Our thanks to all who have donated towards these. Currently we still have a shortfall of \$350, so if you can contribute something towards them please contact Brian (0401 768 688).

You will also notice the shed taking shape under the hall windows facing south. The frame is in place with one wall already clad in galvanised-iron sheets. Our thanks to Tony McCallef and Lance Miller for most of the work on the shed.

Attending to a new planting of mainly root vegetables and onions will keep us busy over the next couple of months.

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.

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**

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 Easter mystagogical instruction continues. Today we reflect on life as a journey. This theme expresses well the fact that life is not static, but is a movement from one point to another. Actually, we do not so much make the journey as we join one that is already in progress.



Nor are we alone on it. We have companions who share their encouragement and support, their talents and insight. Like the two disciples travelling to Emmaus, we have certain expectations which Jesus does not seem to fulfil. They did not realise that through his death he had accomplished everything. They did not realise that the Risen Lord himself was their travelling companion.

As with them, so with us. We may not see the extraordinary in the ordinary. We may not see the hand of God in our lives. Perhaps we need someone to interpret for us both the tradition and the events of life. Despite appearances, something is happening beneath what we are able to observe. God is at work beneath and within our lives. Once we realise who this unique travelling companion really is, our hearts too will burn within us, our eyes too will be opened, and we too will look at life with the assurance of faith. Easter faith will transform our disillusionment into missionary zeal. Some of us may be called upon to give public witness, as did Peter. Most will preach with the example of our lives. All can enter this mystery as we recognise him in the breaking of the bread. © Dianne Bergant CSA

WORKING BEE SATURDAY 22 APRIL

Saturday morning 22 April commencing from 8am.



The weather's looking good for Saturday so please come along and help us to tidy up our Sacred Heart grounds. Please bring a hat, sturdy shoes or boots and garden gloves (also eye and ear protection if using mower or similar equipment).

Please call Lance on 4787 8096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information and to advise if you will be coming.

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,



Third Sunday of Easter Year A.

ENTRANCE

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:14, 22-33)

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'People of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by people outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always,
for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me.

So my heart was glad

and my tongue cried out with joy:

my body, too, will rest in the hope

that you will not abandon my soul to Hades

nor allow your holy one to experience corruption.

You have made known the way of life to me,

you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers and sisters, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

RESPONSE Lord, you will show us the path of life.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter (1 Pt 1:17-21)

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for

that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Lk 24:13-35)

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

COMMUNION

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.