

# 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. Peter Lamont (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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

**Parish website:**

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://sacredheartblackheath.org.au)

**Parish Facebook:** [Sacred Heart Parish](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParishCommunityBlackheath)

[Community Blackheath](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParishCommunityBlackheath)

## **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.**

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:grahambeal@hotmail.com)  
or Julie O'Keeffe [julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com)

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A 7th May 2023**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

St Peter's Easter Proclamation in today's Second Reading is addressed to us on  
this Fifth Sunday of Easter...

'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set  
apart to sing the praises of God, who called you out of the darkness into his own  
wonderful light'.

# We are...

a chosen race - the new People of God, the new Israel, chosen to be God's very  
own

a royal priesthood - a priestly people, sent to lead others to God

a consecrated nation - a holy people, called to consecrate our lives for others

a people set apart - a people who live in the world, but do not model our lives on  
the secular ethics of this world.

# We follow in the footsteps of our ancestors in the Faith, and we gather every  
Sunday (the Day of Resurrection), and often on other occasions, to sing the  
praises of God, to worship and serve our Loving Creator.

# And we do this because we wish to respond in gratitude to the God who called  
us out of the darkness and ignorance of not knowing the joy that Faith offers us;  
and who has called us to be a part of His wonderful Light, the Light of Christ.

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An Introduction to the Bible...

I will be offering a brief introduction to the study of the Bible on three successive  
Saturday afternoons, commencing on 13 May (the others being 20/5 and 27/5).

All will be held in St Bonaventure's Church, Leura, from 3:15-4:30pm.

All are welcome.

God Bless you all!

Fr John



## WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

### SATURDAY 6 May

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

### SUNDAY 7 May

9.15am Blackheath

### MONDAY 8 May

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 9 May

Confession 4.45 - 5.00pm Leura

Mass 5.15pm Leura

### WEDNESDAY 10 May

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

### THURSDAY 11 May

Mass 5.15pm Leura

### FRIDAY 12 May

Mass 12pm Katoomba

### SATURDAY 13 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 6.05.2023

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 7.5.2023

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2 nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Pamela And John

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Karen and Margaret

### 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.



### **Morning tea on Wednesday -all welcome!**

Warm up on these colder mornings with a good coffee, good company and good cakes from 9:30am until 12 noon in our parish hall.

Sharing our warm hospitality and welcoming parish community through Cuppa's Together!

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>

### **Free Community Women's Circle.**

Coming soon to Blackheath at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall

165 Wentworth St Blackheath ..for women of all ages and stages of life.

A place to come together with other local women, to share conversation, enjoy creative art and writing activities, and indulge in a guided meditation.

Ph: 8843 2545

E: [sally.butler@catholiccarewsbm.org.au](mailto:sally.butler@catholiccarewsbm.org.au)

for more information and to register your details.

Sunday: 14.05.2023

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Morning Tea: Pamela and Marlene

### **Nosh & Natter Nights**

**LAST Friday** of the month in our parish hall. From 6pm-8pm

Please bring either a savory or sweet dish to contribute to this "pot luck" meal

BYO drinks

Commencing Friday May 26

## 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/](https://parracatholic.org/synod_getinvolved/)

Click on "Attend your Deanery Consultation". For more information about the Synod visit [www.parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod2023).

## Australian Women Preach:

This week's guest is **Dr Tania Watson**. Tania considers herself to be very blessed to have many opportunities to exercise pastoral ministry and leadership. Tania is a keen observer of intersections between leadership, Australian culture and the Gospel mission of Jesus..

[www.australianwomenpreach.com.au](http://www.australianwomenpreach.com.au)

## 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.

## 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](mailto:marriage@parracatholic.org)

## ANNIVERSARIES:

6th Monica and Brian Bright (m 1978)

13th Pat and Carol Drummond (m 1972)



\*\*\*The gospel readings for the Sundays just before the feast of Pentecost are all taken from Jesus' last discourse in the Gospel of John. In them, Jesus prepares his followers for his death and resurrection and his ultimate exaltation.



This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him.

Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers.

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## Pope's Prayer Intentions May 2023.

For Church movements and groups.

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world

## Catalyst for Renewal

Saturday May 20, 9:30am-12:30pm

Gerard Kelly

"Vatican II: Its Reception 60 Year Later"

Santa Maria Hall, Catholic Church, Lawson

## Happy Birthday May:

4th Marilyn Rowe

13th Margaret Davis



**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:** 9th Percy Potts, 10th Kathleen Columbine (d 1966), 12th Leonard Kirkham (1976), 14th Dawn (Pauline Florence) Sheridan - (d 1997 - Fr Bob's wife), 15th Ken Austin (d 2014), 23rd Frank Mackrell, 25th Lorenzo Fusina, 26th Thea Ellis, 27th Rosemary Davis (d 2009 - Mother of Michelle Davis), 29th John Pye MSC (d 2009 aged 102 - Carmel Vanny's uncle), 30th Geoff Cliff



## Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A.

### ENTRANCE

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
for he has worked wonders;  
in the sight of the nations

### First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 6:1-7)

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers and sisters, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

**RESPONSE** Lord, let your mercy be on us,  
as we place our trust in you.

### Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter (1 Pt 2:4-9)

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and those who rest their trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring people down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 14:1-12)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still, and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house;

if there were not, I should have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you,

and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me;

so that where I am

you may be too.

You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father,

so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"?

Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself:

it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work.

You must believe me when I say

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me;

believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason.

'I tell you most solemnly,

whoever believes in me

will perform the same works as I do myself,

they will perform even greater works,

because I am going to the Father.'

### COMMUNION

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me, and I in them, bears fruit in plenty,  
alleluia.