

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. 156 Wentworth Blackheath

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](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

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

14 May 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The second readings says: **"always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have"**

The answer is not that we will not have difficulties and suffering in our lives. The miracles that Phillip performed in Samaria impressed the people. It opened their eyes to another reality but that's not where it stops. The people needed the Holy Spirit which would transform them from thinking in human terms to understanding in God's way.

Yes, it's true that God wants suffering, oppression, tyranny, poverty and death to end but it has to end through humanity. Why, because humanity is created in the image and likeness of God the Creator but this identity can only be realised, only become reality by people's desire to be one with God in His selfless love. If God of His own power sets everything in order without humanity's role, then humanity is excluded. We would be cut off because there would no opportunity for us to respond in love to God.

As the Gospel tells us, that's not God's plan. We are to be in relationship with God. An extremely close relationship. It's not a community, otherwise Christ would have said: "On that day you will understand that **I am with** my Father and you **with** me and I **with** you".

But Christ said: On that day you will understand that **I am in** my Father and **you in** me and I **in** you. God wants us in communion with Him.

It's the "in" that is our reason for hope. God so loves all creation that He wants us part of Himself, drawing peace, life and love from Himself but being "in" we must reciprocate, we must let God draw from us our lives, our love so that we become one with Him. Like all real relationships it's a relationship of mutual giving. The more we give of ourselves the more God can give of Himself to us.

How we relate to people, especially the most different and alienated to us manifests this giving of ourselves. We are all created in His image and likeness, we are to be in God and God in all of us.

May God bless you all

Deacon Alan.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 13 May

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 14 May

9.15am Blackheath

MONDAY 15 May

Mass 9.30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 16 May

Confession 4.45 - 5.00pm Leura

Mass 5.15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 17 May

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

THURSDAY 18 May

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 19 May

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Mass 4.00pm Megalong

SATURDAY 20 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 15.05.2023

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

Sunday 14.5.2023

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: (NO MORNING TEA)

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.

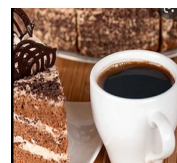


Morning tea on Wednesday -all welcome!

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.



Building Safe Parishes Together in 2023: An Update from Safeguarding (People & Culture)

Safe Parishes Week 2023 – Safeguarding Renewal Mandatory Training Opportunities!

Did you complete your 6 points of mandatory training in 2021?

Are you due for renewal training?

Would you like to complete the renewal training Face to Face?

Our Renewal Training Package (Cycle 2 – 4 points) consists of:

Module 4: Understanding Safeguarding, the Child Safe Standards & Working with Adults at Risk

Module 5: Legal Compliance: Risk Of Significant Harm & Reportable Conduct

Please register for the renewal modules on the day of your choice at:

safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.edu.au

These renewal mandatory modules will also be available online by August 2023.

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at:

maria.kervin@parracatholic.org.

Nosh & Natter Nights -a pot luck meal!

Following our wonderful parish Christmas meal last year, it was suggested by parishioners that it would be great for us to have more opportunities for meeting up to share a meal and conversation. The idea of *Nosh and Natter Nights* was discussed at the recent PPC and fully supported to start off this month!

Our Nosh and Natter Nights will be on the 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 and BYO drinks.

Commencing Friday May 26- keeping us connected.

Sunday: 21.05.2023

1 St Reader: Pat Wicks

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian

NO MORNING TEA this
Sunday 14 May 2023– giving
Mothers a well-earned rest!!

Happy Mother's Day

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Aboriginal

Catholic Care 20/21 May 2023.

Will you be the face of Christ for our First Nations people in need? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will support a welcoming place at Emerton, where Aboriginal people can express their identity, share their culture and knowledge within our community, access practical support and development opportunities, and make social connections. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal next weekend 20/21 May. There will be giving envelopes on the pews or you can go to yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan the QR code. Thank you for being a Good Samaritan to our First Nations people.



COMMUNITY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Information session facilitated by Catholic Care

Sunday 21 May 2023 commencing at 2:00pm

Mamre House and Farm

181 Mamre Rd Orchard Hills

OR via ZOOM – Please register at:
rita.hakkoum@catholiccarewsbm.org.au

Or telephone Rita – 0477952024

Free Community Women's Circle

Commencing on **Thursday June 8 from 10am-12 noon** in 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.

Every **2nd and 4th** Thursday mornings.

Ph: 8843 2545

E: sally.butler@catholiccarewsbm.org.au

for more information and to register your details.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Thursday May 25 from 10:00am-12:30pm.

RSL sub-branch, 2 Bundarra St, Blackheath.

Hosted by the Combined Churches of Blackheath

Join us for a delicious morning tea to raise money for cancer research. As part of our fundraising efforts, a one off, beautiful hand-made quilt will be raffled with tickets being available for sale after Mass on the weekend of May 20/21. If you would like to assist in any way on May 25 please let Diane Stewart or Frances Huckstepp know. Thank you!

***We live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.



We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God's love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

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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.

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

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A.

ENTRANCE

Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 8:5-8. 14-17)

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as the Spirit he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit .

RESPONSE

Let all the earth cry out to God with joy .

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter (1 Pt 3:15-18)

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans.
I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (Jn 14:15-21)

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘If you love me you will keep my commandments.

I shall ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate

to be with you for ever,

that Spirit of truth

whom the world can never receive

since it neither sees nor knows him;

but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day

you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love them and show myself to them.’

COMMUNION

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another
Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia

Happy
Mother's
Day!