

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](#)

[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.

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

The Ascension of the Lord A

21 May 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Readings for our Feast today tell us two things concerning The Ascension:

1. They give us an image that describes in a spatial way the experience of Jesus Christ leaving this earthly existence and coming to a new and eternal existence beyond this finite world;

2. The Scriptures also tell us that this change of existence is essential - that Christ's bodily existence would be a hindrance to his presence with us to the end of time; hence his new spiritual existence.

And the point of all this is that Christ is now present to us in new and unique ways: although vanished from human sight, He is present now in a way so efficacious that everything is now filled with His Presence!

And for us, Christ being with us forever demands a response from us: we must now do what He did while on Earth. Indeed, we can do nothing else but tell the world in our words and our actions how much the Father loves his creation, his children!

And if we remain in close contact with our Risen and Ascended Lord, then one day - after a life well-lived in obedience to the Gospel - we, too, will rejoice forever... for where He is, we also will be!

1. Next Saturday (27/5) will be the third and final session of the Introduction to the Bible lectures. In June-July I hope to introduce you to the Gospel of Matthew.

2. Even if you missed attending the Deanery Pastoral Council session on 20/5 concerning our Diocesan Synod, there is still an opportunity for anyone to fill in the questionnaire online. See the notice in our bulletin for details.

God Bless you all!



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 20 May

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 21 May

9.15am Blackheath

MONDAY 22 May

Mass 9.30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 23 May

Confession 4.45 - 5.00pm Leura

Mass 5.15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 24 May

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

THURSDAY 25 May

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 26 May

Mass 12pm Katoomba

6pm - 8pm Nosh & Natter Night

SATURDAY 27 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 20.05.2023

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton

2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

Sunday 21.5.2023

1 St Reader: Pat Wicks

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian

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.

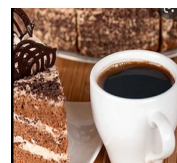


Morning tea on Wednesday -all welcome!

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.



***Laudato Si* Week May 16- May 24**

The theme guiding *Laudato Si* week this year is *Hope for the Earth, Hope for Humanity*.

As part of the celebrations, Pope Francis is inviting everyone to view the movie ***The Letter***.

The Letter tells the story of a journey to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter

Laudato Si with Pope Francis.

The link for *The Letter* is <https://catholicoutlook.org/laudato-si-week-begins-in-australia/>

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. We will commence our shared meal with Grace and a short Gospel reflection.

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: 28.05.2023

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2 nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

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

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal for Aboriginal

Catholic Care This weekend 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@catholiccarewbsbm.org.au

Or telephone Rita – 0477952024

Free Community Women's Circle, Blackheath

Come together with other local women and enjoy a guided meditation, creative arts and writing activities and a friendly cuppa, all in a warm and welcoming environment. The Sacred Heart Parish Hall will be hosting a FREE twice monthly Community Women's Circle, starting Thursday June 8th from 10-12, then every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Weaving, card making, and a variety of art mediums are just some of the activities that will be on offer. No skills are necessary, but you might leave with a new skill you didn't know you had! This group is for women of all ages and stages of life, so why not gift yourself a little timeout, where filling your cup is a priority, and switching off from the world outside, a bonus. Please call 8843 2545 to register your interest or email Sally at

sally.butler@ccss.org.au

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!

***The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).



Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

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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.

Introduction to the Bible

Saturdays May 20 and 27 from 3:15pm-4:30pm at Leura

Join Father John McSweeney on the next two Saturday afternoons as he speaks about the history, structure, inspiration and writers of the Bible.

The conversation begins at **3:15pm until 4:30pm at St Bonaventure's church** on the corner of Railway Parade & Hartley Esplanade.

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: David Buckley, Duncan Hayward, John Barclay, Leashy Dowling, Noleen 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



The Ascension of the Lord A.

ENTRANCE

People of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1:1-11)

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you people from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSE

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (Eph 1:17-23)

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that

can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 28:16-20)

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

COMMUNION

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

Building Safe Parishes Together in 2023: *An Update from the Office for Safeguarding*

Safe Parishes Week – Safeguarding Mandatory Training is Due Now! Are you new to Parish Ministry this year and have not completed your Safeguarding Training?

Are you an existing volunteer and have not yet completed your 6 points of mandatory Safeguarding Training?

Under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and the NSW Child Safe Standards all volunteers in parish ministry are Mandatory Reporters and are required to have completed their Safeguarding Training. The Office of the Children's Guardian expects all volunteers in parish ministry have now met this Standard.

In the Diocese of Parramatta we have a zero tolerance of abuse. We therefore commit to keeping children safe as well as all adults at risk. You are now required to register for the Mandatory 6 points of Safeguarding Training to complete Cycle 1: Register for the Mandatory Training during Safe Parishes Week on:

Friday 9th June at 9.30am - 2.30pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Marion Street Blacktown

Please register for this mandatory training at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

If you would like to complete your 6 points online, 'sign up' NOW at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au> Any questions about this, email Maria Kervin, at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org