

# 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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

Parish website:

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://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: 20 July 2023 at 4.00pm

## BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9:30am.

## UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS PARISH SUN

### MASSES

SAT: 5:00pm Leura (Vigil)

SUN: 8:00am Wentworth Falls

SUN: 10.00am 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)

## Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

2 July 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

There are a numbers of sayings in today's gospel that speak to us of Discipleship.

1. Family ties are important and should be treasured, but must never be allowed to stop us from being faithful to God. Priorities must be kept in the right order with God always first.

2. We cannot be a follower of Christ without Sacrifice, because true Discipleship means following the Lord along the Way of the Cross. Sacrifice is integral to faithful Christian living.

3. Christian life is full of paradoxes: in willingly giving up something to which we are entitle for the sake of the Kingdom, we receive so much back in a myriad of different ways.

4. In making others feel they belong, we welcome Christ among us; we must never 'shut the door' on those in need.

5. We are encouraged to support the spiritual gifts we see in others, joyfully appreciating the graces that God has given to our sisters and brothers.

6. All that we do must be for the up building and care of our neighbour, even to the simple act of giving a cup of water to someone who is thirsty. The face of Christ is always before us, asking for us to help Him carry His Cross!

Let's reflect on these texts in the coming week.

1. Please note that all weekday masses will be at 9am (except Fridays) from now on.

2. Please note the Invitation to attend the Discernment morning for our Diocesan Synod at Sacred Heart Church on 16 July in the bulletin.

God Bless you all.

Fr John

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



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

### SATURDAY 1 July

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria.

### SUNDAY 2 July

9.30 am Blackheath

### MONDAY 3 July

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 4 July

Mass 9.00am  
Confession after mass

### WEDNESDAY 5 July

Mass 9.00am Blackheath  
Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm  
Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm

### THURSDAY 6 July

Mass 9.00am Leura

### FRIDAY 7 July

Mass 12pm Katoomba

### SATURDAY 8 July

Mass 9am Katoomba  
Confession after mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

Mt Victoria 1 July 2023

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart

2 nd Reader: Maria

Sunday 2.7.2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2nd Reader: Pat Wicks

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Marilyn and Paul Rowe

Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: Davis Buckley

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.



### **Food and Toiletries drive for Catholic Care Springwood**

During each weekend in July, we will be holding a food and toiletries drive for Catholic Care in Springwood, assisting them to support families in the mountains.

The food items we are collecting are weet-bix, tins of fruit and long-life milk.

The toiletries items are toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap.

Containers for the collection of these items will be out at the Saturday evening and Sunday morning masses throughout July. Thank you in advance for your wonderful support!

This is a Deanery initiative and will involve all six parishes in the Blue Mountains and Emu Plains over this year.

### **Parish Listening Consultation Sunday July 16.**

"Behold, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 49:13) is the theme Bishop Vincent has chosen for the Diocesan Synod to be held in October which will form the next Diocesan Pastoral Plan. You are invited to contribute your voice by making a personal submission on the Diocesan website [www.parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod2023).

We are also holding a parish Listening Consultation to make a parish submission, after Sunday Mass on July 16. This will involve reflecting upon the question 'What do you believe the mission of the Church is in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains?'. For further details or to register your attendance, please see or contact Paul Harris on 0411535316.

Sunday: 9.07.2023

1 St Reader:

2 nd Reader:

Welcome/Intercession:

Server:

Morning Tea: Pamela and Marlene

**Praying with Pope Francis during July**

**For a Eucharistic life**

**We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist**

**at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep**

**way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.**

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

Today, on the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we join the Australian Bishops and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council in celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday. As Australians, we are fortunate to share our home with the world's oldest continuing culture. On this day, we honour and acknowledge God's presence in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, who have upheld their rich and diverse cultural traditions for thousands of years. We give thanks for the deep and enduring legacy of these ancient peoples and their contributions to our Continent. Let us also take a moment to recognise and appreciate the land on which our Parish is situated and the people who have nurtured it over time. Together, let us continue to cultivate a spirit of unity and respect for all cultures and traditions within our community

### Uluru Statement from the Heart

Australia's Bishops are encouraging Catholics to read and discuss the Uluru Statement from the Heart- the document from which the Voice proposal has emerged. To read and /or listen to the Uluru Statement from the Heart [google https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/](https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement/)

The bishop's, during their plenary meeting in Sydney in May, considered how they might assist Catholics in preparing for the referendum and [decided](#) to issue the following statement at this point in the referendum process. Their statement can be read in full at <https://bit.ly/BishopsVoice>

Source: Australian Catholics Winter 2023 Parishes Edition page 28.

### WORKING BEE SATURDAY 1st July 2023

Saturday morning 1st July commencing from 8am.

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



Nosh and Natter Night

Cancelled for June 30

Save the date for Friday July 28

to gather for prayer, reflection and a parish meal together

As it takes time to set up the hall and prepare the short reflection a minimum of 8 people registered is needed for this night to go ahead. Hope to see you in July!

\*\*\*Today we are faced with the cost of discipleship, but we are also comforted by the promise of the providence of God. Baptism is for us both death and life. Through it we enter into Christ's death and we die to lives of selfishness and sin. Through it we rise with Christ to a new life freed from everything that previously held us down. As glorious as this new life might be, it requires death to our old ways of living, and this is always difficult.



The cost of discipleship cuts right to the core of our beings, it lays bare the very structures of kinship. Baptism recreates us as children of God; through it we are given a new life and born into a new family. The bonds of discipleship are now even stronger than the bonds of blood. Discipleship requires our very lives. As disciples we can no longer put ourselves first. We must be willing to spend ourselves and to be spent, to serve others in the day to day unfolding of life. We may find such commitment very demanding, but that is part of the cost of discipleship. God promises that if we lose our lives in this way, we will really gain them. If we are unselfish in the way we share ourselves with others, we will be enriched through our generosity. If we spend ourselves and are spent in our service of others we will be filled with blessings unimaginable.

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### NAIDOC Week

The National NAIDOC Committee has announced NAIDOC Week celebrations will be held from 2 – 9 July 2023.

This year's theme is For Our Elders. <https://www.naidoc.org.au/awards/current-theme>

For activities in Katoomba during NAIDOC week look at the following link <https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/naidoc-week>. There are lots of interesting, fun and informative activities which would be great to share with visiting family and grandchildren over the school holidays.

### Happy Birthday July

2nd Philia Portelli

5th Kate Forbes (b 1960)



**Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:** David Buckley, 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 July:** 1st James Keith Johnston, 5th Matthew Gregan, 6th Annie Cecilia Smith (Kate Forbes' grandmother)

8th Alma Birrell (d 2015), 9th Cecily O'Brien, 12th John Forster (d 2014 – aged 66), 18th Keith Malkin

18th Fr Alex Sciberras, 18th Ray Lee (d 2014), 19th John Briggs (d 2006), 20 Monica van Horen (d 2014), 22nd Nikola Sandor, 23rd Bert Carlton, 24th David Ridoutt (d 2009), 25th Jean Pye, 28th Eric Perriam (d 2007 – Tony Perriam's father)



## **Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

### **ENTRANCE**

All peoples, clap your hands.  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.  
Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light.  
Alleluia!

### **First Reading**

A reading from the second book of the Kings (2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16)

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

### **Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 10:37-42)

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take up one's cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds one's life will lose it; anyone who loses one's life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he or she is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy person because he or she is a holy person will have a holy person's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he or she is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, they will most certainly not lose their reward.'

### **RESPONSE**

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

### **COMMUNION**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.

### **Second Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Rom 6:3-4. 8-11)

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.