

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: 21 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

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)

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

16 July 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The great Parable of the Sower and the Seeds in our Gospel Reading from Matthew for today encourages us to keep on striving to sow the message of Christ in soul that will bear fruit in abundance. And the fruitfulness of that soil will vary at different stages of our life: one hundred fold, sixty, thirty...

But, overall, despite thorns, birds, and rocky paths... we must keep going forward, never giving up, never despairing.

In prayer and times of reflection, let's open our hearts and minds to God, so that the Word may take root in us and help us grow in Faith and Love all our days!

And we have the words of St Paul in our Second Reading to encourage us in this endeavour: "I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet I revealed, which is waiting for us."

And indeed, the words from Isaiah in our First Reading are a call to conversion which underlines the effectiveness of the Word of God which brings about in the end what it was sent to do:

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

I hope you all have a good week, and that the good Lord blesses you and your families and friends with abundant Joy.

Fr John

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 15 July

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 16 July

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 17 July

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 18 July

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 19 July

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

THURSDAY 20 July

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 21 July

Mass 12pm Katoomba
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

SATURDAY 22 July

Mass 9am Katoomba
Confession after mass
Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

Please note that the next mass at Megalong Valley will be next week 21th July 2023 at 4.00pm.

Mt Victoria 15 July 2023

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton
2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

Sunday 16.7.2023

1 St Reader: Eve Mc Donnell
2nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Marilyn and Paul Rowe

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: Davis Buckley

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.



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 TODAY Sunday July 16.

Grab a cuppa and cake and stay to participate in a parish Listening Consultation for the Diocesan Synod. Facilitated by parishioner and Diocesan Pastoral Councillor, Paul Harris, "*Behold, I am doing a new thing*" (Isaiah 49:13) is the theme Bishop Vincent has chosen for the Synod to be held in October which will form the next Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

The Listening Consultation will involve reflecting upon the question '*What do you believe the mission of the Church is in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains?*'. The consultation will take place in the Hall after Mass and conclude at midday. For further details or to register your attendance, please call/text Paul on 0411535316.

You are also invited to contribute your voice by making a personal submission on the Diocesan website www.parracatholic.org/synod2023.

Sunday: 23.07.2023

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2 nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Ray Wood

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

**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, transform-
ing human relationships in a very deep
way and opening to the encounter
with God and all their brothers and sisters.**

DIOCESAN SYNOD SUBMISSIONS



Diocesan Synods primarily focus on matters related to pastoral care, evangelisation, and the specific needs of the local diocese. They may discuss and provide recommendations on pastoral strategies, local policies, and initiatives to address specific challenges within the diocese. However, any decisions made by a Diocesan Synod must be in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Bishop Vincent has invited us all to be a part of the process for our local Synod:- “The Time is now, here in the Diocese of Parramatta, for us all to go into the deep (Luke 5:4) and step into the future that awaits us...”

[Click here](#) to find the criteria for your application as well as the requirements of each Synod member.

Please submit a response as an individual adult or young person, as a family or a group to: www.parracatholic.org/synod2023 The final submission date is 31st July .

Yarn for Yes- a webinar on Thursday July 13, 7:30pm-tonight!

This webinar is an invitation to deep dadirri Listening around The Voice. Guests are Palawa woman Alison Overeem of the Walking for Justice Circle, Gamillaroi man and comedian Ben Moodie and Sherry Balcombe, an Olkola/Djabaguy woman, manager of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Victoria located in Melbourne’s inner north. The link to register for the webinar is <https://uniting.church/yarn-for-yes-2/>

Shared Accommodation Available

Lovely, fully furnished house in quiet street in Mt Victoria to share with one other person. Mature woman preferred.

Rent \$275pw and shared cost of all utilities.

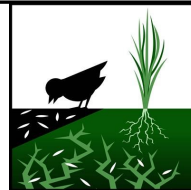
Contact 0458 001 537 for more information.

Happy Birthday July

19th Christa Buckley (b 1947)



***The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God’s word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it?



Besides the word of God, the readings speak of the world of God. The people of biblical times were aware of the revelation of God in and through the natural world. Isaiah teaches about the effectiveness of the word of God through the metaphor of rain. The psalmist uses the natural world to describe God’s work of salvation. Paul claims that eschatological fulfilment will include all of creation. Finally, Jesus’ parables are rooted in stories about nature. We cannot afford to close our eyes to the needs of the natural world, or stop our ears to the cries of the earth, or harden our hearts to the world of which we are a part, for the word of God will accomplish the end for which God sent it.

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Become a Catechist! - Catechist training commencing in August at St Finbars, Glenbrook.

Sharing the gospel with students in our public schools is an important ministry at our parish. It may sound daunting but it is very rewarding spending time with young people sharing our faith. You’ll be joining a supportive team and curriculum materials and ongoing training are provided. We’d love to see you there. To enquire/enrol speak to your Parish Catechist Coordinator Pat Drummond or email ccd.training@parracatholic.org with your details.

Catalyst for Renewal

Laudato Si as the ‘Re-sacralisation of Earth (Part II)

July, 15 2023

Presented by Sally Neaves

Santa Maria Hall, Lawson 9:30am-12:30pm

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Duncan Hayward, John Barclay, Leashy Dowling, Noeleen Cliff, Sue Gracey, Elizabeth Curran, Andrew Krawczyk, Patricia Dee, Pat McCauley, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli,

Recently Deceased: 15.6.23 Rasa Blansjaar, 29.6.23 David Harris

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 Carlon, 24th David Ridoutt (d 2009), 25th Jean Pye, 28th Eric Perriam (d 2007 – Tony Perriam’s father)



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

ENTRANCE

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Is 55:10-11)

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSE

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Rom 8:18-23)

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his children. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt 13:1-23)

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and they will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.

For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But blessed are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy ones longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in their heart: this is the one who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the person who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But they have no root in them, they do not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and they fall away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so they produce nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it; they are the one who yield a harvest and produce now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

COMMUNION

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.