

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: 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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

23 July 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The three parables about the Kingdom of God from Matthew's Gospel in today's Liturgy speak to us a message that encourages us to reflect on our attitudes towards others as well as our own needs to be open to God's action in our lives.

1. It is only at the end of one's life that good and evil can be separated and judged, just as the wheat and darnel are separated at harvest time; in the meantime, we remain open to the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the lives of those around us. God can always convert even the most hardened of sinners!

2. We are asked to trust that God will always triumph in the end! Like with the smallest of seeds becoming the biggest of shrubs, so unpromising beginnings - through the Spirit's intervention - can lead to triumphant conclusions.

3. As the leaven helps the whole loaf grow, so God can use what can be seen as evil for good; sinfulness is never a blockage or barrier to God's Plan for humanity. Indeed, we are all sinners, yet God is leading each and every one of us to be fruitful messengers of the Gospel!

And so, my friends, let's read the whole of Chapter 13 of Matthew's text in this coming week... last week we heard the parable of the Sower; and next week we will conclude this chapter on the Parables of the Kingdom.

Let's allow the Word of God to penetrate our hearts and minds, enabling us to reflect on ways that we can try to live up to the message that Jesus has for each of us in our own time.

May the Lord continue to bless you all.

Fr John

Please mute your mobile at Mass.



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

SATURDAY 22 July

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 23 July

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 24 July

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 25 July

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 26 July

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

THURSDAY 27 July

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 28 July

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 29 July

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

Mt Victoria 22 July 2023

1 St Reader: Peter Mc Auley
2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

Sunday 23.7.2023

1 St Reader: John Tweedie
2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Marilyn and Paul Rowe

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Davis Buckley

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

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.



Mass and Morning tea

Wednesday

9am Mass is followed by morning tea from 9:30 until 12 noon in the parish hall. Join us for an uplifting morning of prayer, good company, conversation, and warming coffee.

All welcome!



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.

<SCAM ALERT.

The scam involving purported text messages from Fr John McSweeney is back. If you receive an out of the ordinary message saying it is from Fr John, be very careful. It may say that he is in a meeting and ask you to respond to him. Any message like this - delete immediately. Do not respond.

Based on a recent experience from two Blackheath parishioners, it is possible that the scammers have also expanded into texting using the names of other people you may know in the Parish. Adopt the same approach if you receive such a text - delete it.>

Mass at St Joseph's in the Megalong Valley this Friday July 21 at 4pm

Mass is on this Friday afternoon at 4pm at St Joseph's historic church in the glorious Megalong Valley. Come along to share the Eucharist, enjoy a cuppa and conversation following the Mass and take in the stunning sunset on the way back up through the valley.

Although the road condition has improved, allow yourself extra time for the drive from the railway crossing at Blackheath as there are some stop and go signs still in place. When parking at the church please ensure the gate into the property of Eureka is kept clear- thank you!

Sunday: 30.07.2023

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2 nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Pat Wicks

Morning Tea: Christa and David Buckley

**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.**

World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal

The young pilgrims in the Diocese of Parramatta thank you for your prayerful support of their pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal. You can follow their journey. Sign up to receive updates on the pilgrimage from the Diocese of Parramatta at catholicoutlook.info/WYD23New

CKG Request:

Pope Francis' landmark encyclical titled "*Laudato si: on care for our common home*" was communicated in 2015. This is an important teaching document of the Church responding to concerns about the health of the environment and human lifestyles and culture which have been responsible for mistreatment of the Earth. God's spirit is within creation, and therefore all created things should be cared for, protected and revered as God's handiwork, rather than seeing ourselves as the Earth's "lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will." (2) Caring for the earth is a vital part of our faith: not an optional extra. The CKG project is one of our parish initiatives meeting the goals of *Laudato si*'. We use an organic gardening approach that avoids the use of poisons and maximises the use of natural, sustainable processes that protect the vegetable plants and enhances their growth. We are keen to resume our composting of **vegetable** food scraps that you may have at home to produce compost for the CKG. You can be involved in the CKG project by storing your **vegetable** scraps in a covered reusable container and bringing these along to the church for our compost bins. Already the flowers used on the altar go into our compost bins after they are removed from the altar to make compost that is then used to enrich the soil in our garden beds. You can help by adding in your vegetable food scraps, instead of sending them to the tip. For the CKG Team, Brian Bright (0401 768 688)

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

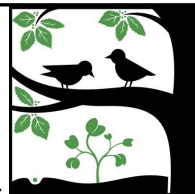
27th Laurie Noyes (Lawrence)

28th Ron O'Brien

31st Ingeborg Caplice (David's wife)



***Today we hear how the Spirit of God dwells in all of us, helping us in our weakness. The first disciples had Jesus to explain the parables; we have the Spirit to enlighten us. It is the Spirit who helps us to interpret the teaching of Jesus and to be receptive to the challenges that they pose.



The presence of sinners in the kingdom of God is often a stumbling block to good people. There will be a time for separation and judgment, but the time is not now. This means that the righteous will have to live with the sinner and, even more challengingly, show them the same kind of concern that they show to others. The presence of sinners does not necessarily erode the quality of the kingdom. Rather, it provides disciples an opportunity to rise to the occasion of generosity and forgiveness.

There are two images of judgment in the readings. The one in the gospel is terrifying and decisive. The wicked are bound together into bundles and readied for burning. We must remember that this is a parable. In the first reading and in the psalm response the justice of God is said to be lenient, clement and kind. The power of God is demonstrated not in retribution but in mercy. God is said to be 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness and fidelity', and repentance is a very real possibility. This is the image that gives us hope.

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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.

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)



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

ENTRANCE

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Wisdom Wis (12:13.16-19)
There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged
unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is
questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous person must be kindly to one's fellow
human beings, and you have given your children the good
hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

RESPONSE

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Rom
8:26-27)
The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we
cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit
himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put
into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts
knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of
the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind
of God.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the king-
dom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt
13:24-43)

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven
may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.
While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all
among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted
and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants
went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed
in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some
enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do
you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because
when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with
it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I
shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bun-
dles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is
like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It
is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the
biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the
air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like
the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of
flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he
would never speak to them except in parables. This was to ful-
fill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables

and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disci-
ples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel
in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed
is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the
subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one;
the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of
the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the dar-
nel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of
time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather
out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who
do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there
will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will
shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone
who has ears!'

COMMUNION

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.