

# 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: 17 August 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))

## **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**30 July 2023**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

With today's Gospel passage from Matthew we come to the end of Jesus' Discourse in which he describes the Kingdom of Heaven by means of various parables. From this point onwards in this first of the Synoptic Gospels Jesus moves towards Jerusalem - and towards his Passion and Death...

And having offered two parables that speak of the possession of the Kingdom as being of more value than everything else in life (The Treasure Hidden in the Field and The Pearl of Great Value) as well as the Parable of the Dragnet (which speaks of the reality that the Kingdom (on Earth the Church) is a mixed bag of good and bad (fish), Jesus concludes his Discourse with the question: Have you understood all this?

The Disciples answer in the affirmative; and we are encouraged to do the same.

Christian Life (gifted to us at Baptism) is something overwhelming and passionate.

Or, it should be!

Anyone who wants to follow Christ must 'sell everything' and avoid all compromise in living out the demands of the Gospel.

Although we may think this is too hard, we need to realise that it is not all up to us: the Lord is present with us, supporting us always; and gifting us with Joy.

This Christian Joy comes from discovering our purpose in life; it is the joy of feeling caught up in the adventure of holiness; it is a joy that only Christ can give; and it is something that never ends!

And so, my friends, as this week unfolds, let us recommit our lives to the Gospel, putting aside anything that prevents us from attaining that true Treasure which is the Kingdom of Life and Light, of Joy and Peace, the pearl of immense and indescribable value: Jesus Christ our Lord!

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I will be on Annual Leave for two weeks from Monday 31/7, returning for the week commencing 14/8.

After my celebration of 40 years of Priesthood at the 10am Mass on 20th August, I will be on Long Service Leave until 1/12.

During my absence on LSL, Fr Peter will be appointed Administrator of the two Upper Mountains Parishes.

And Fr Bob Anderson will be appointed as the Sunday Supply priest for the duration of my LSL.

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 29 July**

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria.

**SUNDAY 30 July**

9.30 am Blackheath

**MONDAY 31 July**

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

**TUESDAY 1 August**

Mass 9.00am Leura  
Confession after mass

**WEDNESDAY 2 August**

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

**THURSDAY 3 August**

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

**FRIDAY 4 August**

Mass 12pm Katoomba

**SATURDAY 5 August**

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

**Mt Victoria 29 July 2023**

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

**Sunday 30.7.2023**

**1 St Reader:** Monica Bright  
**2nd Reader:** Brian Bright

**Welcome/Intercession:** John Tweedie

**Server:** Pat Wicks

**Church Care:** Marilyn and Paul Rowe

**Counters:** Laurie Noyes

**Flowers:** Davis Buckley

**Morning Tea:** Christa and David Buckley

**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!



**Fr John's 40th Anniversary Celebrations**

On the 20th August we will celebrate Fr John's 40th Anniversary of his ordination after the 10 am mass at Katoomba.

Please bring a plate of food to share on this celebration .

Also there is a raffle of 3 beautiful paintings ,tickets will be sold after each mass and will be drawn on the 20th August .

**Save the date!**

**Saturday August 5, 2pm at Sacred Heart Church Blackheath.**

**For the screening of the webinar Yarn for Yes.**

This webinar is an invitation to deep dadirri Listening around The Voice. Guests are Sherry Balcombe, an Olkola/Djabaguy woman, manager of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Victoria located in Melbourne's inner north,

Palawa woman Alison Overeem of the Walking for Justice Circle, and Gamillaroi man and comedian Ben Moodie. It is an opportunity for us to listen to Indigenous voices, reflection and sharing. A cuppa on the veranda will be served following the screening (or in the hall if too cold!). To assist with catering please message your

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

This is the last weekend for collecting food and toiletry items. Food: weetbix, long life milk, tinned fruit Toiletries: toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap

Thank you so much for your donations which will be of invaluable support for the families who receive them.

**Sunday: 6. 8.2023**

**1 St Reader:** Pat Wicks

**2 nd Reader:** Frances Huckstepp

**Welcome/Intercession:** Frank Portelli

**Server:** Paul Harris

**Morning Tea:** Monica and Brian Bright

**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 sis-  
ters.**

### Follow our World Youth Day pilgrimage from home!

170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting [catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News](http://catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News) or scanning the QR code.



### CKG - Season of Creation:

You are invited to join us in the Community Kitchen Garden (CKG) for a celebration marking the beginning of the Season of Creation.

This runs from September, the beginning of Spring, to the feast of St Francis on 4th October. We will be opening celebrations with a Potato Planting Workshop on Saturday 2 September from 11am till 1pm. Come dressed for gardening and ready to get your hands dirty. Refreshments will be provided. The potatoes will be ready to harvest towards Xmas, when you are invited to return to harvest your potatoes and replant some for a second crop. CKG Contact: Brian (0401 7 68 688)

**Parish Listening Consultation.** Thank you to all who took part in the parish Listening Consultation for the Diocesan Synod. “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. A summary of what the groups submitted is posted on the notice boards (Mt Vic and Blackheath).

Final submissions and **applications to be a member of the Synod** closes Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July. See the Diocesan website [www.parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod2023)

### Bishops statement on Indigenous Voice to Parliament

At the heart of the upcoming Voice to Parliament Referendum is the recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, the world’s oldest continuing culture, in the Australian Constitution. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to listen to the voices of First Australians and to work towards a more just and equitable society. The Australian Catholic Bishops have a policy of support for the Voice to Parliament. Please see the summary of the Bishops statement on the attachment. **Paper copies will be available in our churches.**

### Happy Birthday July

27th Laurie Noyes (Lawrence)

28th Ron O’Brien

31st Ingeborg Caplice (David’s wife)



\*\*\*Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.



The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

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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](mailto: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)



## **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

### **ENTRANCE**

God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his people .

### **First Reading**

A reading from the first book of the Kings (1 Kings 3:5.7-12)

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

### **RESPONSE**

Lord, I love your commands.

### **Second Reading**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Romans 8:28-30)

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers and sisters. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

### **ACCLAMATION**

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

### **Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 13:44-52)

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from their storeroom things both new and old.'

### **COMMUNION**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits .