

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: 18 August 2023 at 4.00pm

BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9:30am.

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS PARISH SUNDAY 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

graham_beal@hotmail.com or Julie O'Keeffe

julesongodson@bigpond.com)

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

20 August 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In this Sunday's Gospel we see the humanity of Jesus and the divine spark in the Canaanite woman.

Jesus' rather abrupt reply to the Canaanite woman is based on His understanding as a human person that He was sent to the people of Israel, the Jews.

We must remember that Jesus through His life emptied Himself of His divinity so that as a human he could respond openly to the will of God. So, it was the Holy Spirit who was His guide, His strength and through which He performed miracles.

He was also growing in wisdom as a man, and part of that was letting human thinking be replaced by divine wisdom gained through the Spirit.

So, holding onto the Jewish mindset He saw His mission as being to the Jews, the chosen people of God as He understood it. But what He came to see was that this Canaanite woman had the gift of faith. The Spirit was with Her. Israel was not just Jews, but all people in whom dwelled the Spirit of God.

It's almost a role reversal.

It's a lesson for us. Don't assume we as individuals or we as Catholics, or Christians have any exclusive claim on God and His Spirit.

We need to pray that the Spirit will open us up to see the divinity in each and every person and help them in their need.

Not help in the way that coined the old expression: "it was as cold as charity" alludes to but help them because we see them as one with us, animated and given life by the Spirit and loved by God.

It is when we engage with others from an empathetic, compassionate (meaning suffering with) concern for their wellbeing that we become something special, we become Israel, the people of God in which the Spirit dwells in a very real and meaningful way.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 19 August

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria. (Liturgy of the Word)

SUNDAY 20 August

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 21 August

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 22 August

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 23 August

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

THURSDAY 24 August

Mass 9.00am Leura (NO MASS)

FRIDAY 25 August

Mass 12pm Katoomba
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

SATURDAY 26 August

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

Praying with Pope Francis

August – For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Mt Victoria 19 August 2023

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

Sunday 20.8.2023

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

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: NO MORNING TEA

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.

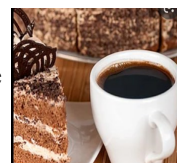


Mass and Morning tea

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

Today 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.

World Day of Migrant and Refugees celebration

You're warmly invited to a family-friendly event with Bishop Vincent and our migrant communities for the World Day of Migrants & Refugees on Saturday 16 September, 2pm – 5.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Seven Hills. Come hear stories, enjoy free entertainment and activities. RSVP <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/celebrating-world-day-of-refugees-and-migrants-tickets-675662363317?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

No Morning Tea 20th Aug 2023

There will be no Morning Tea in the Church Hall this morning 20 August
Fr John's 40th Anniversary celebrations at Katoomba.

Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod

All are invited to pray a Nine-Week Novena for the Diocesan Synod. The Novena will begin the week of Sunday 13 August and conclude the week of Sunday 8 October in the lead-up to the Synod Assembly: Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October. You are invited to pray once a week as a parish community, with your family, ministry groups or during personal prayer. More information: <https://parracatholic.org/synod2023/>

Sunday: 27. 8.2023

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2 nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

MASS CHANGES:

There will be no mass on Thursdays;

Wednesday mass will alternate between Wentworth Fall and Blackheath (pls check the bulletin)

I would like Fr Peter to have a day off each week hence the above decision.

God bless. Fr John

ART & FASHION SALE 2023

When: October long weekend Saturday 30th Sept & Sunday 1st October

Time: Saturday 11am – 4pm

Sunday 9 am – 3 pm

Where: Sacred Heart Parish Hall

165 Wentworth Street, Blackheath

Cost of entry: Saturday & Sunday \$5 per person

(which includes a glass of Champagne or Juice & nibbles)

IF YOU HAVE ANY ARTWORK or HIGH END FASHION THAT YOU COULD DONATE TO THIS FUNDRAISER IT WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. PLEASE LEAVE IN MEETING ROOM OR RING MARILYN ON 0414536601



Community Kitchen Garden (CKG)-

“Cry of the Poor”: Pope Francis in his letter ‘Laudato si’ calls us all to heed the cry of the poor. He is not just talking about those with little money, but also those who are impoverished in other ways. Climate change, the result of the increase in green house gases in the atmosphere, has brought with it unprecedented fires and floods and the loss of homes and livelihoods. It comes down to each of us to improve the earth for everyone. We can lobby our politicians for a green response to providing energy. We can change the way we garden to provide a healthy environment for pollinating insects such as bees - not spraying poison on flowering weeds. In our CKG we share the food we grow with those who are in need of companionship at the soup kitchen, as well as those who are looking for a meal. We also share our knowledge with each other, as we garden organically. The CKG Team invites you to join us on 2nd September 11am - 1pm in the potato planting workshop to mark the beginning of the Season of Creation, a time to reflect on our Creator and Creation. Contact: Brian 0401 768 688

ANNIVERSARIES:

23rd Ingeborg and David Caplice (1967)

28th Kate and Robert Forbes (m 1982)



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

REST IN PEACE August: 2nd Chris Commens, 5th Joseph Tassanyi (d 2022), 6th Madge Carey (d 2009 - Monica Bright's mother), 7th Flo Gillette, 7th Dellas Holmwood (d 2013), 15th Francis Doyle, 23rd Barry Bowden (2019), Barbara Hodgkinson (2019), 26th Wladyslaw Ziolkowski (d 2006 – Marjanna Gilchrist's father), 28th Ian Maguire (d 2015 - husband of Claire), Marion Crowley



***The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

God's embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God's plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

© Dianne Bergant CSA



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

Face – To – Face Training at the parish of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Katoomba.

The date for the 2023 face-to-face session:

Saturday 28th October 2023.

Start from 10.00am – 3.00pm Finish.

Please contact the Parish Office to register for the Face-to-Face Training.

Volunteers across the Diocese are asked to participate in this training to ensure our parishes are inclusive and safe for children and adults at risk. We are very grateful for the commitment already demonstrated within the Parish by those who have already completed their 6 points of Safeguarding training online. If you completed this in 2021 you are now ready to renew this training.

or you can complete the training independently on our online training platform if you wish. You can start these modules at any time and complete them at your own pace. You can sign up on the platform by clicking on this link: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

If you do have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email me directly at

maria.kervin@parracatholic.org.

20th Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

ENTRANCE

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

First Reading (Isaiah 56:1,6-7)

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

RESPONSE

O God, let all the nations praise you.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel (Matthew 15:21-28)

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

COMMUNION

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever.

Second Reading (Romans 11:13-15,29-32)

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all people in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all humankind