

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: 15 September 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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

27 August 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

It's a matter of conscience!

You may well ask: what is a matter of conscience?

Our life of faith: that is our day to day lives, minute by minute are all a matter of conscience. It's where our true identity is determined, whether we are Christian, members of the body of Christ or not.

Our conscience is where God speaks to us. Our conscience is the voice of God in the depths of our being. It is where God is closer to us than we are to ourselves and where we encounter our true selves.

That's why the Church teaches that we must always act in accordance with our conscience. We are to be self-governing Christians.

But our conscience needs to be formed.

We need to know what the teachings of the Church are and the reasons behind the teachings. We need to have a healthy spirituality so we can listen for the word of God. The Word of God which reveals to us wisdom beyond the grasp of human intellect. This is what the second reading is saying.

Then we can enjoy the freedom of the children of God.

The Church does not want us to put our consciences aside and follow rules. If the Church was to override conscience it would be putting our relationship with God into a secondary position. Our relationship with God is primary and the establishment of that relationship is the mission of the Church. The rules are there as guides and they should never be rejected, neglected or overlooked, but they will not be truly effective in the complexities of life without a discerning conscience to interpret and apply them.

Then like Peter, who came to understand something the other disciples didn't, because it was revealed to him in the depths of his being, we will be able to become living members of Christ's body, and what we decide on earth will be valid in heaven because it will be divine wisdom applied to daily life. Practical solutions to complex real-life situations derived from a connection and knowledge of God.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 26 August

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 27 August

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 28 August

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 29 August

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 30 August

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

THURSDAY 31 August

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 1 September

Mass 12pm Katoomba
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

SATURDAY 2 September

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

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!



Bishop's Father's Day Appeal: Caring for those who have cared for us.

Next Weekend 3 Sept 23

Envelopes are on the pews.

Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests, and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



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 26August 2023

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart
2 nd Reader: Maria

Sunday 27.8.2023

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

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Marilyn Rowe

Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

**WORKING BEE SATURDAY 2nd
September 2023**

Saturday morning 2nd Sept 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.



Sunday: 3. 9.2023

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2 nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Karen and Margaret

CKG Shopping List:

If you have any of the following items that you are happy to donate to the cause they would be much appreciated:

Gardening: Wheel barrow, gardening fork, tap timer, hand trowel, secateurs or pruning shears, poly pipe various diameters, bird and insect netting, wooden garden stakes, star pickets various lengths, lengths of timber suitable for garden edging, any kind of manure.

Also looking for used plastic plant pots of any size to reuse for our Street Plant Library. These can be left on the hall veranda.

Cooking: Non-stick (or stainless steel) stock pot, food processor, stick blender

All donations gratefully accepted.

CKG Team (0401 768 688)

NO MASS CHANGES:

There will be no changes to mass while Fr John is away.
The mass will be as follows:
Wednesdays: 9.00 am Blackheath
Thursdays : 9.00 am W/Falls
God bless:
Fr Peter Lamont

ART & FASHION SALE 2023

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

Time: Saturday 11 am – 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



Season of Creation 2023

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home.

As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made.

Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is “Let Justice

and Peace flow” and the symbol is A Mighty River. As the people of God, we are invited to join the river of justice and peace on behalf of all Creation during this year’s Season of Creation.

For more information about the Season of Creation view the you-tube <https://seasonofcreation.org/2023/03/03/we-are-launching-season-of-creation-2023-let-justice-and-peace-flow/>

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>

***The readings highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.



When Peter testified to Jesus’ identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter’s failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God’s grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God’s ways unsearchable.

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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

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,

Recently Deceased: Julie Wicks 20th August 23

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



21st Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

ENTRANCE

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day
long.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 22:19-23)
Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the
palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiyah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

RESPONSE

Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
(Romans 11:33-36)

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom
and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his mo-
tives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the
mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who
could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All
that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To
him be glory for ever! Amen.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
(Matthew 16:13-20)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this
question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man
is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Eli-
jah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he
said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You
are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus re-
plied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it
was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father
in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I
will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can nev-
er hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of
heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound
in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered
loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to
tell anyone that he was the Christ.

COMMUNION

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life, says the Lord,
and I will raise him up on the last day.