

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: 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)

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

3 Sept 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the first reading we hear of Jeremiah lamenting that he has become a social outcast because he feels compelled to relay God's message.

In the second reading St Paul urges the Romans saying: "I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you"

In the Gospel reading, St Peter who was riding high last week and correctly identifying Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, and who was appointed by Christ to lead the Church is being rebuked and referred to as Satan.

Why? for thinking along human lines instead of listening to the voice of God that revealed Jesus' true identity to him in last week's reading.

These are very clear messages to us. We need to discern between the way of God and the way pointed to by human logic, emotions, and social norms.

In the Gospel reading we see that Satan has used wholesome human emotions to create an obstacle for Christ. By using Peter's emotional attachment for Christ Satan uses Peter to tempt Christ.

There are many influences in our lives. Media, our friends, our work colleagues, members of our family. We too are also an influence in the lives of many people.

We need to discern those influences that lead us to live out the will of God in our lives and also discern in ourselves those voices that are not based on God's guidance but come from self-interest, the bad influence of others, emotional scars and injured psyche.

But to know what we should do, we need to hear the voice of God. This itself involves two crosses we need to pick up.

The first to spend time in prayer and solitude with God.

The second to actively educate ourselves in the teachings of the Church and the writings of the Popes, Church Fathers and Saints. Not hearsay, but what was actually written.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 2 September

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 3 September

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 4 September

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 5 September

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 6 September

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

THURSDAY 7 September

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 8 September

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 2 September

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

Pope's Prayer Intentions

Each month, Pope Francis asks us to pray as a global community. September 2023: For people living on the margins We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions: may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

Mt Victoria 2 Sept 2023

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 3.9.2023

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: Cate Mitchell Pamela

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

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.

This Weekend 2 - 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.



**PLANT, CAKES AND CRAFT
STALL 1st OCT 2023.**

All contributions of potted plants, Cakes, and craft items gratefully accepted. Please make this a fundraising bonanza



Sunday: 10 . 9.2023

1 St Reader: Eve Mc Donnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Pamela and Jennifer

CKG Potato Planting:

On this Saturday 2nd September 11am to 1pm, you are invited to join us in the garden for this event. Refreshments will be served. Help prepare the soil and plant the seed potatoes to celebrate the beginning of the Season of Creation.

The CKG is part of the parish's response to Pope Francis' Laudato si call to respond to the 'cry of the earth' and the 'cry of the poor'.

Contact: Brian 0401 768 688



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



***The gospel does not say that Jesus will gallantly step forward, take suffering upon himself, and thus demonstrate his power. Instead, his fate will be a demonstration of his vulnerability. He will be taken forcibly and will suffer at the hands of others. He will do this willingly, but not as a volunteer. Jesus will be a victim. This picture of Jesus carries implications for discipleship. Whoever follows him must follow him to the cross. If we participate in his success, we must also share in his shame. Disciples have a choice to follow or not to follow, but if they choose in his favour they must be ready for suffering and humiliation.



Paul exhorts us to reject the standards of the world. This is a very difficult path to follow, especially when it seems that those who conform to this age prosper. Following Christ can place barriers between ourselves and others. If we no longer share their values and their interests, we may feel alienated. Suffering is bound to invade our ministerial lives as well. We must remember that Jesus' message antagonised many people in his day. Those who proclaim the same message in their own contexts must be prepared for a similar reaction.

After witnessing the marvellous feats that Jesus accomplished, we discover that he is going to suffer and be put to death. How can this be? With Peter we protest. With Jeremiah we wonder: Have we been duped? The realisation that we too will have to suffer becomes a crucial test of our faith.

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Season of Creation

This year's Season of Creation commences this Friday, September 1 (Wattle Day) with the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*.

"In this Season of Creation, as followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again"

To read the full Message of Pope Francis for this global ecumenical event click on the link

<https://seasonofcreation.org/2023/05/25/message-of-pope-francis-for-creation-day-2023/>

Participate in the Season of Creation opening *Global Online Prayer Service* being held on Friday September 1 via zoom.

For us in Sydney, given time zone differences, the prayer service is 11pm. Register for the prayer service at

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s6x-ULjRZWRyzUYGNAhAg#/registration

Social Justice Statement for 2023-2024

The launch by Bishop Vincent Long of this year's Social Justice Statement, *Listen, Learn, Love*:

A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples can be viewed on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0ME6QxZ6iY>

Edmund Rice Centre resource

In October 2022 the Edmund Rice Centre released an information resource for the wider community

to help all Australians understand the detail of the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

The link for the Discussion and Information Resource Kit is listed at the end of the press release.

https://www.erc.org.au/erc_media_release_uluru

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

The Diocesan Safeguarding team are organising sessions for parish clergy, staff and volunteers to complete their Mandatory Safeguarding Modules. Renewal Modules will soon be available on our online training platform.

Mandatory Modules 1-3: **Saturday 28 October** at St Canice's Church, Katoomba from 10am-3pm.

Please register for these face-to-face renewal modules at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org. For further information please contact Maria Kervin at:

maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

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>

Happy Birthday September

5th Diane Stewart

8th Lance Hodgkinson



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: Julie Wicks 20th August 23

REST IN PEACE September: 1st Lily Hanna 2010, 3rd Philomena Drummond (d 1991 - Pat Drummond's mother), 5th Bernie Tierney

(d 2007 – Father of Sue Gracey), 8th Ray Thomas, 10th Mary Kingston (d 2016), 15th Elsie Carroll (d 2010 – Adrian's mother),

25th Ivan Naraj , 29th Ron Walsh.



22nd Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

ENTRANCE

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:7-9)
You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

RESPONSE

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Romans 12:1-2)
Think of God's mercy, my brothers and sisters, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 16:21-27)

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let them renounce themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save one's life will lose it; but anyone who loses their life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a person gain if they win the whole world and ruins their life? Or what has one to offer in exchange for one's life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to one's behaviour.'

COMMUNION

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.