

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 grahambeal@hotmail.com
or Julie O'Keeffe julesongodson@bigpond.com

The Transfiguration of the Lord

6 August 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This Sunday is the feast of the Transfiguration.

St Paul tells us that we can rely on prophecies, and in fact we should rely on prophecies, until the "dawn comes and the morning star rises" in our minds.

The first reading is a prophecy from the book of Daniel which foretells of the coming of the Son of Man, of Christ and of the establishment of His reign.

A reign which has its authority from the throne of fire, from which a stream of fire flows.

Fire is a symbol of purification. The Holy Spirit is the fire that burns sins away. Sins being all those thoughts, words and actions that are contrary to God's will.

Thoughts, words and acts that hurt us, the people around us and even our world.

This blazing power is made manifest to the Peter, James and John at the Transfiguration where the Spirit's presence and unity with Jesus is seen and the Father identifies Jesus as His Son and tells His disciples to listen to Him.

We are to listen, but we must be careful to understand what kind of listening is called for or we will hear nothing. We need to listen with our very beings, we need to feel the message of Christ. This involves praying and contemplating with a deep empathy for what transpired in the life of Christ and Our Lady and what is happening around us today. We are all victims and villains but so many of our wrong choices come from our wounds.

So let us pray from the depths of our hearts. With a yearning from within to hear Christ through meditation on His life and see ourselves and our neighbour through the clear light of the morning star which is the sign of a new comprehension of ourselves, our world and our God.

Then we will be able to fully understand the Law and the Prophets, represented by Moses and Elijah, which are correctly interpreted and fulfilled in Christ.

May God bless you all

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 5 August

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

SUNDAY 6 August

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 7 August

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 8 August

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 9 August

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

THURSDAY 10 August

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 11 August

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 12 August

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

Mt Victoria 5 August 2023

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan
2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 6.8.2023

1 St Reader: Pat Wicks
2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Marilyn and Paul Rowe

Counters: Diane Stewart

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

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 .

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in September. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

Mt Victoria Saturday Mass 5th August at 5.00pm

Please note that Liturgy of the Word will be celebrated at Mt Victoria on Saturday 5th August at 5.00pm. No mass this evening.

Sunday: 13. 8.2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Mary Roberts

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Ray Wood

Morning Tea: Karen and Margaret

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.

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 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)

Homelessness Week 2023

It's time to end Homelessness!

Home is more than four walls and a roof. Home is a place where people can feel safe and secure. A safe home is powerful and can transform lives. It allows people to live with dignity, grow their families and gain independence. Without a safe place to call home, people can struggle to maintain employment, access education or find help through challenging times. National Homelessness Week (7-13 August) raises awareness of homelessness in Australia.

For more information check out these websites

[Mission Australia](#)
[Salvation Army](#)
[Homelessness Australia](#)
[Council to Homeless Persons](#)

Happy Birthday August

6th Maree Crawford
10th Adrian Carroll (1954)
10th Marie Johnston
11th Phil Wicks



***In the midst of Ordinary Time we are invited to behold the transfiguration of Christ. By some horrible coincidence, we recall Christ's brilliance on the day that the world marks another cosmic event, its birth into the atomic age at Hiroshima. The paradox of these events should not be lost on us. The white light that shone from Christ was a mere suggestion of the divine splendour that is beyond human comprehension; the flashing light from the atomic explosion was an omen of the destructive force that is within human grasp. It is imperative that the horror of the latter be brought under the control of the glory of the former.



The transfiguration was a moment in time when Jesus' divine glory broke through his humanity and shone with a brilliance that was blinding. We sing of this glory time and again in the psalms. Yet when it really appears we can hardly believe it ourselves. The readings outline three different moments when this glory was revealed. The first was reported by the visionary in the book of Daniel. The second moment was the scene of the transfiguration. The third is hidden in the resurrection testimony of the author of the Letter of Peter.

We are the ones who today possess the prophetic message; we are the present day eyewitnesses of Christ's majesty. We too have moments when we might behold his glory and hear the voice proclaiming his identity, but we need eyes of faith and ears that are open.

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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.

ANNIVERSARIES:

4th Julie and Lance Hodgkinson (1979)



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 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 Transfiguration of the Lord

ENTRANCE

In a resplendent cloud the Holy Spirit appeared.
The Father's voice was heard: This is my beloved
Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Daniel (Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14)

As I watched:

Thrones were set in place

and one of great age took his seat.

His robe was white as snow,

the hair of his head as pure as wool.

His throne was a blaze of flames,

its wheels were a burning fire.

A stream of fire poured out,

issuing from his presence.

A thousand thousand waited on him,

ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

A court was held and the books were opened.

I gazed into the visions of the night.

And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,

one like a son of man.

He came to the one of great age

and was led into his presence.

On him was conferred sovereignty,

glory and kingship,

and people of all nations and languages became his servants.

His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty

which shall never pass away,

nor will his empire ever be destroyed.

RESPONSE

The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Peter (2 Peter 1:16-19)

It was not any cleverly invented myths that we were repeating when we brought you the knowledge of the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ; we had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him and said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour.' We heard this ourselves, spoken from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have confirmation of what was said in prophecies; and you will be right to depend on prophecy and take it as a lamp for lighting a way through the dark until the dawn comes and the morning star rises in your minds.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight:
listen to him.

Alleluia

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 17:1-9)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

COMMUNION

When Christ appears, we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.