

# 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. 165 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: 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](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

[graham\\_beal@hotmail.com](mailto:graham_beal@hotmail.com) or Julie O'Keeffe

[julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com))

## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

10 Sept 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the first reading this Sunday God tells Ezekiel that it's his responsibility to point out the wrong doings of the people of Israel.

In the Gospel Christ gives instructions to His Disciples as to how they are to handle any disagreements within the Church.

In the second reading St Paul tells us that all the commandments are based on the principle of love. That is, wanting the good of the other.

So, there is a common thread: responsibility.

We are responsible for the good of the other. We are responsible to love our fellow human beings. For love is wanting the good of the other.

But love implies that the want is not based on a compulsion of duty but rather a connection based on a rational and emotional connection.

This responsibility of love means that we need to consider the people we encounter in their wholeness.

We need to be concerned for their physical, emotional (psychological) and spiritual wellbeing.

We are all in need of some form of help, that is why when we interact with people we need to actually care about the person. Actively listen. Actively engage. We all have the means to engage, we all have life experiences and memories that we can draw on to feel what the other person is talking about. Until we engage with our hearts our minds will not be able to focus on the other person.

We don't know what is needed in a particular person's life. It may all look okay, but that is never actually the case. They may just need to talk, and that's a very real need.

Even if we spot obvious needs, like financial needs very often there are a number of other needs as well, some possibly even contributing to the financial issues.

We should never preach pointing out wrongs and failings because in doing that we would be causing emotional damage, and also, quite possibly spiritual damage by driving people away.

But this care and concern, this genuine desire to see the good of the other is something that needs nurturing and growth. That's why we need to pray and receive the sacraments because these will turn an understanding of our responsibility as a duty into a desire to embrace our responsibility as an expression of the fact that we are children of God and we share in His pouring out of life into creation.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



## WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

**SATURDAY 9 September**

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

**SUNDAY 10 September**

9.30 am Blackheath

**MONDAY 11 September**

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

**TUESDAY 12 September**

Mass 9.00am Leura  
Confession after mass

**WEDNESDAY 13 September**

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

**THURSDAY 14 September**

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

**FRIDAY 15 September**

Mass 12pm Katoomba  
Mass Megalong 4.00 pm

**SATURDAY 16 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 9 Sept 2023**

**1 St Reader:** Peter McAuley

**2 nd Reader:** Carla Edan

**Sunday 10.9.2023**

**1 St Reader:** Eve Mc Donnell

**2nd Reader:** Frances Huckstepp

**Welcome/Intercession:** Adrian Carroll

**Server:** Paul Harris

**Church Care:** Phil and Pat Wicks

**Counters:** Marilyn Rowe

**Flowers:** Cate Mitchell Pamela

**Morning Tea:** Pamela and Jennifer

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.**

**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](http://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



**Prayers of the Faithful**

Do you have topics for prayer relating to our current times and/or the life of Sacred Heart Parish and/or our communities in Blackheath, Megalong Valley and Mount Victoria, which you would like to see included in our weekly Prayers of the Faithful? If so, please contact either Clive Kanes (c\_kanes@yahoo.com.au) or Mary Ryan. We would be glad to facilitate inclusion.

**Sunday: 17.9.2023**

**1 St Reader:** David Buckley

**2 nd Reader:** Christa Buckley

**Welcome/Intercession:** Paul Harris

**Server:** Ray Wood

**Morning Tea:** Christine and Dominic

**Gazette survey on the referendum**

**Please do the poll in The Gazette this week - another opportunity to speak your voice!**

Follow the link below:

[https://survey.chi2.com.au/ife/form/SV\\_7a3T2e48E7RUnC6?Q\\_CHL=qr](https://survey.chi2.com.au/ife/form/SV_7a3T2e48E7RUnC6?Q_CHL=qr)

## 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**



\*\*\*It is difficult for leaders to call people to accountability. Such is the unenviable responsibility of pastors in the parish, coordinators of religious education, members of the parish council, principals in the school, directors of liturgical ministry, to name but a few. Disciples must also engage in the very difficult process of reconciliation. Differences of opinion, misunderstandings, and actual offences tend to alienate people. We see this happen in families, neighbourhoods, parish communities, workplaces. It is not enough to say that we must try to forgive from our hearts. The process of reconciliation requires significant movement toward the admission of guilt as well. Both the one offended and the offender must be willing to be transformed.



Gathering two or three together in prayerful collaboration is not as easy as it sounds. If collaboration is to be effective, we have to be open and honest about our opinions and our biases, and respectful of the opinions and biases of others. We must work for the common good and not merely for what we personally think is best. We must be willing to accept and implement decisions with which we may not totally agree, and we must live with them gracefully. All of this calls for unselfish love. Love fulfils the entire law only: when we honour our personal commitments and the personal commitments of others; when we value the life, dignity and reputation of others; and when we respect their possessions. It is only because love is so demanding that it covers all of our responsibilities.

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## Arise Women's Retreat: 16 September

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a day of reflection, inspiration and encounter with Christ at this year's Arise Women's Retreat: 'Arise – Talitha Koum – Little girl, I say ARISE' on Saturday 16 September from 8.30am to 8.30pm. The retreat will include Mass, meditation, talks, praise and worship, creative expression, spiritual direction and healing Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. All meals are included. For bookings and more information, please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1078404>

## Supporting Safe Communities - Safeguarding Sunday 2023: 10 September

The Parish of Sacred Heart Blackheath and the Diocese of Parramatta are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. Mindful of the theme for National Child Protection Week, may we work to build and support safe communities for all people.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at: [www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023](http://www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023)

## CKG Season of Creation News:

We began the Season with the Potato Planting morning. It was a great success and an upcoming article in the BM Gazette will soon highlight this parish Season of Creation activity. The season extends to 4th October, the feast of St Francis, a great lover of all of God's creation.

We are having a Season of Creation Pop-up Stall on the church verandah on Sunday week 17th September. Organic produce from the CKG and jams etc will be on sale to raise funds for new seedlings etc for the garden. If you have any organic produce such as oranges, lemons or limes to donate to the stall or contribute to our jam making please give us a call. Also your cash support for this stall on the day would be much appreciated. A big Thank you to the parish members who have passed on to us a wheelbarrow, soup pot, chook manure and netting listed in our recent shopping list for the garden.

Contact: Brian 0401 768 688

## 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](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org). For further information please contact Maria Kervin at:

[maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto: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>

**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.



## 23rd Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

### ENTRANCE

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

### First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 33:7-9)

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked person: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked person to renounce their ways, then they shall die for their sin, but I will hold you responsible for their death. If, however, you do warn a wicked person to renounce their ways and repent, and they do not repent, then they shall die for their sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

### RESPONSE

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.

### Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
(Romans 13:8-10)

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow human beings you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;  
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
(Matthew 18:15-20)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother or sister does something wrong, go and have it out with them alone, between your two selves. If they listens to you, you have won back your brother or sister. If they do not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if they refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if they refuse to listen to the community, treat them like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

### COMMUNION

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.