

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

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: 16 December 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)

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

24 Sept 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the first reading from Isaiah we are told that God does not think the way we do.

We are also told in this reading from Isaiah that we must seek the Lord.

In the Gospel we are confronted by the parable of the workers sent to the Vineyard at different times of the day, but all workers get the same payment regardless of hours worked!

Seems rather unfair until we shift our focus from worldly concerns and see what Christ is talking about.

The Vineyard is the Kingdom of God in which lives the Vine. The Vine is Christ.

The role of the workers in the Vineyard is ultimately to ensure the Vine has the proper conditions to thrive.

We are the workers who are called to work in the Kingdom of Heaven which is being established in this world.

We are meant to create the environment in which the Vine can thrive.

And our reward is to become one with the Vine.

That's why whether we start right at the beginning of our lives or towards the end of our lives the reward is the same.

The reward is to be a branch of the Vine, united with the Vine, drawing life from the Vine. Allowing the sap of the Holy Spirit to infuse and enliven us.

This is the generosity of God. He rewards us with Himself. The Trinity actually draws us into Christ so that we can draw life and share in the communion that exists between the Trinity through Christ.

Therefore, there can be no extra payment, or any part payment. It's a case of being one with the Vine or not. United with the Trinity or not.

So, we need to stop standing around the marketplace, seeing our work and efforts only aimed at material gain. We need to see that we are called to work for the Kingdom of God, serving everyone around us, through whatever talents and gifts we have, and creating an environment where others can see something different in us so that they too can become one with the Vine.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 23 September

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 24 September

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 25 September

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 26 September

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 27 September

Mass 9.00am Blackheath
Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

THURSDAY 28 September

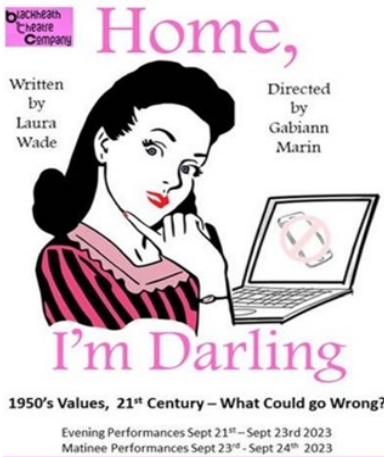
Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 29 September

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 30 September

Mass 9am Katoomba



Mt Victoria 23 Sept 2023

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanés

Sunday 24.9.2023

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Laurie Noyes

Flowers: Cate Mitchell Pamela

Morning Tea: Christa and David Buckley

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!



**World Day of Migrant and Refugee
Sunday: 24 September**

This year's World Migrant and Refugee Theme is, "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay." Pope Francis explains for a healthy society there should always be "the freedom that should always mark the decision to leave one's native land." Migration movements throughout the world continue unabated, "ensuring that that freedom is a widely shared pastoral concern." The resources can be accessed at www.acmro.catholic.org.au

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 Kanés (c_kanes@yahoo.com.au) or Mary Ryan. We would be glad to facilitate inclusion

**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



Blackheath CKG -

Answering the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor: Thank you everyone for your generous donations at last week's stall. We raised \$219, which will help us continue our efforts to share food and make community connections with our volunteer gardeners and those in need. With organic gardening we treat all living things as precious creations from the hands of our Creator. As Pope Francis writes:

"We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people. Every act of cruelty towards any creature is contrary to human dignity." Laudato si (90)

Sunday: 1. 10.2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Karen and Margaret

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)

WE NOW HAVE ENOUGH CLOTHING BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY ARTWORK THAT YOU COULD DONATE TO THIS FUNDRAISER IT WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. PLEASE LEAVE IN MEETING ROOM OR RING MARILYN ON 0414536601



***Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment.



The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy.

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Gathering of the people of God

Together is an ecumenical prayer vigil being held in Rome on 30 September to pray for the Synod on Synodality. Preparations for the prayer vigil are being led by the Taize community. Prayers will be held around the world and in Australia on the weekend of 29 September to October 1.

The Blue Mountains Taize community has offered to host this special vigil for our Catholic parishes in the mountains.

A specific prayer service has been organized for this vigil and will be used by all Taize communities around the world.

The vigil includes song, prayer, silence and readings and will be held on Sunday October 1 at 5pm at the Leura Uniting Church, corner of Grose and Megalong Streets, Leura. A cuppa will be available after the vigil.

If you wish to participate in this gathering please text your name and numbers attending to Julie from Sacred Heart Blackheath on 0413 119 649.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Deacon Tom Green who was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Vincent Last Thursday.

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

Megalong Valley Mass

There will be no mass celebrated at Megalong Valley during the Months of October and November. Mass will resume in December 16.

ANNIVERSARIES:

29th Marion and John Crowley



Happy Birthday September

20th John Crowley

22nd Lindsay Inman

25th Marlene Nguyen

26th Claire Maguire



Pope's Prayer Intentions Sept 2023

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.

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

Recently Deceased: Andrew Krawczyk 14th Sept 2023

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.



25th Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

ENTRANCE

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 55:6-9)
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked person abandon their way,
the evil one their thoughts.
Let them turn back to the Lord who will take pity on them,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

RESPONSE

The Lord is near to all who call him .

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
(Philippians 1:20-24. 27)

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or
by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death
would bring me something more; but then again, if living
in this body means doing work which is having good re-
sults – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in
this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which
would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in
this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be un-
worthy of the gospel of Christ.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
(Matthew 20:1-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a
landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vine-
yard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius
a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the
third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and
said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a
fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at
about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at
about the eleventh hour he went out and found more standing
round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here
idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered.
He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the even-
ing, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the
workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals
and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about
the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each.
When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too
received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the
landowner. “The ones who came last” they said “have done
only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us,
though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He
answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being un-
just to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earn-
ings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay
you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be
envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first,
and the first, last.’

COMMUNION

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me.