

# 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](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 MASSES**

**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](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)

## **29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

**22 October 2023**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This Sunday in the first reading we hear God addressing Cyrus, King of Persia and saying that He has given him power so that he can do what God wants done even though Cyrus does not know of God or His plans. God intends all people to know that aside from Him there is nothing. Nothing happens without God willing it or allowing it.

In the second reading we hear of the effect of the Good News on the Thessalonians. The utter conviction made manifest through works of faith and love.

In the Gospel we hear how the Pharisees tried to trap Christ. They had figured out that the parables of the Landowners sons, the wicked tenants and the invited guests who couldn't be bothered coming to the wedding banquet were about them.

Christ's replies to their trick question is quite deep. 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.' What is God's?

Everything.

This message is not only for the Pharisees, its just as much for us.

Everything we are and have has been given to us. Nothing is ours. It has been given to us so that we can bring about the Kingdom of justice, mercy, and love. The Kingdom of God. Just like Cyrus we have been given the opportunity to bring about God's plan.

All the good we have experienced and very much so all the bad are all tools in our hands to go about our work because it is the emotions associated with our memories and experiences that allow us to feel the pain and the hurt, humiliation, hopelessness and rejection of the other. This is the coinage to pay our taxes to God.

When we internalise the pain of the other through our own experience then we unite ourselves with them and can offer a prayer to God the Father through the Holy Spirit, the words of which are the pain and sorrow we feel for the other.

This is us being Eucharistic people, where we allow the hurt of others to gnaw at us so that we can become the conduit through which the help, the grace of God, can come into their lives.

So, in this time of so much bloodshed let's not think about sides and who's right and who's wrong but let us feel the anguish, emotional torment and hopeless of parents who have lost a child, of parents who have no food or water for their children, of children left crippled and orphaned. Those so beleaguered by destructive powers, that are beyond them, that they cry out: My God My God why have you abandoned me. Let us connect with those images and let's pray the Rosary (October is the month of the Rosary) holding that pain in our hearts that the grief of our souls becomes the groaning of the Spirit in a wordless pray to the Father of us all.

Deacon Alan.

**Please mute your mobile at Mass.**

**Thank-you for your courtesy.**



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

### SATURDAY 21 October

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

### SUNDAY 22 October

9.30 am Blackheath

### MONDAY 23 October

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 24 October

Mass 9.00am Leura  
Confession after mass

### WEDNESDAY 25 October

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

### THURSDAY 26 October

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 27 October

Mass 12pm Katoomba

### SATURDAY 28 October

Mass 9am Katoomba  
Confession after mass  
Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm  
Mass 6.00 pm Mt Victoria

### Mt Victoria 21 October 23

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart  
2 nd Reader: Maria

### Sunday 22.10.2023

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

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Pamela and John

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

### 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.

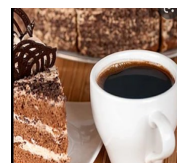


### **Mass and Morning tea**

#### **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!



### **Pope's Prayer Intentions**

Each month, Pope Francis asks us to pray as a global community. October 2023 For the Synod  
We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.  
Adsumus Sancte Spiritus, is a song and prayer composed especially for the Synod. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSGF04wdHwz>

### **WORKING BEE SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2023**

Saturday morning 21st October 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.



**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 inclusions.

### **OPEN GARDEN AT LEURA THANK YOU!**

Thank you to the many generous people who provided delicious foods, cash donations, items for craft store and there viable time. Especially thank you to all who attended the weekend event. It was an astounding success and \$2,275.45 was raised.

### Sunday: 29.10.2023

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2 nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Morning Tea: Christa and David Buckley

### **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.

## **CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL THIS WEEKEND** **21 & 22 OCT 2023**

Every year on World Mission Sunday weekend we hold our Catholic Mission Appeal. Envelopes will be available on the pews to contribute towards the leaving collection for this appeal.

With Timor-Leste's fragile infrastructure, reliance on local health practices, and limited access to medical care, many health conditions only worsen, and sadly can result in death. Next week Catholic mission will offer you the opportunity to partner with the Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sister in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where your gift can help continue life-saving program to help address this reality.

Or visit [catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor) to donate

We hope you will take next week's opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.



### **COMBINED CHURCHES FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS** **St Aidan's Anglican Church, Hat Hill Road** **Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 November**

Once again, as part of Blackheath's Rhododendron Festival, our Flower People Team (Julie Hodgkinson, Cate Mitchell & David Buckley) will be creating a display for the Festival of Flowers at St Aidan's.



This year's theme is  
**'REJOICE'**

All parishioners are most welcome to come along and admire displays from all of all Blackheath's Faith Communities.

To make this a true Parish Display, we would love to receive some flowers from your garden too. Please contact Julie, Cate or David.

## **FUND RAISER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP**

**JUDY SMALL AM** - in concert with The Heathens

**THIS SUNDAY**- 22 October, 2:00pm to 4:00pm - Blackheath Community Hall

Judy, a retired Federal Circuit Court Judge, enjoys singing about real people and important issues, stating: 'If an audience comes away thinking about issues, it is a worthwhile performance'.

**Tickets** - \$35 (\$15 children): ([humanitix.com/judy-small-and-the-heathens](http://humanitix.com/judy-small-and-the-heathens))

### **Happy Birthday Oct**

**21st Maria Slater**

**24th Patricia Dee**



\*\*\*As incredible as it may seem, some people turn down the invitation to the eschatological banquet. This is the case, both in the parable and in our world today. This invitation seems much less interesting than a sports event, the latest movie, or some social affair. So much of our time and energy is spent either climbing the economic ladder or just trying to keep our heads above water. Even if we are interested in the banquet, we do not seem able to afford the time and energy that it might require. And so we send our regrets: I cannot come. What a shame! We seem to have forgotten that everything is tending toward the end; all of our plans, interests and distractions will cease. Only the banquet will remain. All God asks of us is that we receive the blessings that have been prepared for us. We need not work for them. In fact, we cannot work for them on our own. All we can do is enjoy them. Enjoyment of the eschatological time of fulfillment is open to all, but guaranteed to none.

One theme seems to connect all of the readings for this Sunday, our total dependence on God. God spreads the banquet table and invites the guests; God punishes those who are indifferent to or antagonistic toward the eschatological banquet; God supplies whatever we need in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. We do not have to bargain with God, or make reservations. All we have to do is accept what God has to offer.

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## **Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities**

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)

## **Commencing in November**

Daily Advent and Christmas reflections book, The Sign, will be on sale for \$5 at Sacred Heart and St Paul's

Vinnie's Christmas cards will be available for purchase

Items for the Christmas Shoebox gifts for refugee children in the Mountains and Western Sydney will be collected on the weekends of 4/5, 11/12, 18/19

## **ANNIVERSARIES: OCT**

21st Mark and Maria Slater (m 2006)

22nd Jennifer and Wayne Kelly (m 1983)

25th Joseph and Rasa Blansjaar



**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,

**REST IN PEACE September:** 1<sup>st</sup> Ced Ward, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lal Nott Mark, 6<sup>th</sup> George Cora, 8<sup>th</sup> Vera Noble, 11<sup>th</sup> Michael Cooper (d 2016),

16<sup>th</sup> Eileen Smith (d 2007), 18<sup>th</sup> Ron Drummond (d 2003 – Pat's brother), 20<sup>th</sup> Jaroslav Zeeman (d 1999) – Betty's husband, Jerry), 25<sup>th</sup> Leslie Dee (d 2015), 25<sup>th</sup> Edna Bentick (d 2010), 26<sup>th</sup> Patricia Davies (d 2013 - Barbara Grieves sister)

26<sup>th</sup> Barry Roberts(2017), 27<sup>th</sup> Brenda Pateman (d 2013 - wife of Fred for nearly 49 years), 28<sup>th</sup> Andrew Harris



## **29th Sunday In Ordinary Time year A**

### **ENTRANCE**

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

### **First Reading.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whom he has taken by his right hand  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip the loins of kings,  
to force gateways before him  
that their gates be closed no more:  
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,  
of Israel my chosen one,  
that I have called you by your name,  
conferring a title though you do not know me.  
I am the Lord, unrivalled;  
there is no other God besides me.  
Though you do not know me, I arm you  
that people may know from the rising to the setting of the sun  
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

### **RESPONSE**

Give the Lord glory and honour.

### **Second Reading.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5)

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers and sisters, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 22:15-21)

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because someone's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

### **COMMUNION**

Behold, the eyes of the Lord  
are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.