

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](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 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

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

29 October 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

What does it mean to love?

It means that we want the very best for the other.

If we love God, we want what is best for God. That is, we want His will to be done in our lives and in the lives of all people so that His Kingdom is established.

God's Kingdom is a Kingdom where attitudes and motivations rule people's hearts such that everything is in right relation to each other. People with people, people with animals, people with plants, people with the earth. Where there is connectedness based on respect of the inherent dignity of all.

That's why love of neighbour and love of God are related.

To love God with all our hearts, with all our minds and with all our souls is to long from the depths of our beings that God's will be done. We longingly search to discover His will for our lives', and we earnestly try to make it happen.

To love the person standing next to you is likewise to want the very best for them.

Love is not warm fuzzy feelings. It's treating others as we treat ourselves. We don't always like ourselves, sometimes we cringe at the things we do. Many times, we wish we were someone else. But we always look after ourselves. We cloth ourselves, we feed ourselves, we protect ourselves and we try to get others to respect us.

We need to do the same for others.

Both love of God and love of neighbour don't come naturally. We need to pray and contemplate and put in a good deal of effort.

We need to become present to the way we act, talk and think. This is so we can be aware of how we treat others. This is so we can treat others in the way we would like to be treated. If we start to notice how we have talked to someone, how we have acted with someone, what tone of voice we used we can start to see our behaviour from their perspective and if it's not the way we would like to be treated we can change the way we talk and act.

Let's pray that we can be present to ourselves.

Let's pray that we really treat others as we want to be treated.

Let's pray that we can relate to our neighbour, the one who stands near us, either physically or over the phone or on the TV and feel what they feel and internalise this so we can be one with them, pray for them and make them feel loved.

Deacon Alan

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 28 October

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 29 October

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 30 October

No Mass at 9.00am (Funeral mass at 11.00)

TUESDAY 31 October

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 1 November

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

THURSDAY 2 November

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 3 November

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 4 November

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

Please Note:

No mass at 9 am Monday the 30th Oct 23 at Katoomba as Mick Le Breton's funeral Mass will be held that day at 11am.

All welcome

Mt Victoria 28th October 23

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

Sunday 29. 10.2023

1 St Reader: John Tweedie
2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Marilyn and Paul Rowe

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: David Buckley

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.

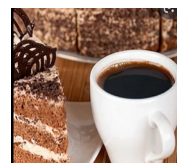


Mass and Morning tea

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!



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=dSGF04wdH2w>



You are invited : Remembrance Day – Saturday, 11th November 2023

The Committee and Members of the Blackheath & Mt. Victoria RSL sub-Branch wish to invite you to either of our 2023 Remembrance Day Services

Mt. Victoria at the Mount Victoria War Memorial Memorial Park

2-14 Station Street. THE SERVICE: commences 10:30 am

Blackheath at the Blackheath War Memorial Arch

Blackheath Gardens

Cnr Hat Hill Road and Great Western Highway

Blackheath NSW 2785. THE SERVICE: commences 10:30 am

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.

Sunday: 5. 11.2023

1 St Reader: Eve Mc Donnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Adrian Carroll

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

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.

November Masses

November is a special time to pray for the dead. A plenary indulgence may be gained for the dead, once, by visiting a church on 2 November and praying the Lord's Prayer and the creed. Three conditions are required for gaining the indulgence: sacramental confession, eucharistic communion, and prayer for the pope's intentions.

All Saints day Mass– Blackheath mass 1st Nov 9.00am.

All Souls Day Mass– Wentworth fall 2nd Nov 9.00am

Donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal

Following a series of surprise attacks against Israel by Hamas in early October, Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence. The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/ or call 1800 024 413

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

"May those who love you prosper.

May peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers!"

For the sake of my brethren and friends

I will say, "Peace be within you!"

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:6-9)

Community Kitchen Garden (CKG) - answering the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor: In scripture there are many references to creation and to caring for the earth. Here are some of them.

Genesis 2:15. Humans are commanded to care for God's creation.

Genesis 9:12-17. The rainbow has been given as a sign of the covenant between God and the earth, between God and all living creatures of every kind.

Deuteronomy 10:14. The earth and everything on it belongs to the Lord.

Psalms 24:1-2. The earth is the Lord's and everything in it.

Daniel 3:56-82. All the works of the Lord, bless the Lord.

Matthew 6:25-34. Look at the birds of the air...

Romans 1:20. Through everything that God made, we come to know him.

All creation is precious, a reflection of our creator. We are all called to act locally to heal the earth. In December in the CKG, we are holding workshops in composting and worm farming, both ways to improve the soil and care for the earth. These will be run by Blue Mountains City Council. Contact Brian (0401 768 688) if you would like to participate in either or both. These are for a group of 10 people.

Thank you all who helped with the CKG Mural painting last weekend. The result is just amazing!

***Our religious tradition is founded on love. Actually, life itself is grounded in love. We may not always feel this love, but if we allow ourselves to reflect on life, we will realise this truth. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love.

Thus, when we are directed to love God and love one another, we are not being asked to do something contrary to our nature. Rather, we are being told to live in accord with that nature. We come from God who is love, and so it is in our very nature to love and to be loved.

We may sometimes think that it is easier to love God than to love others. It may actually be just the opposite. Other people are tangible. We can see and hear them, interact with them. Their influence in our lives can permeate our consciousness. That is not the way it is with God. Like Moses on the mountain, we can only see the traces of divinity as God passes by (see Ex 33:23). However, we show that we love God in the way we love our neighbour.

Love, the foundation of the reign of God, is contagious. When we love others, the reign of God spreads throughout the world. The compassion that we show toward others is a form of evangelisation. It proclaims much louder than any words that the reign of God has been established.

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Collecting items for Christmas in a Shoebox

Supporting refugee children at Christmas time

What goes into the shoe boxes?

Something to love e.g. teddy bear, blanket, soft toy

Something to play with e.g. tennis ball, wind-up toy, skipping rope, finger puppets, puzzles

Something to wear e.g. t-shirt, beanie, cap, thongs, sandals, socks, scarf, football socks

Something for personal hygiene e.g. soap, toothbrush, hairbrush, hand-cream

Something for school e.g. exercise books, sharpener and eraser, pencil case, coloured pencils, book to read

Something special e.g. carry bag, sunglasses, hair accessories, bracelets, stickers, craft kit

No breakables, food, sharp or melty items.

Age groups for the boxes are 0-5, 6-12 and 13-18

Thank you for your support- we will be collecting items on the weekends of the 4/5, 11/12 and 18/19 of November.

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities

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

Happy Birthday Oct

28th Connie Adams



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: 1st Ced Ward, 2nd Lal Nott Mark, 6th George Cora, 8th Vera Noble, 11th Michael Cooper (d 2016),

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

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



30th Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

ENTRANCE

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Exodus (Exodus 22:20-26)
The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the children of Israel this,
“You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you
lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be
harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh
with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I
shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you
with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own
children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor person among you, you must not play the usurer with them: you must not demand interest from them.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to them before sunset. It is all the covering they have; it is the cloak they have wrapped his body in; what else would they have sleep in? If they cry to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”’

RESPONSE

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1:5-10)

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 22:34-40)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

COMMUNION

We will ring out our joy at your saving help
and exult in the name of our God.

The word halloween is made up of hallow (holy/saintly) and



een (short for evening). It is October 31st, the evening before the feast of All Hallows (Saints) Day, a day followed by All Souls Day.

In times past, for these days of Allhallowtide people (often children and the poor) would go from door to door and be given a soul cake in exchange for offering to pray for the departed loved ones of the giver.

A soul cake, also known as a soulmass-cake, is a small round cake (though they more resemble in appearance and texture a shortbread biscuit, with sweet spices).

This practice was common in the United Kingdom and Ireland beginning in medieval times with similar customs in Italy, Portugal and the Philippines, for example.