

# 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 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](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))

## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

8 October 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This is the third Sunday in a row that the readings are about a vineyard. The first set of readings was about the landowner hiring labourers to go work in the vineyard, last Sunday was the parable of the two sons and this Sunday it's about the vine that produces sour grapes.

The readings are getting closer to home. The first Sunday the ones hired were hired workers, last Sunday there were the sons, the heirs. This Sunday it's the vine itself.

The vine is producing, but what it is producing is of no use to anyone and even a burden and an obstacle to the owner because He has to dispose of the crop gone bad.

The Vineyard is the Kingdom of God. The Vine is Christ. The Vine and the branches are the Church. We are the branches on which the grapes grow. Why are we producing sour grapes?

Because we are not allowing the sap of the Holy Spirit which comes to us from Christ to flow into us.

Satan has nothing of his own. He only twists, distorts and putrefies the goodness and beauty produced by God. This is what the grapes represent. Grapes which should be luscious and sweet and full of flavour become a horrid sour berry which nobody can gain from.

We all have individuality because we are a unique creation, created by God for a unique purpose. A purpose that fits in with God's plan for creation. A purpose that will see us and the world thrive. Allowing God to lead us to our purpose gives us the ability to produce the grapes that brings joy to people's hearts.

But the world around us, takes individuality and puts a new spin on it. It speaks of self determination and an individual's rights and self-empowerment but bases it not on objective truths but subjective truths. Subjective truths, truths determined by the subject, that is the person. This means each and every person determines what is true for themselves, this means there is no truth? Objective truths, the truths that are unchangeable because they come from God who created everything. These are not rules. These are truths that need to be applied to complex life situations with compassion and empathy.

We need to educate ourselves of these truths. Please go on the internet and look up and read the Papal Encyclicals. Then discuss them with others. Please don't take everything you see or hear from the media as the truth. Look at the other side. Look at both sides of the story. Become self-governing individual Christians making decisions based on real truth.

We need to pray for God's guidance, that His will be done, but really pray with a longing. We need to develop a relationship with God. A relationship in which we draw close to God so we can radiate His beauty and goodness into this world through our lives. This relies on rational judgement to respond to life's situations. But rational judgement enlightened by grace.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



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

**SATURDAY 7 October**

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

**SUNDAY 8 October**

9.30 am Blackheath

**MONDAY 9 October**

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

**TUESDAY 10 October**

Mass 9.00am Leura  
Confession after mass

**WEDNESDAY 11 October**

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

**THURSDAY 12 October**

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

**FRIDAY 13 October**

Mass 12pm Katoomba

**SATURDAY 14 October**

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

**Mt Victoria 7th October 23**

**1 St Reader:** Peter McAuley  
**2 nd Reader:** Carla Edan

**Sunday 8. 10.2023**

**1 St Reader:** Christa Buckley  
**2nd Reader:** David Buckley

**Welcome/Intercession:** Adrian Carroll

**Server:** Ray Wood

**Church Care:** Marilyn and Paul Rowe

**Counters:** Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

**Flowers:** David Buckley

**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!



**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=dSGF04wdHzw>

**Church Objects**

I would ask people not to move objects in the church. Recently music stands and other objects have been moved after mass and placed in the storeroom and have been difficult to find. Please see me if you wish to move anything.

Thank you . Fr Peter Lamont

**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 3 EASTER STREET LEURA**

When: 14—15 October

Time: 10.00am—4.00pm

Entry Fee: 5.00

Morning/afternoon Tea: 5.00

There will be art and Craft Stall on the day.

If any one would like to contribute Cakes, Slices, Scones etc please contact Barbara on 0417 490 103.

**Sunday: 15. 10.2023**

**1 St Reader:** Pamela Nash

**2 nd Reader:** John Tweedie

**Welcome/Intercession:** Paul Harris

**Server:** Diane Stewart

**Morning Tea:** Monica and Brian

**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.

## ART, FASHION, CAKE & PLANT STALLS

Thank you to all our wonderful parishioners for contributing once again to our Fundraiser.

We had our Art & Fashion and combined them with our Cake & Plant stall last Sunday.

Our wonderful team of workers amaze us each time we hold any of these events with their willingness to help set up, sell & clean up. And don't forget this time to bake cakes, sell them and buy them back.

Many thanks to your all, you know who you are. With a lot of our parishioners moving away it's getting harder to get the help we need to man these events.

If you would like to join the Social Club please contact Marilyn on 0414536601

### Results of our Raffle.

1st A9 Fr Peter. Winner of Eddie Spessott's painting of the Cox's River

2nd A81 Pat Wicks Beautiful leather bag from Blue Illusions

**Combined monies raised was \$1992.20**

**Paramatta Diocesan Synod:** "Behold, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 49:13) is the theme Bishop Vincent has chosen for the Diocesan Synod to be held over next weekend which will form the next Diocesan Pastoral Plan. Eve McDonnell (Blackheath) and Clive Kanes (Mt Vic) are our parish representatives.

The plan is that the Synod proper (13-15 Oct) will explore each of six themes in succession - each leading up to an actual vote and resolution. It was announced that the themes, which have been drawn from analysis of the 1,100 written submissions to date, will include:

To be and inclusive and welcoming Church  
To be a humble and healing Church  
To be a listening Church  
To be a Church renewed in spirit and prayer  
To be a Church that reaches to the margins  
To be a Church walking together

The planned daily schedule is very tight and very full. Time will be allocated for sharing and listening to the views of others, and praying and studying for guidance.

Please take home the prayer card and pray for the members as they walk together in a spirit of active listening and discernment. We thank Eve and Clive for their involvement, and assure them of our prayers and best wishes.

### Happy Birthday Oct

8th Pat Wicks



\*\*\*The metaphor of the vineyard, cherished by both ancient Israel and the early Christians, suggests that while vines might be hardy, they are also vulnerable. So is the reign of God. It must be tended and protected from what might endanger it, so that it may produce abundant and delectable fruit. In the gospel account, the vine does indeed produce an abundant crop. In fact, it is the very productivity of the vineyard that sets the stage for the treachery described. We can see ourselves in both uses of the vineyard metaphor. There are times when, regardless of what God seems to be doing for us, we simply rebel against God's plans. We stand in defiance. There are other times when we, who are disciples of Jesus, act as if the kingdom is ours. We might even marginalise or force out others with whom we do not agree, so that we have sole control.



When we consider the justice of God, it is important that we place it within the right context, lest we create a picture of God that is false and misleading. It is because of God's tender love for the vineyard that treachery cannot be tolerated. If we have produced unacceptable fruits, it is for our own good that God steps in and dismantles the structures that enabled us to produce bad fruit. It is appropriate that God would snatch the vineyard from our grasp and entrust it to one who will faithfully carry out God's plans.

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### CARE FOR CREATION

**Yarning and listening to First Nations and Celtic Voices**

**Tuesday 24 October, 6:00 to 8:00pm**

**At Junction 142, 142 Katoomba Street Katoomba**

**Free event but bookings essential:**

[HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/CARE-FOR-CREATION-GEDUMBA-KATOOMBA](https://events.humanitix.com/care-for-creation-gedumba-katoomba)

**Further Information – Church Notice Board or above web link**

**YOUR INVITED** to join Blackheath Uniting Church in celebrating its Centenary on 15th October 2023 at 43-45 Govett's Leap Road, Blackheath.

10.30am. Divine Service,

12 noon. Lunch,

2pm. Musical Afternoon.

RSVP to: Margaret on 0414788796; Fay on 0402468780; or Janet on 47877904. Donations towards expenses gratefully received.

### ANNIVERSARIES: OCT

9th Fr Bob Sheridan's ordination 2004



**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:** 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



## 27th Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

### ENTRANCE

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,  
and there is none that can resist your will.  
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,  
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;  
you are the Lord of all.

### First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 5:1-7)

Let me sing to my friend  
the song of his love for his vineyard.  
My friend had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.  
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,  
and planted choice vines in it.  
In the middle he built a tower,  
he dug a press there too.  
He expected it to yield grapes,  
but sour grapes were all that it gave.  
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
I ask you to judge  
between my vineyard and me.  
What could I have done for my vineyard  
that I have not done?  
I expected it to yield grapes.  
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?  
Very well, I will tell you  
what I am going to do to my vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,  
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.  
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;  
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.  
I will command the clouds  
to rain no rain on it.  
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts  
is the House of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
that chosen plant.  
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,  
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

### RESPONSE

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

## Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 4:6-9)

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 21:33-43)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

### COMMUNION

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,  
to the soul that seeks him.