

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

12 November 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Wisdom is the ability to comprehend the will of God. This comprehension is more so a feeling than an intellectual knowledge and it happens through our conscience, the very depths of ourselves.

It is acting in accordance with the will of God that unites us to Christ which is our salvation.

If we go back to 1 Kings where Solomon asks God for Wisdom, we see that what he is asking for is an "understanding mind", or better translated to a "listening heart". Heart refers to the depths of a person's being. So, he's asking God for the ability to listen to God from the depths of his being. To long for and desire to hear the voice of God. This depth of our being is our conscience, and it is here that God talks to us, it is here that God is closer to us than we are to ourselves, but conscience needs to be developed. We are working on a relationship. Relationships take time, effort, and genuine commitment. This relationship develops through reading, praying, and contemplating.

Praying the Rosary, spending time with our Lord before the Sacrament, receiving the sacraments, and reading and discussing Scripture, Encyclicals and other works produced by the Church for our guidance. This is us ensuring we have enough oil to keep the light burning so we can welcome the Groom when He comes. The light of Christ received in Baptism.

This is us developing our conscience so that God's will becomes our will, not because we have become subservient but because we have become empowered by having realised our true identity as sons and daughters of God created in His image and likeness. Being able to respond to whatever situations we are faced with, with sound judgement based on truths and guided by the voice of God.

Christ is the Groom and He is wed to the Church. We are the members of the Church and just as in marriage when the bride and groom are no longer two but one so too, we are meant to merge with Christ into one.

Christ is the embodiment of Wisdom for He does the will of the Father.

We are to seek this Wisdom, this "listening heart". The ability to hear the voice of God in our depths so we do the Father's will, like Christ.

Wisdom is not something we own or possess. Wisdom is not something of our own but something we can engage with, Wisdom is something we have a relationship with and a relationship too. It comes to us through our relationship with God.

Please pray the Hail Holy Queen at least once a day for peace in the world and relief from suffering for those affected by war.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 11 November

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 12 November

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 13 November

Mass at 9.00am

TUESDAY 14 November

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 15 November

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

THURSDAY 16 November

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 17 November

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 18 November

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

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.

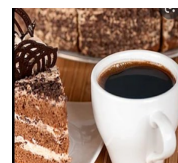


Mass and Morning tea

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!



Sacred Heart 100 Raffle

Please support this latest fundraiser by your Social Club.

There is only 100 tickets sold and as soon as we have sold all tickets we will draw the raffle.

You will have received an email with an attachment with the prizes etc. and how you can enter, but if you have not

and would like to join in the fun just email me at marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au and I will forward

the competition to you.

Our wonderful parishioners have once again come out on top to provide us with a fundraiser.

Marilyn Rowe on behalf of the Social Club.

November 2023-For the Pope

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Mt Victoria 11th Nov 23

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton
2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

Sunday 12.11.2023

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

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Diane Stewart

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

Prayer's 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 inclusions.

Sunday: 19.11.2023

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2 nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Pamela and Jennifer

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.

St Columba's Catholic College – Enrolling now for 2024

St Columba's Catholic College, Springwood, is accepting enrolments for students commencing Year 7 in 2024.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, or if you would like to find out more about the opportunities available at the College, please visit the website www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.au or contact the Enrolments Secretary on telephone 4754 8900.

REMEMBER VINNIES:

Every Wednesday the Blackheath Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society is open for business in the Parish Office from 09:30 to 12:00. In this quiet private environment where confidentiality is key, all of the Vinnies services are available. We can also refer people to other agencies for assistance e.g. Wentworth Housing, Link2home, Thrive, Catholic Care, Anglicare etc.

We are always looking for new people from the parish to join our small conference. If you would like to discuss what being a Vincentian entails contact our president John Tweedie, on 0407 288 957 or Karen Hayward, vice-president on 0419 123 744.

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 - Free Composting/Worm Farming Workshops: Come and learn how to

Improve or start to use these ways of recycling food scraps instead of sending them to landfill for free.

Starting in the hall and finishing in the garden, Saturday 2nd December.

10am - 11am Composting

11.15am - 12.15pm Worm Farming

Book in with Brian: 0401 768 688

The latest newsletter from our diocesan Peace, Justice and Ecology team

For information about various events and updates including a Table Talk with refugees, a vision for housing for everyone,

NATSICC's statement on the recent referendum, the top five take away points from Laudate Deum and the Caritas appeal for Gaza.

The link to the November newsletter is <https://mailchi.mp/a440c2685fe9/special-edition-of-peace-justice-ecology-news-6678011?e=8bd0e808be>

***The early Christians thought that all their questions about death had been answered with the resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, when loyal Christians began to die, not only did their old questions come back, but also they were plagued with new and difficult ones. Was it possible that those loyal Christians had not been loyal after all? Or worse, were the promises made by Jesus empty promises? No! Paul assures us. It is all true. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again, and all the faithful will be joined with him. How it will happen, we do not know. When it will happen, we do not know. That it will happen, we are sure.



The wisdom that we have culled from life becomes the treasury from which we draw the prudence and insight needed to negotiate life's paradoxes. It throws light on our strengths and on our weaknesses; it enables us to discern what is important and what is not; it directs us to bring extra oil in our lamps. Life and the wisdom that we have acquired through it, have taught us that we can indeed trust the promises of God. They have been fulfilled in the past, and wisdom assures us that they will be fulfilled in the future. It is wisdom that cautions us to be vigilant, to be ready to adjust our plans. It is wisdom that prepares us for the night watches of life. It is wisdom that instructs us to be ready at all times.

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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, blankey, 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.

ANNIVERSARIES: Nov

13th Margaret and Bob Davis (m 1965)



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

REST IN PEACE November: 7th Lewis Hodgkinson (d 2004), 9th Melanie Hinklemann, 14th Fr Jim Dooley (d 2007)

21st Craig Charles Huckstepp (d 2014 – Francesca Huckstepp's husband), 25th Jason Bentley, 27th Iris Jones



32nd Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

ENTRANCE

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Wisdom (Wisdom 6:12-16)
Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

RESPONSE

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
We want you to be quite certain, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 25:1-13)
Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

COMMUNION

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.