

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)

33 Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

19 November 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This Sunday's readings tell us two things, firstly we must be productive, secondly, we need to be productive now because we do not know when the Lord will call us.

This is not a scare tactic on the part of our Lord.

When I was in high school our Christian Doctrine lessons were all about sin and the need to die in a state of grace so that we don't go to hell. It was all about avoiding sin and if you did sin you needed to go to confession as soon as possible. There is truth in this, we need to avoid sin, we need the sacrament of reconciliation, but our lives need to be directed outwards otherwise we are like the poor servant who was afraid of the Master. It becomes all about making sure we don't upset God, so we save our own skins. Remember what Christ said: "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." Mat: 16:25.

The talents we get are graces. We need to use those graces to build the Kingdom of God in this world. God has created this world, and He created it to be lived in, and it will be lived in (Isaiah 45:18). It's not about escaping this world and going to heaven, its about recreating this world so heaven and earth are united.

With grace, the more we give away, the more come to us. We need to invest our graces into the lives of others so that our investments mature and come back to us with more to give. No so much from the others but from God who is the source of all graces and decides how and through whom or what graces are to come to us. This is the productivity that is called for. Unused graces don't remain dormant. They fade away and we lose even what we had.

Therefore, we must pray for guidance to see how we are to invest ourselves into the life of the world. Human efforts will never be truly successful unless guided and empowered by the Spirit. We need to develop our spirituality so we can go out and be the food that gives life to the world. So, we can take Christ, that we receive in Communion, out into the lives of others.

Please pray at least once a day for peace in the world (peace: not an absence of violence but the genuine respect and care for the dignity of each and every individual) 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

Pope's Prayer Intentions
Each month, we are asked to pray as a global community.

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 19.11.2023

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

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

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.

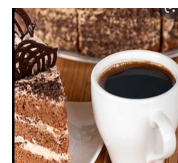


Mass and Morning tea

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!



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.

WORKING BEE SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023

Saturday morning 25 November 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.



100 RAFFLE

Please buy a ticket in our fundraiser raffle so we can draw it as soon as possible. Funds raised will go to the upkeep of our parish.

Many thanks for your generosity

Sunday: 26.11.2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

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.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal for Catholic Care chaplaincy services Next weekend 25 and 26th Oct 2023

Will you support our chaplains to listen with the ear of the heart? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our 15 Catholic Care chaplains to provide pastoral, spiritual, and sacramental support to seriously ill, lonely, and distraught people this Christmas.

Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. There are giving envelopes on the pews for next weekend 25/26 November which you can drop into either the first or second collection - or you can donate at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you..



Community Kitchen Garden -

Free Composting/Worm Farming Workshops in our garden presented by Blue Mountains City Council

These free workshops will show you how you can improve your skills or start to use these ways of recycling food scraps instead of sending them to landfill.

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

Thank you from all of us!

To Cate Mitchell, David Buckley and Julie Hodgkinson for your splendid floral arrangements beautifully displayed in the recent Combined Churches Flower Festival and to everyone who contributed blossoms for use by our Flower Ministry.

To Karen Hayward and Graham Beale for representing our parish on Remembrance Day, Karen at the Mt Victoria Service and Graham at the Blackheath Service. David and Christa Buckley prepared two beautiful wreaths and cards for our representatives to place at the War Memorials.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Claire Maguire who, after over 20 years of service as our SRE Co-ordinator teacher has received a Papal Apostolic Blessing and Certificate of Service



Happy Birthday Nov

19th Brian Bright

21st Fr Peter Lamont



***It is not enough that we wait patiently. We are expected to be industrious as we await the advent of the reign of God. We have all been entrusted with talents that really belong to God, and we must use these talents to the best of our ability in the interim between the Lord's departure and his final return. The ideal wisdom figure in the first reading is a model of such industriousness.



Fidelity to the reign of God requires that we be willing to take risks. We do not know the time of the Lord's coming, and so there will have to be a kind of tentativeness to all of our plans. We will never be able to be certain that they will be brought to fruition. We must spend and be spent without the assurance that we will be able to reap the rewards of our investment. To refuse to risk is to refuse to trust.

If we have been wise and have industriously employed the Lord's talents, which were entrusted to us, we will be richly rewarded. However, if we have not realised the potential that is possessed by our talents, and if we have not employed them as they were meant to be employed, we will be punished. The foolish man in the gospel knew that the householder was exacting. He had some idea of what to expect. He made his choice and he had to accept the consequences of that choice.

© Dianne Bergant CSA

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

19th Colette and Sean Lillis (m 1994)

21st Tony and Maree Crawford (m 1981)



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Alice Lonergan, 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



33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

ENTRANCE

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Proverbs (Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31)

A perfect wife – who can find her?
She is far beyond the price of pearls.
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,
from her he will derive no little profit.
Advantage and not hurt she brings him
all the days of her life.
She is always busy with wool and with flax,
she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff,
her fingers grasp the spindle.
She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

RESPONSE

Happy are those who fear the Lord

Second Reading.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6)

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers and sisters, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers and sisters, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 25:14-30)

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The one who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The one who had received two made two more in the same way. But the one who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." The master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the one with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." The master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the one who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But the master answered this servant, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from this one and give it to the one who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and they will have more than enough; but from the one who has not, even what they have will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw this servant out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."'

COMMUNION

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.