

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

King of the Universe Year A.

26 November 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This Sunday is the feast of Christ the King.

Christ the King is the Sheppard who looks after His sheep but we as Christ's body share in that responsibility.

To neglect this responsibility is to estrange ourselves from Christ.

This is why Pope Francis is urging the Church to be a Field Hospital for the world. A place where those injured by life can turn for help. A place where they will be brought in, sheltered, cared for, and treated.

This is what Christ identifies as criteria for entry into His Kingdom.

We need to see those who are hungry and thirsty for food and drink, drink like clean water, but also hungry and thirsty for medical care, education, decent housing, job opportunities and reasonable working conditions. Those who are strangers, the person who is estranged from others at work, school or socially because they don't fit with the "in crowd". The person who is estranged because the other is not listening, because the other is too busy with what they want to say, what they want to do and so a wall is created estranging the person. A wall which can turn into a prison too, for how often do we put people in prisons, lock them out of our lives because we don't want to associate with them, people who are in some way different from us, have different views or are classified by us as belonging to group that we don't like. This is how people are stripped naked, stripped of their God given and rightful dignity. It also must be mentioned, how people are stripped of dignity, imprisoned in unhealthy self-centred attitudes, both parents and children left hungry for stability and love because of broken marriages through casual sexual relations so promoted by media and society in general.

So, visiting the sick is not just about going to see those physically sick but seeing those who have been psychologically injured, maimed, and disfigured by a heartless, self-centred world. It means educating ourselves of the implications of attitudes put forward by a world darkened by the absence of God so we can guide people away from the traps.

In the Kingdom of Christ, the citizens look outwards.

They look out to spot where someone is in some form of need so they can respond. They look out so they can see where someone is heading into danger and try to remove the hazard or guide the person onto another path. The citizens do not judge, they do not exclude, they do not refuse entry into the field hospital. They go out into the battle of life and bring the injured in regardless of which side the injured come from.

The citizens will be comforted because they mourn for those who suffer, they will be happy because they hunger and thirst for justice, this compassion and longing and the actions driven by these emotions are the admission to the Kingdom.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 25 November

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 26 November

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 27 November

No Mass at 9.00am at Katoomba (Funeral of James Le Breton 11.00am)

TUESDAY 28 November

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 29 November

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

THURSDAY 30 November

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 1 December

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 2 December

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

Mt Victoria 25.11.2023

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart

2 nd Reader: Maria

Sunday 26.11.2023

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

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 on Wednesday

9am Mass is held weekly on Wednesday mornings and followed by morning tea from 9:30 until 12 noon in the parish hall.

Join us for a cuppa and lively conversation on these warmer sun-shiny mornings. Fresh produce from the kitchen garden is available for a donation on Wednesday morning on the hall veranda



SACRED HEART ONLINE RAFFLE

Will be drawn on **Sunday 26th** after Mass. Good luck and thank you to all those who purchased tickets.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE 2023

It's that time of the year again to start preparations for our Christmas Hamper Raffle. As in the past we are asking parishioners to contribute to this **FUNDRAISING EVENT**. There will be a basket left inside the church for your contributions. Also on the noticeboard at the front of church there is a list of goodies required to make this Hamper bigger and better than last year. Please put your name against any of the items you would like to donate.



We are then asking that you then get a book of raffle tickets from Marilyn or Diane and **Sell! Sell! Sell!**.

The Christmas Hamper will be drawn on Christmas Eve morning 24th after 9.30am Mass.

Thank you in anticipation for your help with our end of year Fundraiser.
Social committee

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.



Sunday: 3. 12.2023

1 St Reader: Christa Buckley

2 nd Reader: David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

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 This 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..



VIRTUAL ADVENT SERIES 2023: A series of virtual Advent talks by four Australian biblical scholars from Yarra Theological Union. Each week this group of accomplished guides will work together to explore the readings for the week. This is a perfect opportunity to enrich your Advent journey.

EVENT DETAILS

WHEN: Tuesdays – 28 November and 5, 12, 19 December 2023

TIME: 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT

WHERE: Via Zoom meeting

COST: Free

REGISTRATION: google “Virtual Advent Series 2023”

Climate Summit COP28

COP28, the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations, will take place in the first two weeks of December in Dubai.

Pope Francis will be attending the Summit, arriving on December 1 and implores world leaders to view this conference as a pivotal turning point

for the liveable future for all on our common home.

Sign Pope Francis' COP28 Petition https://laudatosimovement.org/cop28/?utm_source=COP&utm_medium=blogs-web&utm_campaign=EN

This petition will be presented to the COP Presidency on December 5.

This year's Laudato Si Advent Calendar is available on <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uRpVJyi1DcWkkfVc5kYDWg7MOtHmSn5s/view>

and includes weekly readings, reflections and actions supporting the COP28 petition.

Garden books: If you have garden books you no longer use or need our little kitchen garden library in the hall would love to receive them! Books can be dropped in on Wednesday mornings and after Mass on Sunday. Thank you!

***We have now come to the end of the liturgical year, the point that marks the transition from one period to another. Today we see that the kingdom of God is inclusive. Its embrace is as comprehensive as is the embrace of God. Criteria for membership are not based on obedience to the commandments or on conformity to ritual obligation, but on the bonds of love and concern.



What we do for others, we do for Christ, because Christ is identified with those in need. We very seldom see the face of the glorified Christ in the faces of the needy; it is more often the face of the disfigured Christ that is turned to us. We see his fear and his shame, his brokenness and sense of loss. As difficult as it may be to look into such eyes, it is precisely the needy with whom Christ is identified.

Having entered into the frailty of human nature, identified himself with the needy, and handed himself over to death, in the end Christ will have conquered all. It is a curious kingdom that he has won, a kingdom of the weak rather than the strong. He has turned the standards of the world upside down. He has shown that it does not take strength to ignore or to exploit the needy, but it does take strength to overcome our own selfishness in order to serve them. The kingdom that Christ hands over to God is a kingdom of love and care. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Youth Shoebox Christmas Project

A heartfelt thank you for your kindness and caring donations to the “Christmas gifts in a shoebox” collection this year.

The gifts have been delivered to Springwood and will be packed by volunteers in time for delivery to refugee children living in the Blue Mountains and Western Sydney in December.

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..

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

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



King of the Universe 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 prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17)

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

RESPONSE

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 25:31-46)

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate them one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, “Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.” Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?” And the King will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” Next he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.’

COMMUNION

The Lord sits as King for ever.

The Lord will bless his people with peace.