

# 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 MASSES**

**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)

## **1st Sunday of Advent Year B**

**3 December 2023**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the Gospel this Sunday Christ tells us to stay awake because we have been left in charge and each one of us has work that needs to be done. The work that is assigned to us is for us and for us alone. We are all individuals with an individual relationship with God.

This work is essential for our union with Christ, and we will be answerable at the end of our lives, and at return of Christ the King when the new heaven and new earth come into being. Answerable in that we will give Christ the answer of whether we want to be in union with Him or not. His invitation is always open. It is our hearts that can closed.

Our closed hearts are something we must consider as we start to prepare for Christmas. Let's consider our heart as a hotel. Is it full of guests? Guests like our social status, our career, our financial security, our comfort, our physical well being or our identity? All these are normal and good in themselves as long as they are kept in perspective, as long as there is only one Ruler in our life and these things work to keep Him firmly in charge of our attitudes, thoughts words and actions.

This is what the first reading is telling us with the words: "No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind". Our faith is our trust in God, in our seeking His will, not ours, being done in our lives. God's will gives us integrity. When we put our will first, when we let the media, Government or social networks or attitudes guide us we are clothing ourselves in filthy clothing described by the first reading that will prevent us from being at the wedding feast of heaven. This is us being asleep. Being awake is actively looking to do God's will.

So, like the disciples on the way to Emmaus who recognised Jesus in the breaking of bread and "got up" and went back to Jerusalem, let us get up and go back to being more truly to being the Church, the Body of Christ. In recognising Jesus, in remember His love and how He broke down the barriers of separation to call people into His Kingdom, let us become the bread of life for the world and take Christ out into the world through our own individual lives and sacrifice ourselves (ie make ourselves holy) by letting people chew, draw life, from us through our generosity, understanding, compassion and genuine concern for the good of the other. Let us do all we can to break down barriers. In ever person we encounter Christ lies hidden, exclude them, estrange them, and you estrange Christ.

Deacon Alan.

**Please mute your mobile at Mass.**

**Thank-you for your courtesy.**



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

### SATURDAY 2 December

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

### SUNDAY 3 December

9.30 am Blackheath

### MONDAY 4 December

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 5 December

Mass 9.00am Leura

Confession after mass

### WEDNESDAY 6 December

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

### THURSDAY 7 December

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 8 December

Mass 12pm Katoomba

### SATURDAY 9 December

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

Mass 6.00 pm Mt Victoria

**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!

### Mt Victoria 2th Dec 2023

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

### Sunday 3.12.23

1 St Reader: Christa Buckley

2nd Reader: David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian

### 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

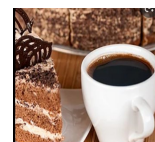


### **Mass and Morning tea**

#### **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!



### **CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE 16 Dec 2023.**

Saturday morning 16 December 2023 commencing from 8am. Please come along and help us to tidy up our grounds for Christmas. There'll be mowing, sweeping, weeding, pruning (and anything else needed to make the church grounds look great for our parishioners and Christmas visitors). Please bring a sun-hat, sturdy shoes or boots, garden gloves and sunblock (also eye and ear protection if using mower or similar equipment). Please call Lance on 4787 8096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information and to advise if you will be coming.



### **Online raffle results: Congratulation to the winners**

1st Paul Harris (Quilt)

2nd Sally Tracy ( Knitted Crib set)

3rd Christine Helby ( Christmas Cake)

Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets the amount of \$1150 was raised for this fundraiser.

### **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



### Sunday: 10. 12.2023

1 St Reader: Pamela Nash

2 nd Reader: John Tweedie

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Ray Wood

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](mailto:c_kanes@yahoo.com.au)) or Mary Ryan. We would be glad to facilitate inclusions.

## VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023 Weekend of 9/10 December



This Christmas, more families than ever are experiencing poverty. After struggling with the escalating cost of living crisis, they barely have anything left to hold onto.

The past 4 years have been difficult for everyone due to the unprecedented extreme events like bushfires, floods and the Covid 19 pandemic. Combined with the economic fallout of the highest interest rates in 20 years, energy price hikes and a 30 year high inflation rate, it is not surprising that many in our community are feeling the economic pinch. But for people already struggling to make ends meet, the cost of living crisis has a deepening impact. Higher food prices lead to families skipping meals. Higher energy prices mean people cannot afford to warm their homes in winter or cool them in summer. Higher rental prices are forcing people into homelessness.

Vinnies needs your help to assist those with the greatest needs in our community.

The weekend of Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 December is when Blackheath Vinnies is having its 2023 parish Christmas Appeal. Envelopes will be available at Mt. Vic's 6:00pm Mass on Sat. 9/12 and at Sacred Heart at the 09:30am Mass on Sunday 10/12. We will also be "shaking the can" on Govetts Leap Rd on 2 December and at the Growers market on 10 December.

**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 – December 5, 12, 19 2023

**TIME:** 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT

**WHERE:** Via Zoom meeting

**COST:** Free

**REGISTRATION:** google "Virtual Advent Series 2023"

**Future Church, Our Church:** The recent Church Synods in Rome and Paramatta are about our future as Church, the people of God. You are invited to an informal discussion on these Synods in the view of breaking open what they mean for us in our own parishes. The first discussion will dip into the Synthesis Report of the Synod on Synodality, further discussions will take place in the coming months. The discussion is an initiative of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council (Blackheath, Megalong Valley, Mt Victoria) and is an open invitation to all Mountain's Parishes (and beyond!). **Please register** your interest by contacting Clive at the email address below.

**Date:** Saturday December 23 + Saturday Jan 27 (tbc)

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:30pm

**Venue:** Parish Hall 165 Wentworth St, Blackheath

**Contact:** Clive at [c\\_kanes@yahoo.com.au](mailto:c_kanes@yahoo.com.au)

\*\*\*Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.



Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.

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### Epiphany Pilgrimage 2024 Prayer Requests

Our parish community will be hosting the Epiphany Pilgrimage group again in 2024 as they journey up the mountains from 2 - 9 January. In preparation for the pilgrimage, you are invited to write any prayer requests on the cards provided and place them in the Epiphany Pilgrimage prayer box to be prayed each day by the pilgrims. To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage - including walks, Mass, Adoration / prayer sessions and meals - visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org), or to assist with hospitality when the group visits our parish, please contact the parish office.

Blue Mountain Education and Research Trust

cordially invite you to our Book Launch

of Eugene Stockton:  
'Blue Mountains Hermit'

on Sunday 3rd December, 2023

at 2pm

Mid Mountains Community Centre

9 New Street, Lawson NSW

Refreshments and drinks will be available

(No EFTPOS / cheque or cash only)  
Orders/invoices can be collected on the day.

[www.bmet.com.au](http://www.bmet.com.au)

### Happy Birthday Dec

9th Julie Hodgkinson



**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 December:** 13th Rosalie Sandor, 13th Marjorie Cullen (d 2014 aged 92 – Julie Hodgkinson's mother)

29th Jorgan Kallane (2016)





## **1st Sunday of Advent Year B**

### **ENTRANCE**

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

### **First Reading.**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8)

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down  
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like people unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused themselves to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

**RESPONSE** Lord, make us turn to you, let us see  
your face and we shall be saved.

### **Second Reading.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
(1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you  
grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 13:33-37)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

### **COMMUNION**

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.