

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

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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 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

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

5 November 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Gospel this Sunday deals with status and image.

We all want, and in fact need to be acknowledged and respected. This is normal and it is important.

We need this from our parents, our friends and the people we work with. But we need to work at understanding that respect and recognition must be based on actions and attitudes of genuine merit and value. It is in fact when we actively strive to respect and acknowledge others that we gain the right to respect and acknowledgement.

This is because, what drives us identifies us. The Pharisees were driven by their own self interests. We must be driven by the love of God and love of neighbour, this identifies us as Christians. Wanting ourselves to do the will of God and wanting the best for our neighbour. This turns us outwards.

Remember the old expression: "walk a mile in the other man's shoes"

Let's think about how we acted or talked with another. Let's think about how we think of another. Let's then turn this on ourselves and see how we would feel being treated or talked to, or thought of in that way.

That's a part of being present. Being aware of ourselves and what drives us. What emotions, attitudes and motivations are in us and seeing how we think of others, how we relate to them, how we treat them, if we respect them.

It's like all practices. Let's try doing it once a day during or after a conversation or some other interaction and see what's going on. Eventually let's do it more often.

If there is something that doesn't sit right, that we are a bit uncomfortable with, let's look at it and try not to go down the same path next time.

And for the ability to do these things we need help. To be inwardly focussed is natural to be outwardly focussed needs divine intervention. So, let's pray and contemplate, and when we pray let's talk to Christ and tell Him we need help to see what is in us, what drives us, that we need help to be honest with ourselves and we need help to change. Don't worry He is a gentle guide, and He will take us on a journey that is as easy as possible.

This will transform us. It will transform the way we think, the way we talk, the way we work, and it will bring life to us and to everyone we deal with.

It's this outward focus that is the servanthood Christ speaks of. Servanthood is not about status, it's not about being subservient, it's about actively trying to ensure the best for others. This active drive for the good of the other is the Glory of God. It's in this that we reflect the beauty of God into the world.

What greater honour or glory can a human hope to obtain than to actually manifest in some way the beauty of God. To be adorned by the beauty of God.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 4 November

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 5 November

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 6 November

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 7 November

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 8 November

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

THURSDAY 9 November

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 10 November

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 11 November

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

Mt Victoria 4th Nov 23

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

Sunday 5. 11.2023

1 St Reader: Eve Mc Donnell

2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Laurie Noyes

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

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!

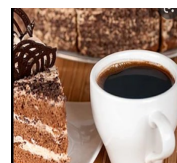


Table Talk with People Seeking Asylum: 8 November

St Patrick Cathedral Parish, Parramatta, Jesuit Refugees Service and the Diocese of Parramatta are organising a Table Talk event with people seeking asylum on Wednesday 8 November from 7pm to 9pm at the Cathedral Hall. We will hear from people with lived experience, reflect on our own values and see how we can be part of a positive change. To register, visit <https://events.humanitix.com/talk-talk-with-people-seeking-asylum>

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

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.

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.

Sunday: 12. 11.2023

1 St Reader: David Buckley

2 nd Reader: Christa Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Ray Wood

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

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)

Parramatta Street Feast: 11 November

You are invited to the Parramatta Street Feast, Saturday 11 November 2023. Come and share a meal, company and entertainment with members of our community who are on the margins of society. This free event will be held in a spirit of solidarity and friendship at the Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, 10:30AM to 1:30PM. The Street Feast is a collaboration between the Diocese of Parramatta, PAYCE Foundation, Paynter Dixon and St. Merkorious Charity.

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>

***Since Vatican II the responsibilities of leadership have been spread throughout the community. This has not happened simply because there are fewer priests and religious. It has occurred primarily because the Council itself insisted that by virtue of their baptism all Christians are called to discipleship, which includes active participation in the mission of the church. While those who are ordained continue in specialised forms of leadership, other people have stepped forward to assume their newly recognised responsibilities. Sometimes they have more influence in the church than do the ordained.

We derive the connection between pharisaical and hypocritical from Jesus' description of the Pharisees found in today's reading. His condemnation, along with the condemnation of the priests in the first reading, should be a warning to all who in any way exercise leadership. We must always be on our guard lest the trappings of leadership ensnare us and we fail in our responsibilities toward God and the community we serve.

There is a mode of leadership that reflects the very meaning of authority. This way of leadership authors life. It is characterised by the striking image of a nursing mother who both gives and sustains life. Those who exercise leadership in this way create a community where life is fostered, not stifled, where talents serve all of the members, and the talents of all of the members are invited to serve. Such a community not only nurtures its members, it is itself the author of life in the world.

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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.

Happy Birthday Nov

2nd Tony Perriam

3rd John Paul Lillis

10th David Caplice



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Edith Burton, Anne Farindon, Duncan Hayward, John Barclay, Leashy Dowling, Noeleen Cliff, Sue Gracey, Elizabeth Curran, 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



31st Sunday In Ordinary Time year A

ENTRANCE

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Malachi (Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10)

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration. Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

RESPONSE

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13)

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 23:1-12)

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers and sisters. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

COMMUNION

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.