

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](#)

[Community Blackheath](#)

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 February 2024 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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

21 January 2024

GARAGE SALE 2024 ~ If you are doing a Spring Clean, please
remember our Garage Sale on February 3 and 4, and donate your
unwanted items (in good condition please) to our sale. The items
can be delivered to the parish hall from Tuesday 16th January at
10.00am. We will also be looking for some volunteers to help
with sorting and setting up from 16th January 10.00am



Celebrating the anniversary of our Church in Blackheath

Friday January 26

11am Mass with Father Peter

Save the date for a long table brunch/picnic in our magnificent forest on Friday
January 26. Father Peter will celebrate Mass at 11am and our picnic celebrations
will follow. Please BYO picnic food and beverages. If it's raining, we'll set up
on the church verandah.

Wednesday Morning's Cuppa's goes Alfresco!

Due to the hall being set up for our upcoming Garage Sale, Wednesday morning
Cuppa's will be held on the church verandah commencing at 9:30 following
9:00am Mass. Alfresco Cuppa's will be on January 17, 24 and 31. Join us for
enjoyable company, good coffee and whatever the weather!

THANK YOU (& more help please).

A BIG THANK YOU to those who donated flowers for our Christmas flower
decorations in our Church ☐

And more recently, to those who contributed to the 'floriade' for Pat Fraser's
farewell this week.

We now need your help once again please – for our Australia Day and Parish
Anniversary celebrations next Friday. We shall leave some buckets of water out
from Wednesday – the plan is to decorate the Church Thursday afternoon,
Thank you again, The Flower Team

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://](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH)

[www.bpoint.com.au/pay/
CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH)

As an alternative to following the link, you can also use the attached
QR Code.



Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.

Praying with Pope Francis

January-For the gift of diversity in the Church
We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

Volunteers NEEDED for CUPPAS.

Can you spare 3 hours on Wednesday 9am - 12 noon to be on a roster to assist with Cuppas? Cuppas is a Parish initiative to give members of our community an opportunity to enjoy each other's company have a cup of tea, coffee and cake.

Julie O'Keeffe and Sigi Cervený have done a terrific job in establishing Cuppas and many people now rely upon this important weekly social gathering.

Julie and Sigi will be away from 1st February to 14th April 2024 and we need volunteers to keep Cuppas going.

Please let me know if you can assist on any of the following Wednesdays?

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th of February, 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th of March and 3rd and 10th April 2024. Thank you .
Pamela Nash. 0417485592.

CAN YOU MAKE SOUP?

The Soup Kitchen operating in the Uniting Church, Govett's Leap Road, Blackheath reopens on Monday 5th February 2024.

Since the inception of the Soup Kitchen in July 2022 our Parishioners have contributed 2 soups each week. (averaging 6 serves each).

The enforced isolation of Covid highlighted the importance of human contact and the benefits of coming together.

The Soup Kitchen provides a valuable place for people to meet and socialise.

If you can contribute one soup or more per month please contact Pamela Nash ph 0417485592 or Karen Hayward ph 0419123744.

Delivery is either to the Uniting Church by 10am Monday or if you require an earlier pick up, by arrangement with Karen or Pamela.

You are also most welcome to stay and enjoy the company of many interesting people.

Notice of Annual Parish Assembly (Annual General Meeting)

11 February 2024 Our Annual Parish Assembly (AGM) for 2023, which was deferred from the normal November timing in view of Fr John's long service leave, will be held on Sunday 11 February 2024. Time: 11am after Sunday morning Mass Place: Sacred Heart Parish Hall 165 Wentworth Street Blackheath All Parishioners are welcome to attend. Could all ministry leaders submit their report to the Chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council - Graham Beal graham_beal@hotmail.com by 1 February 2024. Elections will be held for some positions on the Parish Pastoral Council at the Annual Parish Assembly (AGM). If you are interested in serving our community in this capacity, please complete a nomination form (available from the office or the sacristy) and submit to the Chairman, Graham Beal.

REFLECTION

Today we reflect on the first and most important responsibility of discipleship, namely, evangelisation, the goal of which is the proclamation of the reign of God. God seems to choose the most unlikely people to preach to others. It does not matter who brings the good news, but who receives it. Jonah the prophet was sent to outsiders, even enemies. The disciples were fishermen who spoke to the people of their own country. God's salvation is intended for all, and it seems to make little difference who brings this good news.

Today's readings call for repentance. The grace of God requires a new way of living, a life of faith and commitment. The gospel invites us into the age of fulfilment, a salvific reign of truth, compassion and kindness. It is a way of life that leads to justice.

There is an urgency in these readings. This world in its present form is passing away, and God's call demands a total response. Like the disciples, we must leave the familiarity of our former ways and follow the call that we have heard in the depths of our hearts. We are called first to enter the reign of God and then to spread it. As ambassadors of God, we bring the good news of salvation wherever we are and in whatever we do. Called by God, we now begin to live in a totally different way, guided by the values of the reign of God rather than those of the world that is passing away.

Dianne Bergant CSA

3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

ENTRANCE.

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Jonah (Jonah 3:1-5. 10)

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord.

Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey.

He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

RESPONSE

Teach me your ways, O Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 7:29-31)

Brothers and sisters, our time is growing short. Those who have spouses should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 1:14-20)

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of people.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

COMMUNION

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.