

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 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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

28 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



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!

Catholic Church and Mission Discussion Group:

The recent Church Synods in Rome and Paramatta are about our mission 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 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.

Next Gathering: Saturday Jan 27

Time: 2:00 – 3:30pm

Venue: Parish Hall 165 Wentworth St, Blackheath

Contact: Clive at c_kanes@yahoo.com.au

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.

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/)

www.bpoint.com.au/pay/

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

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.

CKG - Answering the 'cry of the earth' and the 'cry of the poor': Bishop Vincent in his homily last week wrote: "Like Jonah and the disciples of Jesus, we have – by virtue of our baptism – embarked upon the journey beyond our limited horizons into God's unfolding plan for humanity. Jesus made it clear that following has to do with an alternative mode of existence where the healing, restoration and transformation of the world are more important than our prosperity, security and self-interest."

You might like to find out more about what you can do to recycle your waste through the following workshops being held in our CKG by Blue Mountains City Council on Saturday 17th March:

Composting at 10am

Worm Farming at 11.15 am

Book a spot with Brian (0401 768 688) by 10th March.

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 Cerveny 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.

Anyone wishing to table a question at the AGM should do so in writing to Graham Beal by 1pm on Friday 9 February 2024.

Read the Peace, Justice and Ecology team's first newsletter for 2024 on the link. Articles include reflections on Pope Francis' World Day of Peace message and the story of St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of victims of modern day slavery and human trafficking.

<https://mailchi.mp/648631edf800/special-edition-of-peace-justice-ecology-news-6688727?e=8bd0e808be>

Benedictine Gatherings

Each month on the **first Friday** of every month from 10 am till 12 noon an ecumenical group gathers at the **Good Samaritan Community House at 3 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls** to discuss ways of living a Benedictine way of life. The new book we will use this year is "Lost in Wonder" by Esther de Waal (\$35). Our first gathering this year will be on Friday 2nd February . We begin with a specially prepared prayer, followed by time of quiet in the garden, morning tea and discussion of a chapter in the book. If you are interested in enriching your daily life you are very welcome. Enquiries Sister Jacinta Shailer 0418 619 027

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Evil Spirits versus the Holy One of God

The word 'diabolical' comes from a Greek word referring to something broken in two, shattered. Looking at persons and societies torn apart, it is obvious that the diabolical spirit is powerful. However, it harbours a fear that a more powerful Holy Spirit could reintegrate a personality, could make a community out of divided groups.

'Have you come to destroy us?' indicates that this fear was realised in the coming on to the scene of Jesus Christ. Jesus' answer was a resounding 'Yes', not in words but in action, healing a man torn apart by a diabolical spirit.

Jesus Christ invites and empowers us to join in his healing mission to overcome whatever it is which tears people apart, whether at the individual, community or global levels. We do so in the confidence of His Resurrection which overcame the diabolical tearing apart of His body and soul.

We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to joining Jesus' mission, so putting the fear of God into the devil!

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

ENTRANCE.

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
(Deuteronomy 18:15-20)

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers and sisters; to him you must listen.

This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers and sisters; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him.

The one who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

RESPONSE

If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)

I would like to see you free from all worry.

An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways.

In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband.

I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 1:21-28)

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him.

The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.'

And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

COMMUNION

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.