

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 MASS

4pm (every third Friday of the month).

Next Mass: 16 February 2024 at 4.00pm

BLACKHEATH MASSES

SUN: 9.30am.

WED; 9.00am

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 Thursday's during office hours on
4787 8540 or email

blackheath@parracatholic.org or at

Katoomba on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Fridays on 02 4782 2804. email

bluemountains@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)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Year B

11 February 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

As I reflected on today's Gospel I realized that Jesus' healing of the man with leprosy went way beyond the physical miracle; Jesus healed him of all that separated him from his fellow human beings: Jesus healed him spiritually and socially as well!

There are many in our world today who continue to suffer from a kind of spiritual leprosy.

They are estranged from the Christian community for real or perceived reasons. To them, the cry heard in Leviticus is real: 'unclean, unclean'!

All who walk in the footsteps of the Master must never allow law and justice to overpower unconditional love and its demands!

If, as St Paul reminds us, we must take Christ as our model as Paul does himself, then we must not only 'touch' and minister to the lepers of our day, but do all we can to offer healing and reconciliation.

So, how do we WELCOME those whom we may not fully understand, and those whom we may viscerally feel 'don't measure up'?

How do we make those who suffer modern-day spiritual or social leprosy feel welcome in our community here and in our daily lives?

Jesus did this over and over again.

It's time we did the same!

“‘If you want to, you can heal me’...’of course I want to: be healed””.

PLEASE NOTE: ASH WEDNESDAY is this coming Wednesday, 14/2. Masses will be celebrated in Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath, at 9am, and in St Canice's Church, Katoomba, at 7pm. Although no longer a Holy Day of Obligation, it remains a day of Fast (for those between 18 and 60) and of Abstinence from meat (for all).

Have a great week, everyone. May Lent this year be a time of spiritual renewal for us all!

Fr John

PARISH ASSEMBLY (AGM) ON SUNDAY 11/2 AFTER MASS

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 10 February

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 11 February

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 12 February

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 13 February

Mass 9.00am Leura

Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 14 February

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

THURSDAY 15 February

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 16 February

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 17 February

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm

Mass 6.00 pm Mt Victoria.

LENTEN GROUP WEDNESDAYS

Commencing Wednesday 21/2. There are two groups. Afternoon 2.00pm and Evening group 7.00pm. Location: 3 Easter Street Leura. Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson. Please contact Barbara for more information on 0417 490 103.

Mt Victoria 10.02.2024

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 11.02.2024

1 St Reader: Pat Wicks

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: Monica and Brian Bright

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

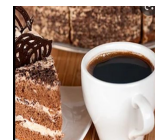
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You 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



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!. All welcome!



VIRTUAL LENT SERIES 2024: A series of online Lent 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 Lenten journey.

EVENT DETAILS

WHEN: Mondays – Feb 12, 19, 26, Mar 4, 11, 18

TIME: 7.00pm – 8.00pm AEDT

WHERE: Via Zoom meeting

COST: Free

REGISTRATION: google "Virtual Lent Series 2024"

11am-12:30pm Mass & the Anointing of the Sick

A mass offered to all those who are elderly, sick or suffering, carers and healthcare professionals will be presided by

The Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL

Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

RSVP by 6 February 2024 to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES

Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed!

For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent>

Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.

Sunday: 18.02.2024

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2 nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Pamela and Kristan

Pietà Lenten books

Embark on a transformative Lenten journey with Pietà, an 80 page book containing short daily reflections, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

Copies of Pietà are available at our weekend Masses for \$5 each. The books for Sacred Heart are in a basket near the piano- thank you to our music ministry for organising the sale of the books this year. Correct money for a copy of Pietà would be most appreciated

PROJECT COMPASSION 2024

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

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.

LANCE AND JOHN NEED YOUR HELP

Saturday 10 February from 8am – **WORKING BEE**

Lance and John will be working filling potholes in our carpark and driveway on that day. So they need help in doing the other chores like mowing, sweeping, weeding and pruning that are necessary to keep our grounds in order. Please bring a sun-hat, sturdy shoes or boots, garden gloves and sun-block (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.



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE – FOODBANK APPEAL – LENT 2024

Our Parish, in the spirit of Lent, is once again joining the Jesuit Refugee Service Australia (JRS) Lenten Foodbank Appeal - collecting small, but essential gifts for refugees and people seeking asylum.

During the 6 weeks of Lent, we are asking parishioners to donate one item a week - these will make a huge difference to the lives those JRS serves:

Week of the 1st Sunday of Lent, 18 Feb: Basmati rice

Week of the 2nd Sunday of Lent, 25 Feb: Cooking or olive oil

Week of the 3rd Sunday of Lent, 3 March: Dried red lentils (375g, 500g or 1kg)

Week of the 4th Sunday of Lent, 10 March: Dishwashing detergent

Week of the 5th Sunday of Lent, 17 March: Laundry detergent

Palm Sunday, 24 March: Long life milk

JRS is currently supporting more than 150 families a week across the Parramatta Diocese and the need for help keeps growing. The families being served are not eligible for Centrelink or Medicare and many do not have work or study rights. With the rising cost of living, many are struggling to have enough food and essential items to meet their family's daily needs.

Your support will be greatly appreciated during this Lenten season where we are once again being called to remember Jesus' sacrifice and love!

During these six weeks, the JRS collection bins will replace the usual Vinnies collection bins in our churches – so regularly supported by so many parishioners throughout the remainder of the year – THANK YOU ☐.

(If you would like to help in facilitating this Appeal, please contact Christa or David – 47875105 or 0400208707)

Happy Birthday Feb

11th Kenya Burke (2002)
14th Betty Zeman
14th Fr Abraham
16th Monica Bright



ANNIVERSARIES: Feb

9th Joe and Diana Landsberg (m 1963)



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Alice Lonergan, Edith Burton, Anne Farindon, John Barclay, Noeleen Cliff, Sue Gracey, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli,

REST IN PEACE February 10th Frank Farsaci (Frances Huckstepp's father – 2018), 15th Sarah Frazer (2012)

16th Gladys Gronlund (2015) – Carol Drummond's mother, 17th Charles Edward Hodgkinson

22nd Rick Frazer (1986) – Kate Forbes' father, 23rd William (Bill) Grieves (d 2018), 26th Rita Jenner (2017)

26th Nancy Etccl (2016) – Mt Vic resident, 27th Ken Kirkham (2017), 28th Anthony Gilchrist (2015)

25th Peter Potts (2022), Leashy Dowling (2024), Marie Josephine Geraghty (2024)



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Leviticus (Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a person's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The person must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons. 'The person is leprous: they are unclean. The priest must declare them unclean; they are suffering from leprosy of the head. One infected with leprosy must wear their clothing torn and their hair disordered; they must shield their upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts they must be unclean; and therefore they must live apart; they must live outside the camp.'

RESPONSE I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1)

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 1:40-45)

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

COMMUNION

God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.

***We know that we will all have to face some kind of suffering, and so we try to prepare ourselves for it. Yet when it comes, as prepared as we try to be, it can overtake us with such fury that we fall back defenceless. We look to others for support and assistance, and if we are fortunate, we find it. However, even in the most supportive of communities, suffering tends to alienate us from those who are healthy and secure. Suffering reminds us of our own finitude and the contingent nature of all of life. It threatens our sense of order.



Jesus is not deterred by human suffering. He welcomes all who approach him; his healing touch reincorporates those who have been ostracised; his loving embrace reassociates those who have been alienated. In the reign of God, there are no outsiders. All belong to Jesus, and, therefore, all belong to each other. When the one afflicted is embraced by the community, the community is an authentic manifestation of the inclusive reign of God.

In suffering we witness human vulnerability and our desperate need of each other and of God. There, at the edge of life and on the fringes of the community, we may experience the tenderness and compassion of God. The loving touch of Christ that can heal our souls, if not our bodies. It is there that we may most authentically participate in the cross of Christ. Joined to him we are anything but unproductive or worthless.

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