

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: 15 March 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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Year B– 25 February 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The story of the Transfiguration is found in Mark, Matthew and Luke. Although there are variations in the telling, the main points of the episode remain the same.

- Jesus takes three close friends (Peter, James and John) with him up the mountains
- They witness the transformation of Jesus; and see Moses and Elijah—the representatives of the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant
- They experience the cloud covering the mountain—the ancient sign of God's presence with His People
- And they heard the command of the Father: "This is my Beloved Son; listen to him"

And so applying this to ourselves:

- We need to be part of a Christian community, a church, in order to receive the support needed for our spiritual lives.
- We need to read and reflect on the scriptures constantly, in order to be nourished with God's Word (our 'daily bread') every day
- We need to spend time in silent prayer and reflection as often as is possible
- And we need to be active in faithful Ministry to our neighbour, in order to be faithful to God's command on the Mountain.

As we celebrate this second Sunday in lent, Let's recommit ourselves this penitential season to the practices of reading the Scriptures, spending time in silent Prayer, and loving our neighbour in practical ways. Let's allow our brothers and sisters in the Lord, the church community, to support us in all these holy endeavours.

God bless

Fr John

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 24 February

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 25 February

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 26 February

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 27 February

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 28 February

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

THURSDAY 29 February

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 1 March

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 2 March

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 24.02.2024

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley
on 2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

Sunday 25.02.2024

1 St Reader: Christa Buckley
2nd Reader: David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Francis Huckstepp

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Diane Stewart

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

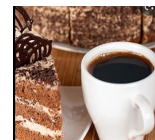
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You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



Cuppa's on Wednesday after 9am Mass

Pop into the hall for a cuppa and company on Wednesday morning's from 9:30am- 12:00. Vinnie's assistance is available during this time, operating from the meeting room and our Community Kitchen garden offers plants from the Plant Library, fresh produce and a time for connecting with our life-giving Earth. Join us in our growing buzzy hub on Wednesday's.



JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE – FOODBANK APPEAL – WEEK 2

Sincere thanks to those who have donated to our JRS Foodbank Lenten Appeal – so far we have collected nearly 10kg Basmati Rice & some cooking oil – **THANK YOU** ☐.

This week, Week 2, the focus is on olive oil/cooking oil – of course we are more than happy to receive any of the 6 products illustrated below ... anytime during the remaining weeks of Lent ☐. Simply leave them in the special tub provided.

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

A special JRS collection bin (Pink) is over near the Sacristy,

Thank you for your support

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”

Sunday: 3.03.2024

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

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.

CREATION OF A PARISH FLOWER GARDEN

Before they went overseas, Julie O'Keefe and Sigy Cerveney suggested, that it is timely we 'repurpose' the 3 garden beds that they created a few years ago - just off the church carpark. Given that growing vegetable crops is now well catered for by the Community Kitchen Garden, it's time to create something new.

Thank you, Julie, and Sigy for all the work you did!

The Parish Flower Team (Cate Mitchell, Julie Hodgkinson and David Buckley) are keen to see this area transformed to create a Parish Flower Garden – particularly focusing on flowers suitable for cutting and use in our Church.

With great physical help from George Commens, the rejuvenated beds are almost ready for planting – George having dug them over, removed persistent roots and weeds, and helped spread a metre or so of fresh garden soil into the beds. Thanks George!

Over the next few weeks we will prepare a planting program. The goal is to have something flowering all year round – mainly focusing on bulbs, annuals and perennials suited to our Blackheath climate and ideal as cut flowers.

If you would like to see some of your own floral favourites growing in our Parish Flower Garden, please speak with Cate, Julie or David. Any suggestions and/or donations will be gratefully accepted!

Save the date!

Catalyst for Renewal reflection mornings commence on March 16 and continue each month on the third Saturday morning from 9:30-12:30 at Lawson. Father John is guest speaker for May 18. Len and Carol organise and facilitate these inspiring reflection mornings. The full program of dates, speakers and topics for this year is attached with the bulletin.

****We all have dreams for the future, dreams about success and well-being. We all want a better world for our children and grandchildren. Our religious tradition sets before us aspirations that call for personal transformation.



However, sometimes when we follow the inspiration of our most devout aspirations, obstacles are thrown in our path preventing us from following our dreams. Still, God does not call us out of our dreams into a vacuum. If we are asked to relinquish a possible future, it is only to be offered God's future. Our aspirations may be noble, but the possibilities that God offers will outstrip them in excellence. Abraham was promised an heir; he relinquished his hold on his heir, and he was granted heirs beyond counting. Jesus came as a Rabbi; he allowed himself to be handed over to death, and he was revealed as the beloved Son of God.

Those preparing for Baptism might be asked to relinquish the dreams that they previously held in order to embrace the future God has in store for them. We who are already joined to Christ will be asked to recommit ourselves to this transformative experience. Do we have faith, or do we need a glimpse of Christ's transfiguration in order to believe in his resurrection? Do we have to see and touch Jesus, or are we able to believe because we have heard his message? God's future in Christ is open to us, but we must accept it in faith, even when we do not fully understand what it means.

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CKG -

Answering the 'cry of the earth' and the 'cry of the poor'

On Saturday 2nd March 10am-4pm the CKG will be open as part of the **Blue Mountains Edible Garden Trial**. This disorganised by the Blue Mountains Food Co-op. The Co-op's flagship environmental event, the **Edible Garden Trail**, is a celebration of the myriad ways Blue Mountains residents are creating food security, tackling climate change, and enjoying the health benefits of home grown fruit and veg. Backyard growers, including private, school and community patches, from Blaxland to Hartley, will open their gardens to the public on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd March 2024 to share their passion and knowledge to inspire self-reliance. The Edible Garden Trail is a community run, not-for-profit event with proceeds going to participating school and community gardens. Blue Mountains Food Co-op administers the Edible Garden Trail to promote its values of respect for community, the environment, and health and wellbeing. More information and tickets at <https://bmfoodcoop.org.au/edible-garden-trail/>

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Beverley Bateup, 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)



2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B

ENTRANCE

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Genesis (Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18)

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

RESPONSE I will walk in the presence of the
Lord in the land of the living.

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (Romans 8:31-34)

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn?

Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 9:2-10)

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened.

And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

COMMUNION

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

