

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 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Year B- 3 March 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Human beings always search for signs... proofs that something is true and acceptable. Those who followed Jesus were no different: "many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave." Indeed in John's Gospel, those who have such "signs faith" are seen as insufficient in their belief. They are moving in the right direction—towards the Lord and his Gospel—but they have only partial faith.

Rather, those who have true and full faith are the ones who believe in the Word of God (both the person and the Gospel). This is clear in the seventh and final "beatitude" at the end of the John's Gospel: "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe."

Given this, let us strive to be true believers in the Word, people of "full faith" who trust in the person and message of Jesus of Nazareth, even when the going is rough and life offers us various difficulties and challenges.

We welcome MACKY AMORES to our parish. Macky is a fifth year seminarian for our Diocese and has been appointed to our parish until early June as part of his Formation. I'm sure you will all make him welcome.

Have a great week!

God bless you all!

Fr. John.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 2 March

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 3 March

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 4 March

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 5 March

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 6 March

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

THURSDAY 7 March

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 8 March

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 9 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 2.03.2024

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart
on 2 nd Reader: Maria

Sunday 3.03.2024

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell
2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

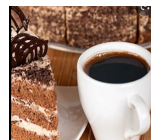
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You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



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 3

Sincere thanks to those who have donated to our JRS Foodbank Lenten Appeal

**– so far, we have collected 30kg Basmati Rice & 10 litres of cooking oil -
THANK YOU!**

This week, Week 3, the focus is on DRIED RED LENTILS – 375g, 500g or 1 kg bags Thank you again for your amazing support!

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

Glenbrook Parish Lenten Biblical Studies: 12 and 19 March

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting two Biblical Studies sessions on the Passion of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark on Tuesday 12 and 19 March at the parish hall from 7.30pm. Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lam OSA will lead the sessions. To RSVP and for more information, please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au

Sunday: 10.03.2024

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2 nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Ray Wood

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

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 Trail. This 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/>. Some plants, jams, and fruit and veg will be on sale on Saturday at the Edible Garden Trail event.

Tasks for this week in the garden are: Renewing the mulch around the fruit trees; planting out strawberry runners along the garden path to the picnic table and seats; planting out spring onions and carrots. Harvesting vegetables

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.

Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives.

Learn more: Join our [Mission Webinar](#) March 5th, 2024, 6:00 - 6:30 pm.

 **Palms Australia** 63 years preparing Australians for enduring global relationships to build sustainable, self-reliant, community development.

Learn Even More: Join our [two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024](#) to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together.

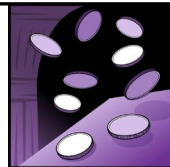
Contact: 02 9560 5333

palms@palms.org.au

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.

****Israel believed that the temple was built over the navel of the universe, the axis mundi, that spot where the world above and the world below met the world of history, thus enabling the three worlds to communicate. When Jesus called himself the new temple, he was claiming to be the centre of the universe, the spot where three-way cosmic communication occurs, the presence of God in the midst of the community. When we accept him in faith, we are accepting these claims. We may profess this belief, but do our lives reflect it?



Although some consider the law a rigid set of precepts, it is really more a collection of directives that have grown out of the experience of life. To say that Jesus is the wisdom of God means that God's wisdom is made known in him and that he is the way that points to God. While laws often embody distinctive cultural values or customs, as wisdom of God, Jesus crosses cultural boundaries and breaks down cultural distinctions. As the wisdom of God, Jesus fulfils the expectations of any and all codes of law.

Both the law and the temple witness to the power of God in the lives of believers. However, both institutions pale in the light of Jesus who is identified as the power of God. This divine power is not revealed in lofty precepts or in magnificent stones, but rather in the broken and pierced body of Jesus Christ. How willing are we to accept him?

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WORD DAY OF PRAYER 2024

A service of prayer for peace in the world.

When: 10.30 am on Friday 1 March 2024

Where: Blackheath Baptist church

(Bundarra St- over the railway crossing)

Speaker- Mrs Jenny Bawden (Langham Partnership Australia)

Followed by a light lunch.

Thank you Sacred Heart parish.

A big thank you to all those who prayed for me during my heart problems. I am doing quite well and I am sure your prayers got me through.

God bless. Pat McAuley.

ANNIVERSARIES: March

1st Philia and Frank Portelli (2003)



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

REST IN PEACE March 8th Judy Harris (2014), 8th Frederick Pateman, 14th Pete Juhas, 17th Mary Potts (Diane Stewart's Mum), 19th Tom Boylan, 28th Jim Grainger (2014) friend of Fr Paul



3rd Sunday of Lent - Year B

ENTRANCE

When I prove my holiness among you,
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;
and I will pour clean water upon you
and cleanse you from all your impurities,
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Exodus (Exodus 20:1-17)
God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the parent's fault in the children, the grandchildren, and the great-grandchildren of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the one who utters God's name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work on that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, not your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse, or their servant, man or woman, or their ox, or their donkey, or anything that is his.'

RESPONSE Lord, you have the words of everlasting life . .

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:22-25)

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human

wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 2:13-25)

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.'

Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.'

The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any one; he could tell what people had in them.

COMMUNION

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

