

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.

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Year B

4 February 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

I think many, if not all of us, can sympathise with Job in the first reading. He complains that his life is just a drudgery. He feels he's gaining nothing from all his efforts just wishing the days and nights pass as he finds no happiness, either in his work nor in his rest. He's wishing his life away.

St Paul in the second reading writes about his preaching of the Gospel and explains that it's his responsibility to preach the Gospel, not a responsibility he chose but one that he has been given. A responsibility that makes him change himself so he can be effective (I made myself all things to all men in order to save).

In the Gospel we hear how Jesus cures St Peter's Mother-in-Law and many other people. The Gospel says Jesus cured people with all sorts of medical issues, and spiritual issues. This was how Jesus got the people's attention.

So, how do these readings come together to give us guidance for our lives?

I think the clue is in one thing Job says. He sees himself as "the workman with no thought but his wages". We need to see our work as having a higher purpose.

We need to see our work, whether at home or in the workplace as evangelisation, our way of preaching the Gospel. As St Francis says: "preach always and if absolutely necessary use words". It's not something we choose to do. It's our responsibility.

We need to live out our faith, our love for this world in the way we work for and with people. Our primary reward is not monetary but knowing that we have in some way advanced the good of the people we have worked for and with.

This means there will be a real difference in our attitude to work, no longer a drudgery but effort driven by a clear goal to do things to the best of our ability, to be extra fair to our employers, to treat our coworkers with dignity and respect so that we reveal Christ to them. Becoming role models for those around us. Role models who point to Christ.

In this we will be preaching the Gospel of Love, the Gospel of Christ and healing the world and driving out many demons. Demons of laziness, apathy, greed, self-interest and prejudice. We don't need to be doctors to heal. Just treating a person with respect, having time to listen to a person's problem, or being genuine in trying to help can change a person's day. Can help them see that they are valued.

But, as always, we can't just click our fingers and change our attitudes. We need Christ to heal us. Prayer and the sacraments are essential.

And the other big factor is fear. In our prayers let's examine what we are afraid of, put it before Christ and say to Him: "Jesus, I love you and surrender my life to you, please take care of everything". A very freeing prayer. It'll change our lives and the lives of others.

Deacon Alan.

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 3 February

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 4 February

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 5 February

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 6 February

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 7 February

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

THURSDAY 8 February

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 9 February

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 10 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 3.02.2024

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton

2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

Sunday 4.02.2024

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

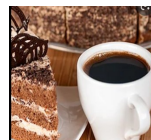
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You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



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!



GARAGE SALE 3 & 4 FEBRUARY

Please come along and support our Annual Garage Sale this coming weekend.

We are hoping that as many people as possible will support our major fundraiser for the year.

We would like to have our parishioners come along during the weekend and then on Sunday afternoon to help with the pack up.

Thanks again from your Social /Fundraising Team



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: 11.02.2024

1 St Reader: Pat Wicks

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

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

Sad News for our Community 31.1.24

Our dear Fr Kevin died this morning surrounded by his family and is now at peace. We give thanks for his pastoral heart and special legacy of such beautiful hymns that have enriched our Eucharistic Celebrations and Liturgies. Fr Kevin knew of our prayers for him last Sunday and that we sang his composition for us, "The Heart of Our Believing" with gusto!

His sister Maree said it brought a smile to his face. We will hold Fr Kevin and his family in our prayers. May he rest in peace.

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 sunblock (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.



Happy Birthday Feb

3 Beryl Cornish
8th Joe Landsberg
8th Freya McNair



ANNIVERSARIES: Feb

9th Joe and Diana Landsberg (m 1963)



***Today we see three snapshots from the photo album of life.



Suffering comes to everyone. It can take such a hold of us that the happiness of the past is swallowed up, the beauty of better days is forgotten, and the hope of a brighter future is imperilled. Life ceases to be an adventure and takes on the guise of drudgery. At such times suffering appears to be our permanent fate, and life seems too short for suffering to run its course. If we become identified with our distress, we will be tormented.

Jesus knew the harshness of life, because he was one of us. He saw it in the lives of those he loved, and he was touched by their torment. He came to release people from the demons that possess them, from the illness that undermined their lives. He came to bring the reign of God, the reign of peace and fulfilment. He came to heal the brokenhearted, to bind up their wounds.

Paul was a messenger of this gospel of salvation and fulfilment. He was so committed to his mission that he empathised with all those who heard his preaching – the slaves, the weak, the brokenhearted, all those who knew well the harshness of life. Now it is our turn. We are the disciples who must bring the good news to the brokenhearted, to those who are enslaved, to those who are weak. We are the ones who will then share in the blessings of this good news.

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Parish Pastoral Council meeting dates 2024

- January 28th
- **Feb 11th – Parish Assembly/AGM**
- April 7th
- May 26th
- July 28th
- September 22nd
- November 10th

Nov 17th – Parish Assembly/AGM

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

DATE CORRECTION: the following workshops being held in our CKG by Blue Mountains City Council are on Saturday 17th February (not March)

Composting at 10am

Worm Farming at 11.15 am

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

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Alice Lonergan, Edith Burton, Anne Farindon, John Barclay, Leashy Dowling, 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)



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness,
and endured our suffering.
Alleluia!

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Job (Job 7:1-4. 6-7)

Job began to speak:

Is not one's life on earth nothing more than pressed service,
One's time no better than hired drudgery?

Like the slave, sighing for the shade,
or the workman with no thought but his wages,
months of delusion I have assigned to me,
nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?'

Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!'

Restlessly I fret till twilight falls.

Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed,
and vanished, leaving no hope behind.

Remember that my life is but a breath,
and that my eyes will never again see joy.

RESPONSE Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
(1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-23)

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of anyone I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 1:29-39)

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

COMMUNION

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

Parishes given vital information to help their parishes

Profiles of 1230 Catholic parishes across Australia have been published, offering a wealth of insight they can use to better serve the needs of their local communities. The parish "social profiles" draw on data captured in the 2021 Australian Census and examine the Catholic and local population within parish boundaries. Where possible, the statistics in the 2021 parish profiles have been compared with the 2016 data. To view the Parish Social Profiles click on <https://catholicoutlook.org/parishes-given-vital-information-to-help-serve-their-communities/>