

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: 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Year B- 10 March 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The words of the first reading can very much be applied to us.

We must understand that when we read of "Jerusalem" in the Old Testament it is to be understood by us, living in this time, as the Church.

We have all in one way or another wandered into ways of the world which diminish and weaken our relationship with God. Defiling the Temple which is Christ's body made up of us. We offer our sacrifices, that is ourselves, through Christ, in Christ and with Christ, so Christ is the Temple, but the Temple is defiled by the priesthood which is tainted. Through Baptism we are all priests, we are the priesthood that the first reading is talking about.

This has weakened the Church, made it look irrelevant and has caused us to be taken prisoners by the empires of today. Empires like materialism, self-indulgence, selfishness, self-empowerment, self-image and a myriad of other attitudes and ideologies that separate us from Christ, and consequently from those around us, as we sink ever deeper into the prison cell of our own self-interest.

But God loves us. Not because of anything we have done or can do. He loves us unconditionally. And so, He sent His only Son our Lord Jesus Christ to save us. To join heaven and earth together in Himself through the incarnation so that anyone who believes in Him will be saved, will be united to the Trinity.

We are saved through faith. Not faith that God exists, nor just faith that Jesus is the Son of God, but that believing that Jesus is the Son of God we trust in Him and follow His example.

His example is listening for the Father's voice and doing the Father's will. Putting the Father's will first. This is our sacrifice, our means of making ourselves holy.

So, in this time of Lent let's come out of the dark, let's put ourselves before the light of Christ and ask for Christ to show us in what ways we need to change our attitudes and habits to be more open to the Father's will. Nobody likes to face their own weaknesses, faults, and failures but trust in Jesus and you'll see He is gentle and kind. He doesn't condemn but rather lovingly embraces us and takes our hand so we can move forward with Him into the light and life that is unity with the Trinity.

Then we, like Cyrus, because of our relationship with Christ, will be able to empower others to come to the Church and build up the Temple which is the body of Christ.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 9 March

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 10 March

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 11 March

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 12 March

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 13 March

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

THURSDAY 14 March

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 15 March

Mass 12pm Katoomba
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

SATURDAY 16 March

Mass 9am Katoomba
Confession after mass
Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 11-1pm
Mass 6.00 pm Mt Victoria.

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

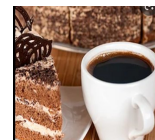
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You 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 4

THANK YOU again to those who have donated to our JRS Foodbank Lenten Appeal

– helping put food on the table for the many refugee families in our Diocese who are living in poverty – not receiving Government support and not allowed to work.

This week and next week, the focus will be on two other basics that we all take for granted – DISHWASHING DETERGENT & LAUNDRY DETERGENT.

If you missed any of the earlier weeks, we would be appreciative if you could please add to the wonderful donations in Weeks 1, 2 & 3 – BASMATI RICE, COOKING OIL & DRIED RED LENTILS.

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

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 9.03.2024

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan
on 2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 10.03.2024

1 St Reader: John Tweedie
2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

Music for Easter Triduum Workshop: 12 March

Join us for another Music Workshop led by Eric Grella to learn more about Music for the Easter Triduum. This event will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown on 12 March from 7-9pm. This workshop is for all who are involved in the music ministry of their parish and anyone interested in diving deeper into the world of liturgical music! RSVP to lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795 by 8 March.

Sunday: 17.03.2024

1 St Reader: Brian Bright

2 nd Reader: Monica Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Pamela and Kristan

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

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.

Easter Sunrise Service - An Ecumenical Celebration of Easter

- Sunday, 31 March at 6am
 - Leuralla Amphitheatre, Olympian Parade, Leura (IF WET, at Leura Uniting Church)
 - BYO cushion, torch, blanket
 - Breakfast (\$3) at Leura Uniting Church, cnr Grose & Mega-long Streets.
- Enquiries 0400 191 880

Entering Holy Week Retreat

A mini retreat day will be held on the 23rd of March from 9am to 3pm at St Canice's, Katoomba. The day will start with 9am Mass. Morning tea and light luncheon will be provided.

Topic: Holy Week is the most important week of the year for Christians. On this retreat day we will reflect on the great gift Jesus gave us at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday night, on the sacrifice of His life on Good Friday, and the ongoing gift of His Risen presence in the Church after Easter Sunday.

Run by: Fr Hugh Thomas. Fr Hugh is a Redemptorist priest who is very experienced in giving retreats throughout Australia and in several countries overseas.

Time: 9am-3pm

All welcome: Registration not required but appreciated for organisational and catering purposes.

Contact: Perry Mowbray (0421 243 445) or Email: upperBlueMountainsAdoration@outlook.com

****Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin.



Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Peace Justice and Ecology newsletter for March From Sebastian and James

Many events are happening in our diocese this month including a Table Talk for Harmony week at Mamre House, advocacy action opportunities supporting renters, a variety of resources are listed and webinars are available including one on Fair Trade Chocolate for Easter and much more. To read this newsletter click on the link

<https://mailchi.mp/48371a9ad43c/special-edition-of-peace-justice-ecology-news-6689799?e=8bd0e808be>

Catalyst for Renewal commences on Saturday March 16

This month's speaker is Barry O'Donaghue cfc,D.Min.

"The Way of the Cross... An Ending, a Beginning"

Sessions commence at 9:30-12:30 and are held in the Santa Maria Hall at Lawson beside the Catholic Church.

For more information contact thankyou4151@bigpond.com

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



4th Sunday of Lent - Year B

ENTRANCE

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading.

A reading from the second book of Chronicles (2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23)

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may their God be with them! Let them go up."' "

RESPONSE Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

Second Reading.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (Ephesians 2:4-10)

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 3:14-21)

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because they have refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
people have shown they prefer
darkness to the light

because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear their actions should be exposed;
but the one who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what they do is done in God.'

COMMUNION

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

