

# 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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

**Parish website:**

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org) or at

Katoomba on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Fridays on 02 4782 2804. email

[bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:graham_beal@hotmail.com) or Julie O'Keeffe

[julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com)

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT.**

**Year B- 17 March 2024**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

All three biblical texts for this Fifth Sunday of Lent speak of dying to old ways so as to begin something new:

- \* the Old Covenant is replaced by a 'new' Covenant, written in our hearts
- \* it was Jesus' obedience unto death that established this New Covenant
- \* and we need to die to self so as to rise to new life, just like the grain of wheat

Christ continually calls us to die to sin (our 'old ways' of living), so that we will experience new life in Him.

The very human obsession with self blinds us to the many possibilities that the Lord offers us.

It's only when self-centredness and its attendant selfishness are placed in the background of our lives that we are enabled to imitate the Master, and thus lead people to right relationship with the Lord.

And so, in our times of prayer and reflection during this penultimate week of Lent, let's ask ourselves...

1. Am I someone who has died to old ways so as to be alive to the New Covenant written in my heart?
2. Am I like the seed that is willing strip away the hard outer shell to discover the richness and potentiality of growth beneath?
3. Am I someone who is truly willing to imitate the Master and be obedient to the Father's Will - even unto death?

'If someone serves me, they must follow me; wherever I am, my servant will be there too'.

\* We welcome Fr Hugh Thomas to UBM Parish this weekend; and we invite ALL members of the church communities in our 3 Upper Mountains parishes to Fr Hugh's Holy Week Retreat next Saturday (23/3) in St Canice's Hall, commencing after the 9am mass.

\* Although this Sunday is St Patrick's Day, the liturgical celebration has been transferred to Monday. ❀❀

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 16 March

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

### SUNDAY 17 March

9.30 am Blackheath

### MONDAY 18 March

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 19 March

Mass 9.00am Leura  
Confession after mass

### WEDNESDAY 20 March

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

### THURSDAY 21 March

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 22 March

Mass 12pm Katoomba  
~~Mass 4.00pm Megalong~~

### SATURDAY 23 March

Mass 9am Katoomba  
Confession after mass

## SACRED HEART BLACKHEATH

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

**HOLY Thursday: 7.00pm**

**Good Fri Stations of the Cross: 10.00am**

**Good Friday: 3.00pm**

**Easter Vigil 7.00pm.**

**Easter Sunday: 9.30am**

Mt Victoria 16.03.2024

**1 St Reader:** Peter McAuley  
**on 2 nd Reader:** Carla Edan

Sunday 17.03.2024

**1 St Reader:** Brian Bright  
**2nd Reader:** Monica Bright

**Welcome/Intercession:** Paul Harris

**Server:** Diane Stewart

**Church Care:** Phil and Pat Wicks

**Counters:** Pamela and John

**Flowers:** Cate Mitchell

**Morning Tea:** Pamela and Kristan

### Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

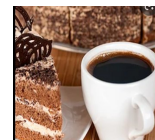
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You 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 5**

We are drawing close to the end of our JRS Lenten Foodbank Appeal – parishioners' generosity so far has been fantastic - **THANK YOU!**

Just 2 weeks to go – this week the focus is on **LAUNDRY DETERGENT** and next week, Palm Sunday, **LONG LIFE MILK**.

If you missed any of the earlier weeks, we would be appreciative if you could please add to the wonderful donations in Weeks 1 to 4 - **BASMATI RICE, COOKING OIL, DRIED RED LENTILS and DISHWASHING LIQUID**.

As Fr John inferred in last Sunday's Homily – your generosity is not just Charity towards desperate refugee families in our Diocese who are living in poverty – it is a clear showing of LOVE – love of our fellow human beings and love of God.

### **Catholic Church and Mission Discussion Group**

Our discussion group unpacking important Church documents will meet again at **3:00 - 4:30 pm, Saturday, 23 March, 2024, at the Church Hall**. At this meeting we'll looking at the Diocese Synod documents

Diocesan Synod Working Document, October, 2023 (<https://catholicoutlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/20231012-Diocesan-Synod-Working-Document.pdf>)

Diocesan Synod Summary Report, December, 2023 (<https://parracatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-12-Diocesan-Synod-Summary-Report.pdf>)

Discussions will focus on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Key Themes.

All most welcome. Hope to see you all there! For any further information please contact Clive Kanes (c\_kanes@yahoo.com.au).

Sunday: 24.03.2024

**1 St Reader:** Christa Buckley

**2 nd Reader:** David Buckley

**Welcome/Intercession:** John Tweedie

**Server:** Pat Wicks

**Morning Tea:** Christa and David Buckley

### **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

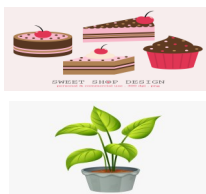
## CAKE, PLANT AND CRAFT STALL- EASTER SUNDAY.

Calling all Bakers, Gardeners and Crafty people.

All contributions of Cakes, Potted Plants and Craft items gratefully accepted.

Please help make this a fundraising bonanza for our Parish.

Thank you.



## PROJECT COMPASSION 2024

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 or by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



## 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](mailto:upperBlueMountainsAdoration@outlook.com)

**TAIZE PRAYER:** Taizé Prayer is evening prayer for all Christian faiths. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us. Mantra songs (like "Jesus, Remember Me"), prayerful silence, and short readings guide the focus of the prayer in a candle-lit environment. You are warmly invited to Taize Prayer & Song at Leura Uniting Church this Sunday 17th March at 5pm. Our theme is "The Lord is my Light" and our worship leader is Rev Myung Hwa Park. Supper is provided after the service. All are welcome for this time of prayer, singing and meditation in the Taize tradition

## FIRST RECONCILIATION (PENANCE) PROGRAMME

The First Reconciliation preparation is nearly complete with just one final preparation evening on Monday which includes a rehearsal.

As a high-light of our last family session the children and parents chose a picture that represents forgiveness. They were encouraged to share with each other what it meant to be forgiven or to forgive.

On this Wednesday, 33 young people from Lawson, Upper Blue Mountains and Blackheath parishes will celebrate "Reconciliation", the wonderful Sacrament of forgiveness and healing. Please pray for the young people and their families, that they will experience the peace that comes with repentance and forgiveness.

## 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 & Megalong Streets.

Enquiries 0400 191 880

**Reminder:** Mass in the Megalong on this Friday at 4pm

## PARISH FLOWER GARDEN - UPDATE

Creation of our small Parish Flower garden is progressing: thanks again to George Commens ... for digging in ½ metre of cow manure – giving some oomph to our new soil – in readiness to plant spring bulbs.

Thank you also to those who have donated lily, freesias and daffodils so far – hope to get these in the ground this coming week.

If you would like to see some of your favourite bulbs appearing in our garden and on our Altar in the Spring, we would love to hear from you!

But we do need to avoid liliums – Fr John has an allergy to lilium pollen!!

Thinking ahead, we will be planting some Spring and Summer favourites in late Winter/early Spring - perennials and annuals. If you think you will have a few spare, from your garden, that you would like to see in our garden and on the Altar, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you ...the Flower Team - Cate, Julie and David

## Happy Birthday. March

16th Fr Bob Sheridan (b 1933)

23rd Oliver Burke (b 2005)



**Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:** Paddy Dowling, Beverley Bateup, Alice Lonergan, Edith Burton, Anne Farindon, John Barclay, Noeleen Cliff, 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



## **5th Sunday of Lent - Year B**

### **ENTRANCE**

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

### **First Reading.**

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:31-34)  
See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks –  
when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel  
and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I  
made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the  
hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke  
that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was  
master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I  
will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive  
– it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant  
my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God  
and they shall be my people. There will be no further need  
for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to  
brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know  
me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who  
speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call  
their sin to mind.

**RESPONSE** Create a clean heart in me, O God.

### **Second Reading.**

**A** reading from the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 5:7-9)  
During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and en-  
treaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the  
power to save him out of death, and he submitted so hum-  
bly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he  
learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made  
perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eter-  
nal salvation.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;  
and where I am, my servant will also be.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### **Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 12:20-33)

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

‘Now the hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.  
I tell you most solemnly,  
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,  
it remains only a single grain;  
but if it dies,  
it yields a rich harvest.  
Anyone who loves their life loses it;  
anyone who hates their life in this world  
will keep it for the eternal life.  
If someone serves me, they must follow me,  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour them.  
Now my soul is troubled.  
What shall I say:  
Father, save me from this hour?  
But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.  
Father, glorify your name!’

A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

‘Now sentence is being passed on this world;  
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.  
And when I am lifted up from the earth,  
I shall draw all people to myself.’  
By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

### **COMMUNION**

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

