

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

Palm Sunday Year B

Year B– 24 March 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

When we read the Gospels, we often see the Pharisees referred to as “the Jews”. This is a deliberate reference to highlight that they are not Israel. Christ says of these Pharisees, and people like them, that they worship God with their lips but their hearts are far from Me (Mat 15:8)

Israel is not defined by religious observance or national identity.

The State of Israel is not the Israel of the Bible.

Israel is the people of God. The people who are related to God because they hear His word and do His will (Luke 8:21). This is what is meant to worship God in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23).

Now it's Palm Sunday and this is what confronts us. Are we Israel or are we like the Pharisees and the other Jews?

The people of Jerusalem called out “Hosana to our King” but they wanted a King who would obey them. Do what they wanted. Be the person and ruler they wanted. They wanted things their way. They hadn't been listening to Christ, His message, the message of a New Heaven and New Earth which was dawning.

Likewise, the Pharisees didn't want any other authority, except their own. Their very self-identity was at stake as well as their wealth, influence, and prestige.

That's why they crucified Christ, the Lord of Life.

Now as we enter Holy week let's really look at what is most important to us. What do we think about most. What would hurt us most if it wasn't there. In this way we can see what rules us and make way for the rule of Christ.

Let's walk with Christ this week. He is not going to reject us or judge us. His Judgement is putting things back in order in our lives. Healing, restoration, and renewal. As St Augustine says, when we find Christ; we'll find ourselves, the self that was created in the image and likeness of God but distorted by the world. We'll find our true individual identity.

Let's spend time in prayer with Him. Let's run to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and enthrone him Christ our King.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 23 March

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 24 March

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 25 March

Mass at 8.15am Katoomba

TUESDAY 26 March

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 27 March

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

EASTER TRIDUUM

THURSDAY 28 March

FRIDAY 29 March

SATURDAY 30 March

See Easter Notice on page 3.

From the Pastor's Desk...

As 3 of our good parishioners are receiving a Council Award for their generous service at 10am at Springwood on Monday 25/3, the Mass for the Annunciation will be held at 8:15am (still in St Canice's Church) and NOT at the usual time.

Mt Victoria 23.03.2024

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton

on 2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

Sunday 24.03.2024

1 St Reader: Christa Buckley

2nd Reader: David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea: Christa and David Buckley

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

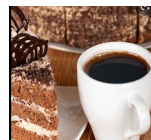
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You 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 6

This week our 6-week Foodbank Appeal draws to a close – the generosity from each of our Mass Centres has been wonderful.

A Big Thank You to parishioners of Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Joseph's.

For our final week we are asking for donations of LONG LIFE MILK.

If you missed any of the earlier weeks, it would be wonderful if you could please add to the generous donations over Weeks 1 to 5 - BASMATI RICE, COOKING OIL, DRIED RED LENTILS, DISHWASHING LIQUID and WASHING DETERGENT.

Once we have gathered all the goods that have been donated, we will be delivering them to JRS Office in Parramatta – from where they will be distributed to needy refugee families in our Diocese. Most of these folk do not receive any form of government assistance, and many are not allowed to work ... many are destitute.

Your generosity will help many families over the next few months.

Again ... Thank you so much!

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: 31.03.2024

1 St Reader:

2 nd Reader:

Welcome/Intercession:

Server:

Morning Tea: Dominic and Christine

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

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

As Project Compassion 2024 comes to an end, we want to thank you for your incredibly generous support throughout Lent.



There is still time to donate! 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.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES 2024

Please return your boxes on Palm Sunday in preparation for Holy Thursday. Thank-you.

CKG - Answering 'the cry of the earth' and 'the cry of the poor' Last week we took delivery of a load of local mushroom compost which we are reusing to enrich the soil in our veggie beds. Veggie plants love it and it benefits us and the earth when we prioritise the reuse or recycling of waste materials.

Thomas Berry a Catholic priest and theologian, said the transformation of humanity's priorities will not come easily. It requires what he called "the great work"—the title of one of his books—in four institutional realms: the political and legal order; the economic and industrial world; education; and religion.

In religion, he states, "our great need is for renewal of the entire Western religious-spiritual tradition.... We need to move from a spirituality of alienation from the natural world to a spirituality of intimacy with it, ... to a spirituality of the divine as revealed in the visible world about us, from a spirituality concerned with justice simply to humans to a justice that includes the larger Earth community...."

From The Christian Future and the Fate of the Earth (2009), 60

Easter at Sacred Heart Parish 2024



Holy Thursday – Mass 7pm

Good Friday – Stations in the Forest 10am

Good Friday – Passion of the Lord 3pm

Good Friday – Sunset at Mt Blackheath from 6pm

Holy Saturday – Water Collecting Walls Cave 130pm

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil 7pm

Easter Sunday – Ecumenical Sunrise Service 6am

Easter Sunday - Mass 930am

Good Friday - Sunset at Mt Blackheath

Time: from 6pm

Location: Mt Blackheath Road, Blackheath

Bring: cushion/chair/blanket

Led by Pat Drummond

Holy Saturday - Easter Water Collection

Time: 130pm

Location: Walls Cave, Walls Cave Rd Blackheath

Bring: sturdy walking shoes, water containers

Led by John Tweedie

Easter Sunday - Ecumenical Sunrise Service

Time: 6am

Location: Leuralla Amphitheatre, Olympian Pde, Leura

Bring: cushion, torch, blanket

Led by Leura Uniting Church

Please note: there will be no services available at St Paul's Mt Vic.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER



We will be arranging the flowers for our Easter Celebrations from 10am on Holy Saturday morning – we would be appreciative of donations from your garden please – or a bought bunch. Thank you!

Some water buckets will be left out on the verandah from Good Friday afternoon.

Thank you for your generosity.

Of courses, anyone who could help prepare an arrangement will be more than welcome on Saturday morning!

Happy Birthday. March

23rd Oliver Burke (b 2005)

28th Ray Wood

29th Carmen Beard



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



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year B

ENTRANCE

**Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you,
who have come in your abundant mercy!**

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 50:4-7)
The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

**RESPONSE My God, my God, why have you
abandoned me?**

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
(Philippians 2:6-11)
His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as human beings are,
and being as all people are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel (Mark 14:1-15:47)

PART OF TODAY'S GOSPEL

They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull. They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get.

It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The king of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, "Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!"

The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said, "He saved others, he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe." Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?"

This means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said, "Listen he is calling on Elijah." Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink, saying, "Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down." But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he died, and he said, "In truth this man was a son of God."

COMMUNION

**Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done.**