

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: 19 April 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 Easter

Year B— 14 April 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

We are the Israelites in the first reading.

We are the people of God, adopted through Baptism. We are the ones' who St Peter is addressing in the first reading. We have all disowned Christ, just like St Peter did, and we have all made decisions for things that hurt and destroy rather than bring life and wholeness and, in that way, did our part to kill off the Kingdom of God in this world.

Importantly, we have often done these things without knowing the full extent of the damage we were causing. But nevertheless, we knew what we were doing was wrong, or we should have because we have a responsibility to be cognitive, aware, of the consequences of our actions.

But when Christ appeared to His disciples after the resurrection He didn't say "why did you abandon me?", He said "peace be with you". He said this because He wants to heal us of all the damage our poor choices have done to us. That's why He became man and suffered and died for us, so that through Him we might have access to the Spirit who heals and restores. He wants repentance, a turning away from a life of focussing on ourselves to a life of focussing on the good of the other person.

When we turn our lives outwards, we become like God, for God is love, God is the outpouring of self for the good of the other. The more we put others first, the more like God we are and the more we know God. Not an academic knowing, but an intrinsic knowing, a feeling for and of God. Like the feelings we have for of our children, our parents our spouses. An understanding brought about through living and sharing life together. This is what the second reading is talking about. When we live life with God, the commandments come naturally. When we don't, we struggle.

That's why we can't stop sinning through our own efforts, we need to unite to Christ by turning our lives around and live with Him, then all temptations will become far less potent.

Our mission as Israelites is to go out and preach this repentance for the forgiveness of sins to the world. Best done through attitudes and actions rather than words. Because through us Christ will bring about the New Heaven and New Earth.

We are not meant to runaway to Heaven leaving this wicked world behind. We are meant to transform this world just as Christ's body was transformed through His death and resurrection to become a physical body but not one, we are acquainted with for it is not of this world ruled by Satan because of our inward focus, our complicity, but of the New Heaven and New Earth ruled by Christ.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 13 April

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 14 April

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 15 April

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 16 April

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 17 April

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

Thursday 18 April

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

Friday 19 April

Mass 12pm Katoomba
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

Saturday 20 April

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

Mt Victoria 13.04.2024

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley
on 2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

Sunday 14.04.2024

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

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Paul and Marilyn Rowe

Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: David Buckley

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.



WORKING BEE

Saturday morning 13 April commencing from 8am.

Please call Lance on 4787 8096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information and to advise if you will be coming.



MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Tickets are now on sale for our Mother's Day Raffle to be drawn on 12th May Mothers Day.

Tickets

1x\$2

3x\$5

10x\$10

1st. Prize Hand Made Double Quilt (donated by Patricia Dee)

2ndPrize Beautiful knitted Cinderella Doll (donated by Pat Wicks)

3rd. Prize Yummy Raseberry Bakewell Cake (donated by Pamela Nash)

If you cannot make it to either church for tickets please send email to

marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au & deposit money in church account

with the required number of tickets.

Many thanks for your support

Fundraising Team

Sunday: 21.04.2024

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2 nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: John Tweedie

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright



GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND 20 & 21

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal for our Holy Spirit Seminarians. Will you support our seminarians to "go out into the deep" and serve? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will help our future priests cast their nets wide to nurture faith and meet the spiritual and pastoral needs of our community. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



PARISH ANNUAL LUNCH

A reservation has been made for our Annual Parish Lunch at Blackheath Golf Club at 12 pm on Sunday 2nd June. Tickets will be available from next weekend. Cost is \$25 with a selection of two dishes. Please keep this date free on your calendar.

Catalyst For Renewal Presentation

Please know you are welcome to attend a presentation by Good Samaritan Sister,

Catherine Slattery, to reflect upon the topic Abounding in Hope.

Venue: Santa Maria Hall, Lawson Catholic Church grounds

When: Saturday April 20th, 9:30am to 12:15pm.

Sr. Catherine writes: To be hopeful takes audacity and faith. It also helps to be a little reckless in the face of love.

Treading lightly through selections of Scripture, Wisdom literature and poetry, this session will explore Hope as a divine invitation to stop, be in the moment, and enjoy the abundance of life within and around us.

Exploring Music for the Solemnities following Easter: 30 April and 2 May

All are invited to the next music workshop organised by the Office for Worship and presented by Eric Grella. This workshop is perfect for all parish musicians and also for anyone who wishes to learn more about music for the Solemnities after Easter. As there has been a large interest in these workshops there will be 2 locations!!

- 30 April at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown from 7pm
 - 2 May at St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith from 7pm
- RSVP by 28 April to lucy.woodbury@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

***The first sentence of the gospel reading sets the context for the themes of today: 'Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.' Who is the Jesus that they recognised? And what does this recognition require?



Jesus is the servant of the God of the early ancestors, the long awaited messiah, and the innocent sufferer portrayed in the prophetic tradition. He is the fulfilment of our deepest aspirations. When we gather around the table for the sacramental meal, we encounter the Risen Lord. There the sacred traditions of our religious heritage are opened for us and we are enabled to recognise him in the traditions and in the breaking of the bread.

In order to encounter the Risen Lord in the breaking of the bread and in the breaking open of the word, we need docile hearts ready to embrace the deepest meaning of our religious heritage. We need hearts that have been purified in the love of God; hearts that have been totally transformed. The commandment of love requires nothing less.

Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the people described in the first reading, must live reformed lives. Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the people addressed in the second reading, must be obedient to God's commandment of love. Having recognised the Risen Lord, we, like the disciples portrayed in the gospel, must preach the good news of God's forgiveness to all nations. Easter faith assures us that all of this is possible.

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Central Europe Pilgrimage with Fr Joseph Lam OSA: May 2025

Cosmos Tour Operators are organising a Central Europe tour for 17 days from 8 to 24 May 2025, travelling through Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria and Czechia, accompanied by Fr Joseph Lam OSA from St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. Prices start from \$5,076 per person, excluding flights. For more information, or to register your interest, please contact the parish office on

secretary@stfinbars.org.au.

Happy Birthday. April

15th Francesca Huckstepp

15th Frank Portelli

19th Noeleen Cliff



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Ray Wood, Paddy Dowling, Beverley Bateup, Alice Lonergan, Edith Burton, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli,

REST IN PEACE April 1st Ken Cullen, 2nd Edna Moran, 2nd Mathew Walker, 2nd Pope John Paul II (2005), 4th Roma Ward (2007), 11th Michael Hanna (d 2012 - Fr Paul's brother), 11th Barry Leeder (2015), 12th Mary Hart (d 2014), 12th Andrew Ziolkowski (d1994 - Marjanna Gilchrist's only sibling), 14th Una Woods, 15th Terrence Bucknel (2018), 16th Lila Anthony, 17th Daisy Lillian Perriam (d 2010), 18th Kenneth Vandenberg (2018), 19th Mary Edna Forster (d 2016)



Third Sunday of Easter Year B

ENTRANCE

**Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.**

First Reading.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19)

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers and sisters, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

RESPONSE Lord, let your face shine on us.

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St John (1 John 2:1-5)

I am writing this, my children,
to stop you sinning;
but if anyone should sin,
we have our advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ, who is just;
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,
and not only ours,
but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God
only by keeping his commandments.
Anyone who says, 'I know him',
and does not keep his commandments,
is a liar,
refusing to admit the truth.
But when anyone does obey what he has said,
God's love comes to perfection in them.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:
make our hearts burn with love when you speak.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 24:35-48)

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

COMMUNION

**The Christ had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead;
in his name repentance and remission of sins
must be preached to all the nations, alleluia.**