

# 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](#)

[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: 17 May 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))

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Year B– 21 April 2024**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Today's First Reading and Gospel reminds us that Jesus, although rejected by the leaders of Israel (the hirelings under God), has proven to be the keystone to the whole edifice of faith in God.

Indeed, by his very action of willingly laying down his life for humankind, Jesus has shown himself to be the True Shepherd (carer, guide, leader) of faith-filled people (the sheep).

This was at the heart of the early proclamation of the Good News (kerygma) proclaimed by the Apostles.

And so, for those who see Jesus as both keystone and Good Shepherd, they are called 'children of God' - whose destiny to see God face-to-face is assured.

This Easter Proclamation gives us hope in the midst of the bad news of our contemporary world; it encourages us in our living out of our Faith; and it inspires us to imitate the Good Shepherd and be people of unconditional love.

My friends, as this 4th week of Eastertide unfolds, let's meditate on the willingness of the Good Shepherd to lay down his life for the sheep... and let us look at ways in which we can imitate Him in our daily lives.

1. ANZAC Day will be celebrated with Mass at 9am in both Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath and St Canice's Church, Katoomba. (Thus, no mass at Wentworth Falls that day).

2. Please note that next Saturday (27/4) we will be having a Gardening Working Bee for the front area of St Canice's. I encourage all (in both Upper Mountains parishes) who are able to come along to do so, so that we can make this very public area in the Main Street of Katoomba be a beautiful space.

Please bring any gardening tools (including wheelbarrows) that will aid us in the removal of weeds and the placing of soil and then mulch in our new garden beds.

There are a number of bulbs and plants that will then need planting.

A sausage sizzle will be provided for the workers!

'Many hands make light work'.

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 20 April**

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

**SUNDAY 21 April**

9.30 am Blackheath

**MONDAY 22 April**

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

**TUESDAY 23 April**

Mass 9.00am Leura  
Confession after mass

**WEDNESDAY 24 April**

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

**Thursday 25 April**

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

**Friday 26 April**

Mass 12pm Katoomba

**Saturday 27 April**

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

**Mt Victoria 20.04.2024**

**1 St Reader:** Fran Leighton  
**on 2 nd Reader:** Elizabeth Giddey

**Sunday 21.04.2024**

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

**Welcome/Intercession:** John Tweedie

**Server:** Diane Stewart

**Church Care:** Paul and Marilyn Rowe

**Counters:** Julie and Lance Hodgkinson

**Flowers:** David Buckley

**Morning Tea:** Monica and Brian Bright

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.



### **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](mailto:marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au) & deposit money in church account with the required number of tickets.

Many thanks for your support. Fundraising Team

### **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.

**Sunday: 28.04.2024**

**1 St Reader:** Christa Buckley

**2 nd Reader:** David Buckley

**Welcome/Intercession:** Francis Huckstepp

**Server:** Paul Harris

**Morning Tea:** Christine and Dominic

### **Thursday 25th Anzac Day,**

6am Dawn Service in Blackheath Memorial Park, 10.15am Anzac Day March starts next to the Victory cafe and proceeds along Wentworth St. to Blackheath Memorial Park for the 11am Service. Afterwards, light refreshments are available at the RSL Blackheath-Mt. Victoria sub- ranch.

Many thanks for your support

**Blackheath Uniting Church** invites you to enjoy a "Pleasant Musical Afternoon", Saturday 4th May from 2-4pm (including Afternoon Tea). Featuring Katherine and Anna Chung. Cost \$30 adults or \$25 Concession.

## GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL THIS 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](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.



## FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

First Communion Preparation commences on the 1st of May with a parents evening. If your child is in year 3 or above and has already celebrated their First Reconciliation (First Confession), they are welcome to join our First Communion programme. Please contact Maureen Ryan [olon254@gmail.com](mailto:olon254@gmail.com) or ring 0403 931 782 to apply to enrol or make enquiries. Those that have recently been involved in our 2024 Sacramental programmes are already automatically enrolled.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

### Blackheath Vinnies needs You

For many years now, Blackheath has had a small but very energetic Vinnies conference. We currently have 8 volunteer members who are rostered to provide various types of support to people in need in Blackheath and other parts of the Upper Blue Mountains. A copy of our annual report to the recent Parish Assembly is attached to the email version of the Bulletin. This sets out in detail our activities.

Our members work closely with one another, as well as with the Katoomba Vinnies conference and also with the Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre.

We find the important role we undertake in our community to be most fulfilling. And we feel the local Parish community really appreciates the work we do. This is always reflected in the generosity of our Parishioners when we hold our Christmas and Winter Appeals and in donations to our food bank.

Whilst we have been able to work quite effectively with our current 8 members, things are about to change. Two of our most active members will be leaving us in the not-too-distant future and moving to Sydney. Their departure will leave a real gap, so in order for us to be able to continue to provide the level of service we have provided to date, we need new members. We therefore ask that you give serious consideration to joining us.

Please contact John Tweedie or Karen Hayward if you would like to find out more about volunteering for Blackheath Vinnies.

John Tweedie  
President  
0407 288 957

Karen Hayward  
Vice President  
0419 123 744

### Recent Baptisms

We welcome baby Maya Mirka to our Christian Community. She is the little daughter of Mark and Alicja Szczypek from Leura

We also congratulate Sophie Maree O'Flynn (8 years) and Cooper John Molineaux (10 years) who were baptised through the Rite of Christian Adults Adapted for Children liturgy. Sophie and Cooper prepared with enthusiasm for a couple of months and so they made their own choices to become Catholic Christians. Also Baptised Into the Christian Community was Nathan Christopher O'Flynn (6 years). Their most important guests were their parents and Phillip and Sarah O'Flynn (from Katoomba) and Sarah Molineaux and Shannon Maher (from Blackheath) and all their godparents

Let us pray for these young ones as they make their Christian journeys and as they grow in understanding of God's love help them to become more like Christ each day.

### 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 next Sunday 21st April at 5pm. Our theme is "God, the wellspring of life" and our worship leaders are Laurel Barr and Carolyn Craig-Emilsen. Supper is provided after the service. All are welcome for this time of prayer, singing and meditation in the Taize tradition

### Happy Birthday. April

26th Sue Gracey



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



## **Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B**

### **ENTRANCE**

**The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;  
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
alleluia.**

### **First Reading.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

**RESPONSE The stone rejected by the builders  
has become the cornerstone.**

### **Second Reading .**

A reading from the first letter of St John (1 John 3:1-2)

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;

all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
Alleluia!

### **Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 10:11-18)

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

The hired man, since he is not the shepherd

and the sheep do not belong to him,

abandons the sheep and runs away

as soon as he sees a wolf coming,

and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep;

this is because he is only a hired man

and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd;

I know my own

and my own know me,

just as the Father knows me

and I know the Father;

and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

that are not of this fold,

and these I have to lead as well.

They too will listen to my voice,

and there will be only one flock

and one shepherd.

The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life

in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me;

I lay it down of my own free will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down,

so it is in my power to take it up again;

and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

### **COMMUNION**

**The Good Shepherd has risen,  
who laid down his life for his sheep  
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.**