

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)

Second Sunday of Easter

Year B— 7 April 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Today we celebrate the Octave Day of Easter—the eight day since the Resurrection. This Second Sunday of Easter was also declared to be Divine Mercy Sunday by Pope Saint John Paul II. And the Gospel for this day every year is that the text from St. John where St. Thomas is challenged to put aside any doubts about the veracity of Christ's Resurrection and begin to believe: "Doubt no longer, but believe."

Although the Apostles (including Thomas) were all privileged to "see" the Risen Lord, the seventh and final Beatitude in John's Gospel makes it clear that we are more blessed than them: "Blessed are those who have not seen, but believe."

And let us continue to rejoice in God's great goodness to us by gifting us with Faith in the Risen Lord! Let's try to look at concrete ways we can initiate or continue to express our faith and love for the Lord in the ways we interact with our fellow human beings!

- I am hoping to be on Retreat from 7 April until 16 April—my first one for 5 years (thank you COVID!!). The Director has COVID as the time of writing, so the retreat is still "under a cloud". Even if it doesn't go ahead as planned, I will be taking some personal time out to concentrate on my spiritual life.
- Fr. Paul Slyney will celebrates 10.00 am Mass at Katoomba on 14 April; and Deacon Alan will officiate as a Liturgy of the Word with Communion at Mount Victoria on Saturday evening 13 April at 6.00 pm; and at Leura on Sunday at 5.00 pm.

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 6 April

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 7 April

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 8 April

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 9 April

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 10 April

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

Thursday 11 April

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

Friday 12 April

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Saturday 13 April

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

Mt Victoria 6.04.2024

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

Sunday 7.04.2024

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

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Paul and Marilyn Rowe

Counters: Diane Stewart

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

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 LENTEN FOODBANK APPEAL

The response to our 6-week JRS Lenten Foodbank Appeal has been FANTASTIC - THANK YOU!

In in total we have collected:
39kg BASMATI RICE
13litres COOKING OIL
16 kg DRIED RED LENTILS
10 litres DISHWASHING LIQUID
16 litres WASHING DETERGENT
and 6 kg WASHING POWDER
34 litres LONG LIFE MILK



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED SO GENEROUSLY!

If you would still like to contribute, we shall leave the pink bin near the Sacristy door for another week or so.

If anyone is driving to Parramatta over the next few weeks, it would be a great help if you could drop our Parish donation into the JRS Office – they are open 9am to 4pm Monday Tuesday and Thursday.

If you can help out, please contact David Buckley: 47875105 or 0400208707.

Your generosity will help many destitute refugee families living in our Diocese.

Thank you so much!

Sunday: 14.04.2024

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Christa and David Buckley



CAKE & PLANT STALL LAST WEEKEND

Thank you to everyone who baked cakes, potted plants & who worked last Sunday

on our Cake & Plant stall. Once again it was a very successful morning with the

amount of \$585 raised for the parish.

Many thanks to all who purchased the goodies and supported this fundraiser.

Fundraising team.

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.



Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/celebrate/marriage/marriage-preparation to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called SmartLoving can also be booked via the website. For more information, email marriage@parracatholic.org or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES: April

9th Adrian and Robyn Carroll (m 1983)



***Today we consider the presence of the Risen Lord. Where is he found? Each of the readings offers an answer to this question. The Risen Christ is found in the community of believers who follow the example of Jesus. Even non-believers recognised something marvellously different about the Christian community, and they exclaimed: These Christians, see how they love one another.



The Risen Christ is found in those who accept the truth of the resurrection on the word of others. The word of God preached by others has often brought us out of darkness into light, from the stranglehold of death to the birth of new life. The preaching of the disciples has been not only instructive, it has also been transformative.

The Risen Christ is found in the forgiveness of sin. Jesus made the frightened disciples ministers of divine forgiveness. The Spirit reconciles sinners with God and, thereby, with the rest of the believing community. Forgiveness is a tangible sign of Christ's mystical presence.

The Risen Christ is found in the physical manifestation of Christ's own wounds, the wounds that he offered to be touched. Since the community is the body of Christ, we touch the wounds of Christ when we touch the wounds of the community, when we go out to the sick and infirm, the dispossessed and the violated. As shocking as these wounds may appear, they are really glorious, because the Risen Lord has identified with them and has made them his own.

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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

2nd Pat Drummond
11th Heidi Lamerton
15th Francesca Huckstepp
15th Frank Portelli



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)



Second Sunday of Easter Year B

ENTRANCE

Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom, alleluia.

First Reading.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35)

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for their own use anything that they had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

RESPONSE Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St John (1 John 5:1-6)

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ

has been begotten by God;

and whoever loves the Father that begot him

loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we are God's children

if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us;

this is what loving God is –

keeping his commandments;

and his commandments are not difficult,

because anyone who has been begotten by God

has already overcome the world;

this is the victory over the world –

our faith.

Who can overcome the world?

Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God;

Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,

not with water only,

but with water and blood;

with the Spirit as another witness –

since the Spirit is the truth.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 20:19-31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me,

so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive,

they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain,

they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

COMMUNION

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.