

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: 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 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

The Ascension of the Lord Year B

Year B– 12 May 2024

Dear friends in Christ

As we rejoice in today's celebration of the Lord's Ascension, we are reminded by the readings that we (the Body of Christ on earth, the Church) are now called upon to continue the mission that Jesus commenced in his short time on earth.

Since the Son is now seated next to the Father who begot Him, it is our responsibility to proclaim the Good News of Salvation to a world that desperately needs to hear it.

But we need to make sure that what we live and speak is faithful to the message of Christ, and not some new form of legalism or rubricism that undermines the proclamation of the New Commandment of unconditional love that we heard in last week's Gospel Reading.

It is always a danger for people of faith to fall back into a modern version of Pharisaism - as a 'system' sometimes helps us with the uncertainties of life.

Yet, as St Paul often reminds his church communities, we must move from 'milk' to 'meat'. We need to grow up in our faith, and live as adults - and that means grappling with the difficult decisions that a pastoral approach demands.

This is what Pope Francis has consistently tried to do: not change the essentials of Belief, but put a pastoral 'face' to these beliefs.

In the uncertainties of human existence, we cannot find God in the black and white... rather, God is found in the messiness, in the grey areas...

The disciples asked Jesus: 'are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

They still thought in simple terms. But Jesus disabuses them of this, and encourages them to move from cultural faith to a universalist approach, from simplistic ideas to something deeper.

And so must we!

Let's try to 'go forth and preach everywhere' as we have been commanded by the Lord. But let's make sure that we are preaching the New Commandment of unconditional love, and not something that restricts or condemns those we feel don't measure up!

A Happy Mother's Day to all mothers in our church communities! We give thanks to God for the one who brought us into this world; and even if they've gone before us, they continue to pray for us. Let's support our mothers in practical and prayerful ways on this, their special Day!

1. We hope to celebrate a 4pm Mass at St Joseph's in Megalong Valley this coming Friday (17/5). All welcome.

2. Weather permitting, we will try to finish the top part of the front garden at St Canice's this coming Saturday (18/5). It will be a shorter working Bee (hopefully), and will finish preparations for planting in Spring.

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 11 May

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 12 May

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 13 May

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 14 May

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 15 May

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

Thursday 16 May

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

Friday 17 May

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Mass 4.00pm Megalong

Saturday 18 May

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after Mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

Accommodation Needed Urgently

A Catholic couple is seeking urgent accommodation. If you can assist, please contact Fr Peter on : 0459 468 705

Mt Victoria 11.05.2024

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 12.05.2024

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: NO MORNING TEA

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.



SAVE THE DATE ~ BIGGEST MORNING TEA

The Combined Churches of Blackheath will host a Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser on Thursday, 23 May between 10am - 12.30pm in the RSL sub branch hall, Blackheath (2 Bundarra St). Come for all or some of the time.

Save the date and join us for a delicious morning tea to raise money for cancer research.

- Biggest Morning Tea -

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Everyone is welcome for a delicious morning tea to raise money for cancer research.

Pentecost Labyrinth Walk:

Sacred Heart parish members are invited to join Uniting Church members at 43 Govetts Leap Rd for a joint Pentecost celebration on Sunday 19th May at 2pm.

No Morning Tea this Sunday due to Mother's Day. We give thanks for the loving hospitality of our mothers and wish all mothers a special celebration with their families.

Blessings,

Monica Bright and our team.

Sunday: 19.05.2024

1 St Reader: Brian Bright

2 nd Reader: Monica Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Dominic and Christine

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.

PARISH THINK TANK: PLANS RESPONDING TO DIOCESAN SYNOD

As you know the Diocese held a Synod meeting Oct 2023. Since then resolutions approved by the Synod have been promulgated by the Bishop, and planning into how Synod Resolutions can be brought to fruition has commenced. The Bishop has invited us all to participate in this process. To this end, the Parish will host a local *Think Tank*, **Sunday, 9 June, 11:00-12:30pm** (after Blackheath Mass). The purpose of this important meeting will be to take up the Bishop's invitation, and gather our ideas about how Sacred Heart Parish (and the Diocese) might best fulfil the Synod Resolutions. All ideas, no matter how general or specific, will be fed into the Diocesan process and which will culminate in a Diocesan Plan later in the year.

To help with this the Diocese has produced a *Draft Diocesan Plan* which can be found at this link: <https://parracatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-April-Draft-Diocesan-Plan-for-a-Synodal-Church-1.pdf>. A range of additional resources can be accessed at this link: <https://parracatholic.org/synod/resources/>

All parish members are cordially invited!

Peace Justice Ecology Table Talk "Laudato Si' Week – Seeds of Hope": 20 May

You are invited to an engaging conversation about caring for God's creation: Hear and discuss inspiring stories from lived experience, and play a role in creating positive change in the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*. Join this Diocesan Table Talk on Monday 20 May, 6pm – 8:30pm, St Finbar's Parish Glenbrook. Light dinner will be provided on arrival. Please register by 12 May and find out more at tinyurl.com/laudatosi-table-talk

Peace Justice and Ecology newsletter for April -May

Click on the link for the latest updates from the PJE diocesan ministry- events include information about the next Table Talk being hosted on May 20,

an update from the Sydney Alliance, a video on 60 Years of Caritas and opportunities for courses and a retreat.

<https://mailchi.mp/parracatholic/special-edition-of-peace-justice-ecology-news-6724699?e=8bd0e808be>

ANNIVERSARIES: May

13th Pat and Carol Drummond (m 1972)



***The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place in our journey, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast itself celebrates one aspect of the resurrection itself, namely, the exaltation of Jesus. The readings help us through this paradox. They allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering both the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at God's right hand. Today we are overwhelmed by the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Amidst shouts of joy and exaltation, Christ is enthroned in heaven in both his divinity and his glorified humanity. Now he is present with us in a new way, in a new body, in the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists; he ministers through its prophets and pastors. Through us he continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have each other; together we make up the new body of Christ.

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WORKING BEE

Saturday morning 11 May 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.



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.

Happy Birthday. May

13th Margaret Davis



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

REST IN PEACE May 9th Percy Potts, 10th Kathleen Columbine (d 1966), 12th Leonard Kirkham (1976), 14th Dawn (Pauline Florence) Sheridan – (d 1997 – Fr Bob's wife), 15th Ken Austin (d 2014), 23rd Frank Mackrell, 25th Lorenzo Fusina, 26th Thea Ellis, 27th Rosemary Davis (d 2009 – Mother of Michelle Davis), 29th John Pye MSC (d 2009 aged 102 - Carmel Vanny's uncle), 30th Geoff Cliff



The Ascension of the Lord Year B

ENTRANCE

**People of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?
This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.**

First Reading.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11)

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you people from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**RESPONSE God mounts his throne to shouts of
joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

Second Reading.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (Ephesians 4:1-7. 11-13)

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is father of all, over all, through all and with-in all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body

of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Human being, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 16:15-20)

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. The one who believes and is baptised is saved; The one who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

COMMUNION

**Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.**

