

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: 21 June 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)

Pentecost Sunday Year B

19 May 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In our Second Reading from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians, we are encouraged not to live in the realm of self-indulgence but to live in the realm of the Spirit.

Self-centredness leads to all kinds of aberrations and disharmony within oneself and within the community. We can group the vices that Paul lists into three main areas: sexual, spiritual and relationship sins.

However, the Spirit gifts us with the 'fruit' of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

These enable us to fight our all-too-human tendency to concentrate on self and not to look to the good of the other. With the 'fruit of the Spirit' to help us, we can be more faithful to Christ's Mission to the world, which is now OUR responsibility in this period between the two Comings of Christ.

On this great day of Pentecost and in the coming week, let's once again strive to find some moments of quiet reflection to ponder the text from Galatians.

Let's allow the Spirit to transform us, so that our every word and action will be said and done with a view to allowing the 'fruit of the Spirit' to more and more become a reality in our lives.

"Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit".

Our Parish Secretary, Christine Burke, will be on Annual leave from next week. Until Christine returns on 2nd July, the Office will only be open on Thursday mornings from 10.00am-11:45am.

We will monitor voicemail and email to the best of our ability during this period.

If there are any pressing needs, please use the After Hours Emergency Number (0490 814 284) during these weeks of Christine's well-deserved break.

Next Saturday morning there will be the first of what I hope will be an annual Joint Meeting of the Parish Finance Committees of both Upper Blue Mountains and Sacred Heart parishes.

A joint meeting for the two Parish Pastoral Councils will be held in June.

Both gatherings will further our ability to cooperate in ministering to the needs of people in the upper mountains.

God Bless

Fr John

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 18 May

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 19 May

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 20 May

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 21 May

Mass 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 22 May

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

Thursday 23 May

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

Friday 24 May

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Saturday 25 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 18.05.2024

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

Sunday 19.05.2024

1 St Reader: Brian Bright

2nd Reader: Monica Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

Morning Tea: Dominic and Christine

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 -

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.

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

UPGRADE OF ENTRANCE & EXIT ROADS

I made an executive decision during the week to upgrade our main entrance and exit roads into the parish. It has saved us around \$12—15,000, but nothing is ever free. If anyone would like to make a one-off donation towards the costs, we would all be very grateful. *Fr. John*

Sunday: 26 .05.2024

1st Reader:

Christa Buckley

2nd Reader:

David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession:

John Tweedie

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea:

Pamela and Kristan

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.

Mass at St Joseph's in the Megalong Valley

Friday May 17 at 4pm

Mass will be held tomorrow afternoon at St Joseph's. Please allow extra time for the drive as there are hold ups both ways while vehicles are escorted across the slip area on the road.

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!

Laudato Si Week 19-26 May

Join the Catholic Church across Australia and Catholics around the world in celebrating Laudato Si' Week. This annual commemoration of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si' encourages us to care more deeply for God's creation. The theme for this year's celebration is Seeds of Hope.

For more information about this global event look at the following links:

<https://laudatosiweek.org/>

<https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/library/laudato-si-week-parish/>

<https://mailchi.mp/parracatholic/special-edition-of-peace-justice-ecology-news-6727368?e=bf8b39001d>

The Church is a missionary people:

The Church doesn't have a mission, rather Jesus' commission 'go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation' has a Church. St John Paul II spoke much of the new evangelisation, of the uncommitted, the converted and diverted across all cultures in the world. Pope Francis has built on this foundation with calls for an integral ecology that respects the diversity and unique expressions of our faith. Far from being missionary 'to the people' (Ad Gentes), Antonio Pernia, SVD describes the modern experience of mission (Inter Gentes) 'as dialogue with people, as encounter between peoples and as finding a home among the people'. The Church is called to be a missionary people who enter into the cultural world of our society and preach all of the Gospel, to all of the people, all of the time. As Bishop Vincent noted in his sermon last week "We are the Church that constantly renews itself for greater mission."

We have a new parish brochure that spells out some ways that we can help our parish renew itself and "go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation". **The brochures are available near the main entrance.**

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

***Pentecost brings the Easter season to a close, celebrating the fullness of the Spirit and the great gathering of nations. The plan of salvation has been brought to its conclusion. The Risen Lord is exalted in his rightful place next to God and has sent his own Spirit to fill the earth with God's power. The world is charged with divine energy; it needs but a spark to ignite it with life and excitement.

If this has all really happened, why does our world look the same? Why is there so much religious and ethnic rivalry? Why do we continue to make distinctions between Jew and Gentile, slave and free, woman and man, distinctions that favour one at the expense of the other? Why is there so little peace, or comfort, or solace? Why do we refuse to forgive or to be reconciled? Is Pentecost merely a feast that we celebrate in red vestments? Has the face of the earth really been renewed?

The answer is yes! Resoundingly, yes! The Spirit has been poured forth and works wonders wherever human hearts are open to its prompting. The earth is renewed each time rivalries are resolved, distinctions are recognised as merely expressions of diversity, peace is restored, comfort and solace are offered, and forgiveness is granted. We are immersed in the vigour of the Spirit of God; all we have to do is open ourselves to it and the reign of God will be born in our midst.

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Statement from Australia's Catholic bishops on the situation in the Holy Land:

Please click the link below:

<https://catholicoutlook.org/statement-from-australias-catholic-bishops-on-the-situation-in-the-holy-land/>

This is an excellent statement!

Sacred Heart Parish is running a monthly discussion group, the purpose of which is to build our understanding of where the Church is leading us on matters important to the future of the Church.

The next meeting will be **26 May, 3:00-4:30pm, Parish Hall, Blackheath** (entry via Wentworth Street). It will also be possible to zoom in - please let us know your interest.

The topic for discussion will be the recent Vatican Declaration on human dignity, *Dignitas Infinita*. https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_dcf_doc_20240402_dignitas-infinita_en.html. We will be looking at the **Introduction** (pp2-4) & **Section 3** (pp 8 - 10). Our intention is to cover the balance of the document at a future date.

All most welcome!

Clive Kanés (c_kanes@yahoo.com.au)



Pentecost Sunday Year B

ENTRANCE

The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.

First Reading.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11)

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout people living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking their own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

RESPONSE Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians (Galatians 5:16-25)

If you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. When self-indulgence is at work the results are obvious: fornication, gross indecency and sexual irresponsibility; idolatry and sorcery; feuds and wrangling, jealousy, bad temper and quarrels; disagreements, factions, envy; drunkenness, orgies and similar things. I warn you now, as I warned you before: those who behave like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. There can be no law against things like that, of course. You cannot belong to Christ Jesus unless you crucify all self-indulgent passions and desire.

Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 15:26-27; 16:12-15)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset. I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'

COMMUNION

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.

