

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)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Year B— 5 May 2024

Dear friends in Christ

Oh, how magnificent is God's Love for us!

God sent His Son to gain Salvation for all through His salvific death.

And Christ taught His Disciples to Love as He did: unconditionally!

This 'agapē' Love of the Lord enables us to be loving people ourselves.

Our Readings reinforce the need for each and every one of us to be people of unconditional love...

The text from the Acts of the Apostles - in the story of Cornelius and his family receiving the Spirit before Baptism - reminds us that there are no longer distinctions between human beings on the basis of race, culture or religious background... for God loves everyone He has created unconditionally.

The First Letter of St John declares that our loving of others in imitation of God's Love is our means of Salvation: in loving others we experience the God who IS Love.

And the Gospel proclaims the New Commandment: "Love one another as I have Loved you". This unconditional "agapē" love is something that seeks the good of the other, and is never self-serving. It was this Love which drove Jesus throughout His Life; and it must be at the basis of our Christian living!

In the coming week, let us find some free moments to reflect on these texts, and marvel at the goodness of God. Let us call upon the grace of God to enable us to put into practice the New Commandment of Jesus which encapsulates and fulfills all others:

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.

My thanks, and that of your fellow parishioners, to all who helped so generously with last Saturday's Gardening Working Bee. So much was accomplished in such a short space of time. There is more to do, of course - isn't that the nature of 'gardening'!? - so we will try (weather permitting) to have a few hours on Saturday 18/5 from 10am.

Again, Thank You!

God bless you all!

Have a great week...

Fr John

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 4 May

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 5 May

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 6 May

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 7 May

Mass 9.00am Leura
Confession after mass

WEDNESDAY 8 May

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

Thursday 9 May

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

Friday 10 May

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Saturday 11 May

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

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.

Mt Victoria 4.05.2024

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart
2 nd Reader: Maria

Sunday 5.05.2024

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

Welcome/Intercession: Frank Portelli

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson

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.



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

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: 12.05.2024

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2 nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Adrian Carroll

Server: Pat Wicks

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

ANZAC Day

Sincerest thanks to Julie Hodgkinson for creating two beautiful floral tributes and to Mary Ryan (Mt Victoria) and Graham Beale (Blackheath) for representing our parish at the services last Thursday, April 25.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

First Communion Preparation commenced 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 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.

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

Thank You for Supporting our Holy Spirit Seminarians

Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation and our Holy Spirit Seminarians thank you for your generous support in the formation of our future priests. Our Bishop’s Good Shepherd Appeal will support our seminarians to deepen their relationship with God and commit more fully to their spiritual calling, so they may serve our faith community. If you haven’t had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



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

6th Monica and Brian Bright (m 1978)

13th Pat and Carol Drummond (m 1972)



***The boundlessness of God’s love is seen in the fact that God loved us even before we were deserving of God’s love. In fact, it was God’s love that made us able both to receive and to give love in return. Love is of God; love is God. Divine love is constant and trustworthy. How easily we can think this thought or speak these words, yet how difficult, even impossible, it is to comprehend what it means. We can only really recognise love in its many concrete manifestations. Love is patient, kind and forbearing; it believes, it hopes, it endures. The love of God breaks down the barriers between Gentile and Jew, between slave and free, between the poor and the prosperous, between women and men, between the healthy and the ailing, between young and old.



Embraced by such love we are gradually transformed. We begin to recognise God’s love in places we never suspected it would be found. We discover that what we once judged unclean may merely be an unfamiliar openness to God’s truth. We discover that our own insistence on legitimate religious practice may really be spiritual elitism. Our eyes are opened to ways we have tried to confine God’s love to the conventional boundaries we ourselves have set. As we are drawn into God’s love, we eagerly embrace the commandments that help us to live righteous lives. To the extent that we love as universally as God does, we will know that we live in God and that God lives in us.

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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.



Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser

hosted by the

Combined Churches of Blackheath

Thursday May 23, from 10:00-12:30

Blackheath-Mount Victoria RSL sub-branch

2 Bundarra St, Blackheath

All welcome!

Happy Birthday. May

4th Marilyn Rowe

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



Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B

ENTRANCE

**Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard;
proclaim to the ends of the earth:
The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

First Reading.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48)

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**RESPONSE The Lord has revealed to the nations
his saving power.**

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St John (1 John 4:7-10)

My dear people,

let us love one another

since love comes from God

and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed

when God sent into the world his only Son

so that we could have life through him;

this is the love I mean:

not our love for God,

but God's love for us when he sent his Son

to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 15:9-17)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me,
so I have loved you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments
you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

I have told you this
so that my own joy may be in you
and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another,
as I have loved you.

One can have no greater love
than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends,

if you do what I command you,

I shall not call you servants any more,
because a servant does not know
their master's business;

I call you friends,

because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me,

no, I chose you;

and I commissioned you

to go out and to bear fruit,

fruit that will last;

and then the Father will give you
anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you

is to love one another.'

COMMUNION

**If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord,
and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Par-
aclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.**