

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: 20 Sept 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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 8 September 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The first reading talks of the blind seeing, the dumb hearing, the lame walking and the dumb being able to speak. It talks of water gushing out across the desert and the scorched earth becoming a lake filled with water. The water is symbolic of the Holy Spirit which frees and liberates people. The desert, the scorched earth is our world which oppresses people, blinds them to the truth, fills their ears with all sorts of propaganda so that we cannot hear the voice of God, or the cry of the oppressed and suffering. The world which ensnares and entraps us so we can't speak out or reach out to others. A dry and lifeless world.

What Christ did in the Gospel is very symbolic. Yes, it shows he could cure what was incurable but, more so, his action prefigured what He was going to achieve when through His death the Holy Spirit was going to flow into the dry and dusty wilderness of this world. It was going to open the ears of people to hear the word of God and to speak the words God wants spoken.

That's what the letter of James is talking about. About us treating people fairly without prejudice. Not treating people according to the standards of this world, not listening to the media which demonises certain groups or races of people. Letting go of prejudices inherited and learnt from others. This is what Psalm 149 speaks of when it says:

May the praise of God be in their mouths
and a double-edged sword in their hands,
⁷to inflict vengeance on the nations
and punishment on the peoples,
⁸to bind their kings with fetters,
their nobles with shackles of iron,
⁹to carry out the sentence written against them—
this is the glory of all his faithful people.

We bind our kings (whatever of this world that leads us) in fetters when we choose to listen to the Word of God and not to them. We put our nobles in fetters of iron when stop listening to the media and all other forms of talk that segregates peoples and puts us at odds with another. When we stop listening, we take away their power. This loss of power is the vengeance that is coming, this is the sentence that will be pronounced when the Holy Spirit finally brings to life what was given to us in Baptism when the Ephphatha was said, and the sign of the cross was made on our ears and lips. It is when we finally allow the Holy Spirit to cure us that the glory of God will be made manifest in us.

Deacon Alan.

Please mute your mobile at Mass.

Thank-you for your courtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 7 Sept

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 8 September

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 9 September

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 10 September

Mass at 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 11 September

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

THURSDAY 12 September

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 13 September

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

SATURDAY 14 September

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after Mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

Praying with Pope Francis for the month of September. For the cry of the Earth. We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Mt Victoria 07.09.2024

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kaness

Sunday 08.09.2024

1 St Reader: Brian Bright

2nd Reader: Monica Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Phil and Pat Wicks

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Julie O'Keefe

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.



Bishop's Father's Day Appeal supporting our retired priests.

This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' life-long gifts of faithful service. They have dedicated their lives to guiding us spiritually and emotionally, often at great personal sacrifice. Your compassionate donation cares for our clergy's health and wellbeing during sickness and retirement. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



GARAGE SALE

Your social club has decided to hold a garage sale on the long weekend in October on Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th. If you have any unwanted items in your closets we would be most grateful to put them in our sale. This is an extra fundraiser to our normal sale in February.

Please leave at the office door or contact Marilyn or Diane for pick up.

Your contributions are very much appreciated. Your Social Committee

Diocesan Healthcare Ministries Community

You are warmly invited to join the formation session

Loving your Neighbour in the Sick and Dying

Saturday 21st September 2024

At St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood

11.00am-1pm followed by lunch

This ministry is founded on the call of Jesus to love one's neighbour in the sick and the dying. People involved in the Pastoral Care of the Sick, Aged Care, Lay Chaplains, Healthcare Professionals as well as students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare are particularly encouraged to attend this formation meeting.

RSVP met@parracatholic.org 09.09 2024

Enquiries to michael.tan@parracatholic.org

Sunday: 15.09.2024

1st Reader:

John Tweedie

2nd Reader:

Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession:

Pat Wicks

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea:

Pamela and Kristan

ACBC 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has formally launched its 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, 'Truth & Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World'. In the statement, Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. Download your copy of the Statement and a range of resources by visiting <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/>

Season of Creation Mass:

Our parish was shining its finest last Sunday, the first day of Spring, as we hosted the Diocesan SoC Mass with Bishop Vincent and visitors. Thank you to all those who played such a huge part in bringing our community together and celebrating this wonderful creative world. Our liturgy, music, flowers, grounds and hospitality certainly shone. To all...

THANK YOU ... in particular to Julie and Lance, Christa and David, Julie and Sigi, Mon and Brian, John and Pamela, Frances, Ronnie, Pat, Joe, Gabrielle, Ray, Paul, Fr John and others who are not mentioned. THANK YOU. A special mention to the Diocesan team who attended and prepared for the celebration, Sebastian, James and Rachel, and to Bishop Vincent for his dedication and commitment to the Laudato Si' movement.

***Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world.



There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims, 'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.' The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present.

Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way.

Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.

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OUR CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

Our Confirmation preparation is now more than halfway through, and the families have been exploring the actions of the Holy Spirit. At the first Pentecost there is an account about the coming of the Holy Spirit accompanied by fire and wind. These symbols together with the symbols of breath and a dove all point to the mysterious actions of the Holy Spirit which can be powerful or gentle. The Holy Spirit is a giver of gifts and a part of the Confirmation ceremony involves seven of the traditional gifts of the Spirit being requested for each of the candidates.

To help the children understand the gifts of Knowledge, Understanding, Wisdom, Courage, Reverence, Right judgement and Wonder, each candidate has been given 7 small tangible gifts to represent each of the gifts of the spirit. For example, for the gift of Reverence each candidate has been given a few colourful pebbles

because **Reverence is the gift that helps us to respect the results of God's Love in everyone and in all creation.**

These gifts of the Spirit were given to all us at our own Confirmation. They are still good for us today. We just need to remember to use them.

So, let us all pray for the gifts of the Spirit of the Holy Spirit, not only for the candidates preparing for Confirmation but also for all of us, especially in the times we really need them.

Maureen
for the Sacramental Team

BCKG - Responding to the 'cry of the earth' and the 'cry of the poor': It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the beginning of the season of creation with Bishop Vincent last Sunday. Pat Drummond's original composition Gratitude spoke to us re our response to the wonders of creation and our creator God. As followers of Christ, we are entrusted with caring for creation in our daily interactions. Recycling our "rubbish" is one of the fundamental things we can do to care for the planet. Everything from empty toothpaste tubes to spent printer cartridges can be sent to processing centres to make the best use of these things we are finished with. Just drop them off as you come into church or leave them in a bag on the hall verandah. A video recording of last Sunday's event will be available in coming weeks and we can look at putting a link to this on our revamped parish website.

Funeral Details for Jeff Thurlow. The Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Jeff Thurlow will be celebrated in St Patrick's Catholic Church, Lithgow on Monday 9th September at 11am. At the conclusion of the prayers following the mass a private cremation will take place. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sebastian Caruso, his friends and family, on the passing of Jeff, Seb's partner of 18 years. May eternal rest be granted to Jeff, and may he rest in peace. Amen.

Happy Birthday September

5th Diane Stewart

8th Lance Hodgkinson



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

Recently Died: 27th August Jeff Thurlow

REST IN PEACE Sept : 1st Lily Hanna 2010, 3rd Philomena Drummond (d 1991 - Pat Drummond's mother), 5th Bernie Tierney (d 2007 - Father of Sue Gracey), 8th Ray Thomas, 10th Mary Kingston (d 2016), 14th Andrew Krawczyk , 15th Elsie Carroll (d 2010 - Adrian's mother), 25th Ivan Naraj, 29th Ron Walsh, Tatiana Schultzy



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 35:4-7)
Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the mute sing for joy;
for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

RESPONSE

Praise the Lord, my soul!

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St James (James 2:1-5)

My brothers and sisters, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose someone comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor person comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed person, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor person, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 7:31-37)

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.'

COMMUNION

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

2024 Season of Creation Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all, We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ.

Amen.