

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: 18 October 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 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 13 October 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The man in today's Gospel felt that he had always observed the regulations of the Law of Moses. Indeed, he was a 'good person'. Jesus looked at him and loved him!

And, while it's important to be faithful to the external expectations of one's religion, Jesus points out that one thing is still lacking in his life: putting God in the centre of his existence, thereby allowing himself to be totally available to what God wants of him.

This is made explicit when Jesus challenges him about priorities: sell all you have and 'Come, follow me'.

We are meant to do all we can to live virtuous lives, but always with Jesus as the one in control.

By keeping all the rules, saying all the prayers, fulfilling all the expectations of faith... this does not guarantee us of eternal salvation.

God looks deeper than the external aspects of our life, to the hidden attachments that prevent Christ from truly being Lord of our life.

As the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us: "No created thing can hide from Him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give an account of ourselves."

And so, my friends, let's do all we can to place the Lord and his Gospel at the centre of all we do and say: for in this is the true way to salvation, to eternal life with God.

Calling on the grace of God, let's live virtuous lives to the best of our ability in the circumstances that life throws our way.

Indeed, let's listen to the Lord's call in the depths of our being, not allowing any attachments to make us deviate from walking in the footsteps of the Master.

And we remember the first Beatitude (our Verse before Gospel for today's Liturgy):

"Blessed the poor in spirit (= those who have God in the centre of their lives), theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven".

1. Masses for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will once again be at Blackheath at 9am, so it's easier for Fr Peter (who still cannot drive).

2. There will be Mass at St Joseph's Church, Megalong Valley, this coming Friday at 4pm. All welcome.

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 12 October

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria. (Liturgy of the Word)

SUNDAY 13 October

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 14 October

Mass at 9.00am Blackheath

TUESDAY 15 October

Mass at 9.00am Blackheath

WEDNESDAY 16 October

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

THURSDAY 17 October

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

FRIDAY 18 October

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

SATURDAY 19 October

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after Mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

Mass in the Valley: 18th October 2024

Come along to the next Mass in the Valley at St Joseph's on Friday 18 October at 4pm. Afternoon tea is served too!

Mt Victoria 12.10.2024

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

Sunday 13.10.2024

1 St Reader: Christa Buckley

2nd Reader: David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Francis Huckstepp

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Paul and Marilyn Rowe

Counters: Laurie Noyes

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Christine and Dom

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



Changes to Wednesday Cuppa's in October

Wednesday Cuppa's will **reopen** on October 16 from 9:30-12noon.

Some of our usual volunteers are away on October 16, 23 and 30. Evelyn and Ken will be setting up the morning tea from the 16th. If you are able to assist in any way -baking a cake or slice, dropping in to say hello, helping with the tables and chairs etc please phone Evelyn on 0428 333 982 for a chat.

Our sincerest thanks for keeping our Welcome mat out!



Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/mongolia

Appeal weekend 19 and 20th October (Envelopes will be available on the pews next week)

In Mongolia, vulnerable people requiring social services often face stigma for using them. Those in need are often impacted by domestic violence or homelessness. Unfortunately, support services are limited in number and the demand for them is growing.

This means some of our brothers and sisters in Mongolia are going without the help they need.

This month, we invite you to support the Church in Mongolia on their journey to provide more support for vulnerable people in need. Your kindness will ensure that more of our brothers and sisters can receive the assistance they need to get back on their feet.

Sunday: 20.10.2024

1st Reader: John Tweedie

2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Eve McDonnell

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian

A BIG THANK YOU

Thanks everyone who contributed in some way to make our garage sales so successful.

We raised the amount of \$4464.80 towards parish funds.

Once again we see how our parish comes together & tucks in.

Many thanks to all.

Besides all the hard work there was a good feeling all round over the last week.

Marilyn. Social Committee

Thank You

A sincere thank you to our parishioners for the kind wishes and food deliveries after my recent fall. It is very much appreciated.
Fr Peter Lamont

COMMUNION TO THE SICK DAY

Saturday 19th October from 9:30-2pm at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre.

Sr Mary-Louise will talk about the “theology of suffering” and go over the practicalities of the ministry and Maria Kervin will give a session on “dealing with boundaries and respect”.

Morning tea and lunch are provided.

To register, please email Hannah [Hannah](mailto:Hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org) before Monday Oct 14th.

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND MISSION DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of our inter-parish discussion group will be **Saturday 26 October, 3:00-4:30 pm, Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Blackheath**, where we will focus on the first three priorities of the new *Diocesan Plan* (pp 19-23) <https://parracatholic.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Behold-I-Am-With-You-Always-Pastoral-Plan-for-a-Synodal-Church-2024-2028-WEBv.pdf>.

Our discussions are bite sized and take in topics that impact us and our community. The goals of the group are to enrich understanding and contribute to our ongoing formation as members of the Church.

If you'd like to zoom in, please let me know. For further information, please contact Clive Kanés at blackheath@parracatholic.org.

OPEN GARDEN 3 EASTER STREET LEURA (WINNER OF THE 2023 SEARLES NATIONAL COTTAGE GARDEN)

When: 12-13 October Time: 10.00am—4.00pm
Entry Fee: \$10.00 includes Morning/afternoon Tea:
Entry ONLY \$5.00.

A variety of plants will be for sale and Raffle tickets. If any one would like to contribute Cakes, Slices, Scones etc please contact Barbara on 0417 490 103 and if you are unable to attend a donation will be greatly appreciated as funds raised will be used for the maintenance of our churches.

Anniversaries: Oct

9th Fr Bob Sheridan's ordination 2004
21st Mark and Maria Slater (m 2006)



Happy Birthday October

14th Fr Paul Hanna
21st Maria Slater



***This Sunday's readings confront us with the need to make choices in life, choices for God. They also remind us that no significant choice is without its price. However, if we make the right choice, we are assured that we will be richly rewarded.



We all want to be happy in life. We just don't always know which doors to open, and how far to enter them. We need wisdom for that. The more options that are open to us, the more difficult it is to choose, but choose we must. To choose one option is to relinquish the others. The young man in the gospel wanted eternal life. Surely there is nothing more worthy than that. However, the price he was asked to pay was more than he had expected, and he went away saddened. To choose is to face the consequences of the word of God, and sometimes this is as sharp as a two-edged sword.

One of the mysteries of faith is the incomprehensible generosity of God. We choose wisdom instead of all of the good things of the world, and we receive these good things along with wisdom itself. We are asked to relinquish all of the things that we value, and we get them back a hundredfold. We are invited to take a step into the unknown. We are told that we will not fall. However, we are never sure of this until we take the step and discover that we have not fallen. God demands so much, but gives so much more.

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Bishops Synod on Synodality - Rome:

The second session of the Bishops Synod has commenced in Rome and is an exciting and significant time in the Catholic Church. The Diocese of Parramatta's Vicar of Communication, Br Mark O'Connor, is present in Rome and has penned his first report. It can be found at this link <https://catholicoutlook.org/the-spirit-is-moving-updates-from-a-global-synod-letter-1/>

or by Googling “Catholic Outlook Br Mark O'Connor”. The meditations offered by Cardinal Elect Timothy Radcliffe are particularly formative

Parish Christmas Party 6th December 2024

Christmas is Coming...

Save the date for our parish Christmas party
Friday evening December 6 from 6pm in our parish hall.
Bring a plate to share, savory or sweet, BYO.
More information soon!

Prayer Request

Your prayers are requested for the Buckley family. David's sister, Judith has been in Care for a lengthy period and has passed away. She was a much treasured family member and is now in the loving embrace of our God

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

Recently Died: 16th Sept Connie Adams.

REST IN PEACE OCT: 1st Ced Ward, 2nd Lal Nott Mark, 6th George Cora, 8th Vera Noble, 11th Michael Cooper (d 2016), 16th Eileen Smith (d 2007), 18th Ron Drummond (d 2003 – Pat's brother), 20th Jaroslav Zeeman (d 1999) – Betty's husband, Jerry), 25th Leslie Dee (d 2015), 25th Edna Bentick (d 2010), 26th Patricia Davies (d 2013 - Barbara Grieves sister), 26th Barry Roberts(2017), 27th Brenda Pateman (d 2013 - wife of Fred for nearly 49 years), 28th Andrew Harris



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Wisdom (Wisdom 7:7-11)

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

RESPONSE

Fill us with your love, O Lord,
and we will sing for joy!

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 4:12-13)

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (Mark 10:17-27)

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For people' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

COMMUNION

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.