

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: 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 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 6 October 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

At first glance, the teaching of Jesus on marriage and divorce in today's Gospel text from Mark seems quite confronting. Indeed, this text and its rather strict interpretation has been the cause of much anxiety and stress. It has been the source of hurt for innumerable people over the centuries. It has caused good people to walk away from the Church.

Nevertheless, as a biblical scholar, I find a light shining in the gloom of such traditional understanding.

The key to this text is the next pericope (text-unit) in Mark's Gospel.

Some commentators see the section about not stopping the little children coming to Jesus as simply another theme that Marks turns to... yet, Mark was very clever; and many biblical scholars nowadays see this section's placement as deliberate.

Having been rather strict in his re-interpretation of Genesis, Jesus now forbids his Apostles from turning away the 'little ones'.

Our translation of 'little children' is too specific. Rather, the idea of children or 'little ones' is often metaphorical in all four gospels. It refers to those who are on the way to full discipleship... those who are often in need of Christ's loving help. (All of us?)

So, in refuting the actions of the Apostles in turning away the little ones, Jesus can be seen as saying that those who are unable (for whatever reason) to live up to the ideal of marriage as expressed in the previous section should never be turned away by the community of believers.

And this directly challenges those of a legalistic mindset.

When it comes to the pastoral care of us all, we must be open to new ways of understanding and living the Truth.

1. Masses will be at the regular churches this week; we wish Fr Peter a speedy recovery.

2. We are investigating ways of increasing air flow in the new Adoration Chapel to help alleviate the unusual situation up here in Katoomba of being too hot!!

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 5 October

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

SUNDAY 6 October

9.30 am Blackheath

MONDAY 7 October

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 8 October

Mass at 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 9 October

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

THURSDAY 10 October

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 11 October

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

SATURDAY 12 October

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after Mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

This Sunday 6 October 11am

(after the 10am Mass at Katoomba)

Mt Victoria 5 .10.2024

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 6. 10.2024

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Paul and Marilyn Rowe

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: David Buckley

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



Changes to Wednesday Cuppa's in October

Wednesday Cuppa's will be **closed** on October 2 and 9. We 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!

GARAGE SALE 5TH & 6TH OCTOBER

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.

Help needed!

We still need helpers for PACKING UP AFER THE GARAGE SALE ON SUNDAY 6TH OCT. Please contact Marilyn on marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au or 0414536601. Thank you for your help. Your Social Committee

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BISHOP MANNING SUPPORT FUND

Would you like your child to receive a Catholic education but are worried that your family cannot afford it? Please consider applying for a bursary that will cover the school fees, the cost of uniforms and equipment for primary or secondary school students for up to four years of enrolment. The fund, named in honour of the recently deceased Bishop Kevin Manning, is a Diocesan charity that seeks to ensure all families who want a Catholic education for their child can receive one. Please scan this code or visit

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/affordable-education/bishop-manning-support-fund>. Applications close 18 October



Sunday: 13 .10.2024

1st Reader:

Christa Buckley

2nd Reader:

David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession:

Francis Huckstep

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Christine and Dom

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/>

BCKG - Responding to the 'cry of the earth': This Saturday's gardening session has been cancelled. This weekend being a long week-end is a very busy time on our roads and a good time to be doing things at home.

We have some good news re Bishop Vincent's launch at Blackheath of the Season of Creation. Videos and photos are now available:

Recording of the full Mass: https://youtu.be/5AWJK0_cr_Y Highlights video: <https://youtu.be/WE0tjwiCDto> Photos from the day at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBGsje>

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.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 Kanen at blackheath@parracatholic.org.

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!

Happy Birthday October

8th Pat Wicks
14th Fr Paul Hanna
21st Maria Slater



***In marriage, the couple does not merely receive a sacrament, they become one. They become an outward sign of the love of God. They are able to open themselves to each other in love, because God has first loved them. When they become one in marriage, they create something new, something that is a sign of the creative power of God. This in no way minimises the passionate love that they may have, or the unselfishness with which they give themselves to each other. Rather, it underscores the origin of that passion and the model of that unselfishness.



We are brothers and sisters of Christ in more than one way. First, through his incarnation, he became one of us, a little lower than the angels. He shared our human existence; he knew the highs and lows of human life. Then he redefined family relationships, claiming that blood bonds were no longer the determinant for establishing kinship. Instead, those who hear the word of God and keep it, those who commit themselves to God in faithful discipleship, are his brothers and sisters.

Marriage and other forms of discipleship make religious demands on us. Because we are taking a step into the unknown, they require a profound act of trust – trust in ourselves, trust in each other and, most importantly, trust in God. They also expect openness on our part – openness to give and openness to receive. Unfortunately we associate these characteristics with unpretentious children. While children may possess them because they are innocent, adults must repossess them because we have been recreated in Christ.

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Blackheath Golf & Community Club

Do you know someone who is struggling with the rising cost of living and would benefit from a free hot meal??

The local Golf and Community Club in Blackheath are offering a free meal to those in need.

Date: Monday 14th October
Time: 6.00pm to 7.00pm

Phone: 47575406
Email: gm@blackheathgolf.com.au
Brightlands Avenue, Blackheath

Anniversaries: Oct

4th Christine and Dominic Burke



Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Marie Bowrey, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Ray Wood, Paddy Dowling, Beverley Bateup, Alice Lonergan, 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



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

ENTRANCE

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:18-24)
The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them, each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:
'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman,
for this was taken from man.'
This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

RESPONSE

May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Second Reading.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 2:9-11)

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all humankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his children into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers and sisters.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark (Mark 10:2-16)

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

COMMUNION

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.