

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 December 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

Third Sunday of Advent C 15 December 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This is Gaudete Sunday, that is: Rejoice Sunday.

The first reading tells us to shout for joy.

Zion or Israel refers to the people of God. Jerusalem refers to the Church.

But why? Because God will renew us by His love.

That's what the second reading is telling us when it says that the peace of God which
is so much greater than we can understand will guide our hearts and our thoughts.

It's what St John the Baptist is talking about when he says that he baptises with water
but Christ who comes after him Baptises with fire and the Holy Spirit.

The baptism of St John was a baptism of repentance. People called to changing their
lives by moving away from self-centred interests.

But the Baptism of Christ fundamentally changes us as it gives us access to the Holy
Spirit. It's what the Church calls an ontological change, a change in the way we exist.

This change is the love of God. When we come to an awareness of the unconditional
love of God, not an understanding but an experience, a feeling of it, through which we
come to trust in God and put all our fears aside and become sources of this same love
to those around us. This is the renewal, the guidance of our hearts and thoughts.

But this is a lifelong journey. A struggle. Because in our relations we don't experience
unconditional love, so the concept is largely foreign to us. If you like, it is not of this
world.

But it can be, and it will be because this is why Christ came to us, to bring about the
New Heaven and New Earth where Heaven and Earth are united.

The incarnation didn't just happen 2000 years ago, it's happening now. We are part of
it. The whole of creation is being assumed into Christ through our merging with Him.

Coming to an awareness of this immense unconditional love of God which completely
frees us is a long process.

One I struggle with. Everything around me, my life experiences, my understanding all
pull me into a very different understanding of love and relationships and with it into
fears and worries.

That's when I need to take time out to contemplate, to try and unjumble the mess in
my head.

I'm saying this because this really is a long process. A process of coming to the
realisation of a completely different reality but a process that is fundamental to our
faith.

Deacon Alan

Please mute your mobile at Mass. Thank-you for your courtesies.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 14 December

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 15 December

8.am Wentworth Falls

9.30 am Blackheath

10am Katoomba

5pm Leura

MONDAY 16 December

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 17 December

Mass at 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 18 December

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppa's together: 9.30 - 12.00pm

Blackheath Community Kitchen-Garden 10-12pm.

THURSDAY 19 December

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 20 December

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

Mass 4.15pm Megalong

SATURDAY 21 December

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after Mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

Mt Victoria 14. 12. 2024

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Eden

Sunday 15. 12.2024

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Eve McDonnell

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Lance and Julie Hodgkinson

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & 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

Cuppa's will be closed on Christmas Day. We will be OPEN every Wednesday morning in January. Come along to the hall after Mass for a cuppa and meet new people, or drop in for a chat, bring a friend, family members, and visitors for an enjoyable morning of Sacred Heart hospitality. Check out the abundant produce in the kitchen garden, walk around our splendid grounds, or enjoy a game of scrabble or chess. From mid- January Cuppa's will relocate to the church veranda due to hall transformation for the Garage Sale. All welcome on Wednesdays!



Epiphany Pilgrimage 2025

Sacred Heart Parish will be hosting the Epiphany Pilgrimage group again in 2025 as they journey up the mountains from 2 - 9 January and celebrate 10 years of pilgrimage through our deanery. In preparation for the pilgrimage, you are invited to write any prayer requests on the cards provided and place them in the Epiphany Pilgrimage prayer box to be prayed each day by the pilgrims. Please join the pilgrimage group for the Pilgrimage Final Mass on 8 January at 3pm at Sacred Heart followed by a festive meal, and for the 10 Year Jubilee Thanksgiving Mass on 9 January at 10am at the Chapel of the Magi, Bell followed by lunch. To participate in some or all of the pilgrimage - including walks, Mass, Adoration / prayer sessions and meals - visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

Children's Christmas Eve Carols and Mass:

Calling all angels, shepherds and Little Drummer Boys and Girls (of all ages) ... mums, dads and grandparents too! Christmas Eve Mass at Sacred Heart Church will have a family and children's focus. Carol's and special activities from 5.30pm. Mass will be at 6pm. Dress up and help decorate the Christmas tree. Christmas stars to be made too. Bring a plate of Christmas cheer for a shared cuppa and supper after Mass. All are welcome, please invite family, neighbours and friends. Can you help on the night? Please contact the office blackheath@parracatholic.org



Sunday: 22.12.2024

1st Reader:
Eve McDonnell

2nd Reader:
Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession:

Pat Wicks

Server: Ray Wood

Morning Tea: Pamela and Kristan

Office Closed

Please note that our parish office will be closed during the Christmas holiday from 24 Dec -7 Jan.

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR 2025.

CHRISTMAS FARE STALL

Please come along this Sunday 15th for a Christmas treat.

We will have lots of edible goodies for Christmas as well

as an array of lovely Christmas gifts.

We will also be drawing our Christmas Raffle on Sunday.

Come along and be part of the fun! Don't forget to bring your money or plastic!

Social Committee



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024 14/15 December

On the weekend of 14/15 December, Blackheath Vinnies is having its 2024 parish Christmas Appeal. Envelopes will be available at the Mt. Vic 6:00pm Mass on Sat. 14/12 and at Sacred Heart at the 09:30am Mass on Sunday 15/12. We will also have Eftpos facilities available at both Masses to allow donations by Mastercard or Visa.

Everyone deserves access to the essentials to live with dignity. But Australia's cost of living crisis has pushed more people into acute poverty. This has prompted a surge in individuals and families seeking emergency relief services to avoid falling into deeper crisis.

Higher food prices lead to families skipping meals. Higher energy prices mean people cannot afford to warm their homes in winter or cool them in summer. Higher rental prices are forcing people into homelessness. At Blackheath Vinnies we do our best to alleviate these issues for people in our local community.

Thanks so much for your wonderful support to our past Parish Vinnies appeals. We again need your help to assist those with the greatest needs in our community.

John Tweedie

President

Blackheath St Vincent de Paul Conference

Advent weekly reflection gathering.

Join us for the remaining two Thursdays – 12 and 19 December for discussion, prayer and a cuppa. Commencing at 7pm in our church.

Sincere thanks to Anne and Shane for guiding us through the scripture readings for each Sunday in Advent.

Mass in the Megalong

Please note the next Mass in the Megalong will be on Friday 20th December at 4.15pm.

There will be No Mass in the Megalong in January 2025.

January Dates for your Diary

Wednesday January 8- we will be hosting the Epiphany Pilgrims for their evening meal, the last night of the pilgrimage, commencing at 5:15pm in the hall. It would be most appreciated if you are able to contribute to their meal, either savoury or sweet. Add your name and meal to the Pilgrim dinner sheet if you can help out – thank you!

Sunday January 26- A long table brunch in the forest after Sunday morning Mass to celebrate the opening of Sacred Heart Church and Our Parish. BYO picnic food and drink.

WORKING BEE on Saturday 21 December from 8am

Please come along and help Lance and John look after our wonderful grounds. Please bring a hat, sturdy shoes or boots and garden gloves (also eye and ear protection if using mower or similar equipment).

Please call Lance on 4787 8096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information and to advise if you will be coming.



Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm Leura.

CHRISTMAS EVE 6pm Blackheath

MIDNIGHT MASS 12am Katoomba.

CHRISTMAS DAY 8am Wentworth Falls.

CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am Blackheath

CHRISTMAS DAY 10am Katoomba.

NO evening Mass on Christmas Day.

NO Mass on Boxing Day.

CONFESSION TIMES

Tue 17th—Sat 21st each day after Mass.

Mon 23rd after Mass.

Happy Birthday December

9th Julie Hodgkinson

11th Elaine Jackson



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

Recently Died:

REST IN PEACE Dec: 13th Rosalie Sandor, 13th Marjorie Cullen (d 2014 aged 92 – Julie Hodgkinson's mother)

22nd Patricia Dee, 27th Greg Stephen, 29th Jorgan Kallane (2016)



Third Sunday of Advent Year C

ENTRANCE

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah (Zephaniah 3:14-18)

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion,
Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart,
daughter of Jerusalem!
The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away.
The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst;
you have no more evil to fear.
When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem:
Zion, have no fear,
do not let your hands fall limp.
The Lord your God is in your midst,
a victorious warrior.
He will exult with joy over you,
he will renew you by his love;
he will dance with shouts of joy for you
as on a day of festival.

RESPONSE

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the
great and Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
(Philippians 4:4-7)

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I
repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your
tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very
near. There is no need to worry; but if there is
anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with
prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which
is so much greater than we can understand, will guard
your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 3:10-18)

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he
answered, 'If anyone has two tunics they must share with
the one who has none, and the one with something to eat
must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who
came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what
must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your
rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about
us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation!
No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ,
so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with
water, but someone is coming, someone who is more
powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of
his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and
fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his
threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but
the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As
well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort
the people and to announce the Good News to them.

COMMUNION

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us..