

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 22 December 2024

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the Gospel we hear how overwhelmed and ecstatic Elizabeth was when she heard Mary's greeting. The child leapt in her womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth and her unborn child could feel the presence of God. But it was Mary who brought this presence of God to Elizabeth and the unborn John the Baptist.

And Elizabeth even knows why Mary can embody the presence of God because she says: 'blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Mary believed, she trusted, she put her fears aside and trusted in God and was open to His will.

This is what Mary says in the lines following today's Gospel verses:

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant".

Mary's soul reflects the glory of God, she makes God manifest to this world and from this she draws great joy because she knows what joy it is to be close to God and wants others to experience this same joy.

Mary has this closeness because of her openness to God, her lowliness as she describes it.

We too are tasked with the same mission to manifest and radiate God into this world.

She is our mother, we are her children, we should grow to be people like her, and so in this lead up to Christmas let us turn to our mother and ask her to raise us up to be like her.

Deacon Alan

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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 21 December

Mass 5.00pm Leura
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 22 December

8.am Wentworth Falls
9.30 am Blackheath
10am Katoomba
5pm Leura

MONDAY 23 December

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 22 December

9.00am Leura

SEE CHRISTMAS MASSES TIMEYABLE

WEDNESDAY 25 December

SEE CHRISTMAS MASSES TIMEYABLE

THURSDAY 26 December

NO Mass today

FRIDAY 27 December

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

SATURDAY 28 December

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

Mt Victoria 21. 12. 2024

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton

2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

Sunday 22. 12. 2024

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Phil & Pat Wicks

Counters: Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & David Buckley

Morning Tea: Christine and Dom

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

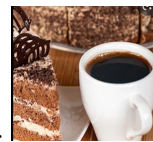
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You will be asked to show your name and mobile phone number: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSAACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH>.



As an alternative to following the link, you can also use the attached QR Code.

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 530pm. 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



BCKG - Responding to the Cry of the Poor: As we approach Christmas, we harvested this week the first crop of this season's potatoes to be added to the Vinies Christmas hampers. The second crop is well on the way as are the tomatoes. We are currently harvesting the berries. The strawberries have already been used to make jam for Cuppas in the hall on Wednesday mornings. The raspberries and boysenberries will be added to some of the strawberries to make a mixed berry jam over the Christmas break. As we approach the new year, plans are being firm up for new works in the garden. If you would like to be part of this Laudato Si project, we are in the garden Wednesday mornings 10am-12pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays between 11am and 1pm.

Sunday: 29.12.2024

1st Reader: Eve McDonnell
2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession:

Pat Wicks

Server: Paul Harris

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 RAFFLE & STALL

Thank you to all our wonderful parishioners who once again came to our call last Sunday with baking, making & buying all the goodies at our final fundraiser for 2024. We also had our Christmas Raffle that our parishioners gave generously.



The amount raised was \$1218 on the day.

Raffle placings.

1st Pat Macauley (Mt Vic)

2nd Father Peter

3rd Marlene Nguyen (Blackheath)

Thanks again to our small parish for your support.

Social Committee

GARAGE SALE

Our annual Garage Sale takes place once again on the first weekend in February.



In 2025 the dates will be February 1st & 2nd.

Please keep these dates free! We have the usual band of workers for this fundraiser but, if you can help in anyway either setting up, selling or clearing away your help is much appreciated.

Start clearing out your cupboards and let's make it the biggest garage sale yet.

Many thanks.

Marilyn & the Social Committee

Advent weekly reflection gathering.

Join us for the one remaining Thursday – 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.

Celebrating the Jubilee Year in 2025

The Jubilee Year 2025 begins on 24 December, with the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*.

Pope Francis calls us to “appreciate anew all the power and tenderness of the

Father’s merciful love, in order to become, in our turn, its witnesses.”

Information about events for the Jubilee Year for our Diocese will be available at catholicoutlook.org

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.

Happy Anniversary! Christa and David Buckley

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

18th George Commens

20th Robert Forbes (b 1956)

21st Dominic Burke (b 1963)

24th David Buckley (b 1945)

27th Sean Lillis



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, 27 Fred Pateman, 27th Greg Stephen, 29th Jorgan Kallane (2016)



Third Sunday of Advent Year C

ENTRANCE

Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Micah. (Micah 5:1-4)

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
the least of the clans of Judah,
out of you will be born for me
the one who is to rule over Israel;
his origin goes back to the distant past,
to the days of old.
The Lord is therefore going to abandon them
till the time when she who is to give birth gives
birth.
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back
to the sons of Israel.
He will stand and feed his flock
with the power of the Lord,
with the majesty of the name of his God.
They will live secure, for from then on he will
extend his power
to the ends of the land.
He himself will be peace.

RESPONSE

Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 10:5-10)

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,
prepared a body for me.
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices
for sin;
then I said,
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 1: 39-45)

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

COMMUNION

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Praying with Pope Francis for December 2024 For Pilgrims of Hope

Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthen us in our faith,
helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of
our lives,
transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

