

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)

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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

No Mass at Megalong Valley in January

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 Baptism of the Lord Year C 12.1.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The first reading for this Sunday tells us that we should be consoled. Stop worrying about the past, look to the new future. Just make a straight path for Our Lord to enter our hearts. He is on His way, and He has power over all things.

The second reading tells us that this salvation that God is bringing about has not been caused by anything we have done, but rather purely from the love that God has for us. What we need to do is to put God first. We need to concentrate our efforts on doing what leads to God, focusing on what God wants from us and how we can achieve this.

The Gospel takes us into some rather interesting theology. Why did Jesus go to John the Baptist to be baptised?

The answer lies in what the baptism of John was. It was not a Christian Baptism. It was like the *mikvah*, a ritual act of purification Jews undertook before entering the Temple precincts.

Jesus, through whom all of creation, including humanity has its existence was taking us via the baptism in the Jordan through a purification process that would allow us to enter into the Temple that was Himself. The Baptism of John was one of repentance, a changing of life. As we change our lives and focus on God alone, we enter into Christ. This is similar as when Christ in Gethsemane represented all of humanity in His submission to the Father's will.

There is also another aspect to this Sunday. The Baptism in the Jordan is the third revelation of God to humanity.

The first was the birth of Christ, when God reveals Himself as a man, to live with us, in a set time and place. God Himself living with us, interpreting the Law and the Commandments through His life, to draw us to Himself.

The second was the feast of the Epiphany where the wise men who were priests of another religion were guided to Christ by their search for truth, signaling that Christ draws all of humanity to Himself.

This revelation, the third, is the manifestation of the Trinity. The Son reveals Himself as the Father speaks and the Spirit descends. The Trinity, the communion of Divine Love is revealed, the communion through which we live and breath and have our being, the communion into which we are being called.

This revelation makes the whole point of the centrality of God in our lives evident. For it is God, the Trinity which is so much more important for us than anything else, it is our existence, our reason for living and our destiny. So, let's change the focus of our lives.

Deacon Alan

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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 11 January 2025

Mass 5.00pm Leura
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 12 January

8.am Wentworth Falls
9.30 am Blackheath
10am Katoomba
5pm Leura (Liturgy of the Word & communion)

MONDAY 13 January

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 14 January

9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 15 January 2025

Mass 9.30am Blackheath
Pilgrims' Mass 3.00pm Blackheath
Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

THURSDAY 16 January

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 17 January

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

SATURDAY 18 January

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

Mt Victoria 11.1.2025

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley
2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

Sunday 12.1.2025

1 St Reader: Monica Bright
2nd Reader: Brian Bright
Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks
Server: Paul Harris
Church Care: Paul & Marilyn Rowe
Counters: Pamela Nash & John Tweedie
Flowers: David Buckley
Morning Tea: Karen and Pam

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

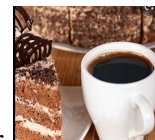
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You 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 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 Pilgrims 2025 dinner- thank you!

Sincerest thanks to everyone who contributed to the wonderful evening held for the Pilgrims in our hall on Wednesday January 8.



The Pilgrims and family members thoroughly enjoyed the delicious meal provided and greatly appreciated our Sacred Heart hospitality.

Blue Mountains Aged Care Committee:

House-keeper care-cleaners, Gardeners-light work and De-clutterers are needed in the upper mountains to support older residents needing help to remain independent in their own home. If you know of anyone looking to work regularly for two to four hours at a time in these areas or if you would like to volunteer to help on the committee, please contact the BMACC on 0405 252 644 business hours M-F.

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Parish Secretary to join the parish team on a part time basis, working from the Parish Offices at St Patrick's Church, 51-19 Allawah Street, Blacktown. This position is for 4 days per week, Tuesday to Friday, with working hours from 9am to 4pm. This role offers a unique opportunity to support the mission of the Church in Western Sydney.

For job description and details, please email admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Sunday: 19.1.2025

1st Reader: Christa Buckley
2nd Reader: David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession:
Francis Huckstepp

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian Bright

Mass in the Megalong

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

Sunday January 26-

Sunday morning Mass to celebrate the opening of Sacred Heart Church and Our Parish.

Following the Sunday morning Mass, we'll gather in the Forest for a long table picnic brunch.

Trestle tables and chairs will be set up – it's BYO your picnic brunch food and drinks.

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



Praying with Pope Francis in January 2025,

For migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, will always be respected.

May the Christian community always be prepared to defend the rights of those who are vulnerable, opening wide its doors to welcome them, lest anyone ever be robbed of the hope of a better future.

Pope Francis, Jubilee 2025 letter (Bull of Indiction), 13

*** The optional readings for this feast recapitulate the themes of the entire Advent-Christmas season. Within the Christian tradition the voice that announces the future events is associated with John the Baptist. However, the reading itself proclaims the coming and manifestation of the Lord, clearly an Advent theme. The gospel reading from Luke moves us from anticipation of the coming of the messiah to fulfillment of God’s promise. This theme of fulfillment is at the heart of the Christmas message. In the baptism narrative we see that Jesus has come into our midst, not only as a helpless infant, but as our anointed messiah. There is a dimension to this same gospel reading that opens us to a future yet to be fully realized in our lives. The one upon whom the Spirit descends has come to baptize us in that same Spirit.



The reading from Titus is similar to the gospel. Both herald the appearance of Jesus and promise a future fulfillment for us. Renewed by the Spirit, we will be justified and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The readings clearly announce that: the Lord is coming; the Lord has come; the Lord will continue to come to and through us into the whole world. Under all of this rings the melody of God’s creative power as seen in the Psalm response. In view of the Isaian passage, God promises to create something new in the wilderness of chaos. There the glory of the Lord will be revealed.

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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

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: 11th Gerard Johnston, 14th Joyce Malkin (d 2012), 19th Roma Ziolkowski (2018) 20th Jan Roberts (2019), 20th Henry Columbine, 22nd Bridget Chan (d 2011), 28th Jean Walsh

31st Trevor Drummond (d 2016 -father of Pat)



Th Baptism of the Lord Year C

ENTRANCE After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7)

Thus says the Lord:

Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.

Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people and
light of the nations,

to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

RESPONSE

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Second Reading .

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38)

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all people. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 3:15-16. 21-22)

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.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

COMMUNION

Behold the One of whom John said:
I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

