

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

No Mass at Megalong Valley in January

Next Mass 21 February 2025 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 Presentation of the Lord (Year C)

2.2.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

One of the key elements in today's Gospel is the repeated line: ' (as) the law of the Lord requires'. Being faithful Jews of their time, Mary and Joseph fulfilled the demands of the Mosaic Law—and 'presented' their first-born to the Lord in His Temple in Jerusalem.

But theirs was a faith that had to go beyond the externalities of the law and remain open to the new thing that God was doing in their lives, the giving of the Son as Incarnate God/man... and everything that was to flow from this new reality.

Similarly we must always go beyond the strict "letter of the law" and remain open to the spirit of God, who leads us into new ways of thinking and acting: who leads us to the complete truth—a Truth beyond rules for their own sake, a Truth that enlivens and sets us free.

And so on this Feast of the Presentation, let us resolve to move forward in faithfulness' to the Spirit of God!

- It's good to be back with you after a couple of weeks of annual leave(2024). I had very enjoyable and restful time
- As we now move into 2025, and all that this Holy year of Jubilee will offer us, let's resolve to work together to further God's kingdom in all the church communities of the Upper Mountains!
- We welcome our children back to school! Whether at St. Canice's or in our SRE classes, we hope and pray that the younger members of our community may grow in Faith and its practice.

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 1 February

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 2 February

8.am Wentworth Falls

9.30 am Blackheath

10am Katoomba

5pm Leura

MONDAY 3 February

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 4 February

9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 5 February

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

THURSDAY 6 February

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 7 February

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

SATURDAY 8 February

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession after Mass

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

Mt Victoria 1. 2.2025

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan

2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 2.2.25

1 St Reader: Eve McDonnell

2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Paul & Marilyn Rowe

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlen

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 return to the hall on Wednesday 5 February. Join us for a cuppa and chat from 9:30-12:00. Vinnies assistance is available during this time in the meeting room. All welcome on Wednesdays!



CATENIANS

Nepean Catenian Group

(in formation)

Takes Pleasure in inviting

Men of the Blue Mountains Parishes

To join us for meeting and dinner at

Nepean Rowing Club

6.45 pm, Tuesday 11th February,

Enquiries and RSVP by 6th Feb to: Alan Skofic

Phone: 0435139106

**Connect with Catenians Catholic men's
association: faith-based friendships**

Sunday: 9.2.2025

1st Reader: Brian Bright

2nd Reader: Monica Bright

Welcome/Intercession:

Paul Harris

Server: Diane Stewart

Morning Tea: Christa and David
Buckley

PPC meeting dates for 2025

9 February

6 April

1 June

10 August

12 October

9 November -Parish Assembly/ AGM

GARAGE SALE—SAUSAGE SIZZLE

February 1st & 2nd. 2025

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

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.

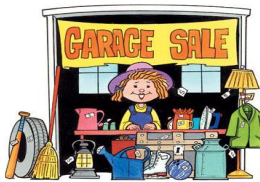
SAUSAGE SIZZLE

We are looking at volunteers to work on the BBQ on Saturday & Sunday.

We are hoping to put a roster together to share the load on both days.

Many thanks, please contact David Buckley on **0400208707** if you can spare a few hours.

Many thanks. Marilyn & the Social Committee



*** Traditionally this is the fortieth day of Christmas. Though the Christmas season closed with the Epiphany, the Presentation brings us back to some of the Christmas themes. The feast is on the edge, a kind of hinge between the seasons of Christmas and Lent.



The temple is not merely a building where believers gather to worship God. It is sacred because it is the dwelling place of God on earth. Therefore, the coming of God to the temple was always a time of great anticipation and excitement. It promised blessing and rejoicing.

The first reading declares that God will come to the temple in might and power. This coming will be terrifying. The sacred precincts have been desecrated and so God will come to purify it with fire and lye. This picture of purification is modified by the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews where we see that the purging and refinement are accomplished in the self-sacrifice of Christ.

It took the eyes of the old man and the faith of an old woman to recognise that the Lord had indeed come into the temple. Ritually, it was the child who was redeemed. In fact, it is the world that will be redeemed by this child. He is the light that shines in the darkness of the world; he will enlighten all people, Jew and Gentile alike. This feast shares the theme of universality so prominent on the feast of the Epiphany. The king of glory opens the portals for the entire universe to enter.

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Diocesan World Day of Prayer for the Sick: 11 February

A World Day of Prayer for the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2025 via parracatholic.org/world-day-prayer-feb11

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 8 February

The next session of face-to-face Mandatory Safeguarding Training will be held on Saturday 8 February at St Thomas Aquinas, Springwood for Cycle 2 (Renewal Modules 4-5). More training opportunities will be available throughout February and May. Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at: parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Happy Birthday February

3 Beryl Cornish

8th Joe Landsberg

8th Freya McNair

11th Kenya Burke (2002)



Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharings online gathering: 13 February

"Peace, Justice & Ecology Sharings" are quarterly online gatherings for everyone interested in social justice, care for creation, or global peace. They are an opportunity to connect, meet like-minded people, and discuss what's currently happening in the Peace, Justice & Ecology space. In February, the PJE Sharing will focus on raising the age of criminal responsibility in NSW and Caritas' Project Compassion. You are invited to join Thursday 13 February 2025, 6:30-8:00pm. To receive a zoom link, please RSVP to met@parracatholic.org

Happy Anniversary! February

9th Joe and Diana Landsberg (m 1963)



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: Peter Della-Zedova

REST IN PEACE Jan: 10th Frank Farsaci (Frances Huckstepp's father - 2018), 15th Sarah Frazer (2012)

16th Gladys Gronlund (2015) - Carol Drummond's mother, 17th Charles Edward Hodgkinson, 22nd Rick Frazer (1986) - Kate Forbes' father, 23rd William (Bill) Grieves (d 2018), 26th Rita Jenner (2017), 26th Nancy Etccl (2016) - Mt Vic resident, 27th Ken Kirkham (2017), 28th Anthony Gilchrist (2015), 25th Peter Potts (2022), Leashy Dowling (2024), Marie Josephine Geraghty (2024)



The Presentation of the Lord

ENTRANCE Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Malachi (Malachi 3:1-4)

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

RESPONSE

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Second Reading.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 2:14-18)

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers and sisters so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 2:22-40)

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him

COMMUNION

My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.