

# 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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

Parish website:

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org) or at

Katoomba on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and

Fridays on 02 4782 2804. email

[bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:graham_beal@hotmail.com) or Julie O'Keeffe

[julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com)

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

23.2.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Compassion and Love...

Jesus continually calls his followers to imitate our Loving God, who is 'compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy'.

To put this Call into practice demands of us some fairly difficult concrete actions...

# 'love your enemies and do good to those who hate you'

# 'bless those who curse you and pray for those who treat you badly'

# 'to those who strike you on one cheek, offer to them the other cheek too'

Ultimately we are asked to 'treat others as you would like them to treat you'.

And so, every now and again, we need to re-examine our attitudes and actions, and see whether or not they are aligned with the high ideals Christ puts before us.

Let us call upon the Grace of God to help us so that we will be like our God - kind, merciful, slow to anger, never condemning but pardoning... truly persons of Compassion and Love!

\* The meeting of the PPCs with the Team from the Diocese will be followed up by a letter from the Bishop to the parishioners of the church communities in the Upper Mountains... hopefully next weekend.

To put some minds at ease: no changes to the charisms of the individual church communities, nor to those who minister to you are envisaged in the probable joining of all into one administrative unit.

\* Next Thursday 27.2.25 there will be a Requiem Mass (not funeral Mass) in Wentworth Falls (his Community of many decades) at 9.00am for the late Geoffrey Medcalf, the last WW11 veteran in the Blue Mountains. Geoff's funeral ceremony will be at Leura Crematorium chapel.

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 22 February**

Mass 5.00pm Leura  
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

**SUNDAY 23 February**

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

**MONDAY 24 February**

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

**TUESDAY 25 February**

9.00am Leura

**WEDNESDAY 26 February**

Mass 9.00am Blackheath  
Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

**THURSDAY 27 February**

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

**FRIDAY 28 February**

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba  
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

**SATURDAY 1 March**

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

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 is on in the hall every Wednesday morning from 9:30. Join us for a warming coffee and fun conversation from 9:30-12:00. Vinnies assistance is available during this time in the meeting room. All welcome on Wednesdays!



**World Day of Prayer**

Friday March 7 at 10:30am

The Blackheath Uniting Church is hosting this year's World Day of Prayer service which will focus on The Cook Islands.

Members of all the local Blackheath churches will be participating in the service and contributing to the lunch.

The Blackheath Uniting Church is at 43 Govett's Leap Rd, Blackheath. Off street parking is available. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend this wonderful ecumenical gathering.

**Meditation Group**

A meditation group will begin on Tuesday March 11, at Sacred Heart church in Blackheath at 10am each week.

It will follow the WCCM ( World Community for Christian Meditation) tradition which Father Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine monk is the director.

Every great spiritual tradition has known that in profound stillness the human spirit begins to be aware of its own

source. The group will meet in the church and will be guided by Marilyn Jones. Marilyn can be contacted on 0401637759 for further information if needed. Everyone is welcome!

**WORKING BEE on Saturday 22 February 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.

Mt Victoria 23.2.25

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart  
2 nd Reader:

Sunday 23.2.25

1 St Reader: Monica Bright  
2nd Reader: Brian Bright  
Welcome/Intercession: Julie Hodgkinson  
Server: Paul Harris  
Church Care: Julie & Lance Hodgkinson  
Counters: Pamela and John  
Flowers: David Buckley  
Morning Tea: Pamela and Kristan

Sunday: 2.3.2025

1st Reader: John Tweedie  
2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession:  
Diane Stewart/Patricia Darvall.  
Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

**PPC meeting dates for 2025**

6 April  
1 June  
10 August  
12 October  
9 November -Parish Assembly/ AGM

**Mass in the Megalong:** Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's, Megalong Valley on Friday 21st Feb at 4pm. Please email the office with your name and phone number if you need assistance with transport. Email: blackheath@parracatholic.org

**Sharing Our Catholic Faith:** Our dedicated SRE team are in serious need of a third person on Thursday mornings to share our faith in the Special Religious Education class at Blackheath Public School, without which one class for Year 3 and 4 will probably have to be discontinued. Support and resources are provided. To express interest or for further details please contact Pat D on 4788 1157

**Welcome to Our Catholic Faith:** We welcome Jay to the Catholic community as he receives the Sacrament of Baptism after Mass today. We also welcome Jay's parents, Linda and Guy, Grandmother Barbara, Godmother Lauren, friends and family members. Thank you to Maureen Ryan who has been preparing Jay for this special occasion in his spiritual life.

#### **Reflection book for Lent - METANOIA**

Reflection books for Lent are available for purchase for \$7 at St Paul's and Sacred Heart churches on the weekend. The beautiful 76 page book, Metanoia, is filled with daily reflections, images of art works, Sunday readings and reflections, spiritual direction and prayers. This Lent (commencing on March 5, Ash Wednesday) embark on a journey of metanoia—a transformative change of heart inspired by the Gospels. Cash payment for the book is most appreciated

#### **Funeral for Deacon Rodrigo**

Please be advised that Deacon Rodrigo (Rudy) Rupac died on Sunday evening, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

The funeral of Deacon Rodrigo (Rudy) Rupac is scheduled for next Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> February at 11am at St John XXIII Parish, Stanhope Gardens, with viewing at 10am.

#### **Happy Birthday February**

23rd Janet Lamerton  
23rd Diana Landsberg



#### **BCKG -Responding to the Cry of the Poor and the Cry of the Earth:**

God has gifted us with the earth that we and all of his creation inhabit. Pope Francis in his letter to the world, 'Laudato Si', encourages us all to take responsibility for using our earth's resources sustainably and for sharing these with everyone equitably. The Garage Sale we've just held is one way our parish enables goods we no longer need to be passed on to someone else who can make good use of these. Another way that we can live sustainably is to compost our food scraps or feed them to the worms to create nutrients that we can return to the earth. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March a Blue Mountains City Council worker will lead workshops on Composting and Worm Farming in our Kitchen Garden. Details are on the notice board. We are finishing with a free Pizza Lunch using produce from the garden. If you are able to volunteer to help with the lunch organisation please let me know on 0401 768 688.

#### **Lenten reflection group**

A Lenten reflection group will be commencing on Thursday March 6 at 7pm in the church at Blackheath.

The group will meet for six Thursday evenings leading up to Palm Sunday. Anne and Shane Young will

guide us on our Lenten journey through conversation, music, Gospel readings and prayer.

#### **Discussion Group**

You are cordially invited to attend our ongoing Discussion Group which will meet this coming **Saturday, 23 February, 3:00-4:30 pm**, Church Hall, Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath. If you need Zoom, please let me know.

The aim of the Discussion Group is to share and deepen our understanding of key documents shaping our Church today and tomorrow.

As agreed at our last meeting, we will be discussing **sections 40 to 45** (which can be found on pages 11 through 14) of the key Vatican 2 document *Gaudium et Spes* ("Joy and Hope") (attached). These sections comprise Chapter IV, Part I, and are headed **THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD**.

If you have any queries, please contact Clive at [bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto:bluemountains@parracatholic.org)

**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 Jan:** 10<sup>th</sup> Frank Farsaci (Frances Huckstepp's father - 2018), 15<sup>th</sup> Sarah Frazer (2012)

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



## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

**ENTRANCE** O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.  
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

### **First Reading.**

A reading the first book of Samuel (1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23)

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

### **RESPONSE**

The Lord is kind and merciful .

### **Second Reading.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been

modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment;  
love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia!

### **GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 6:27-38)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the one who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the one who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the one who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High, for God himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

### **COMMUNION**

I will recount all your wonders,  
I will rejoice in you and be glad,  
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.