

# 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](#)

[Community Blackheath](#)

## 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 March 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)

## Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

2.3.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Gospel for this Sunday's Liturgy of the Word encourages us to reflect on our words:

Do we speak from 'the store of goodness' in our heart, or do we find ourselves drawing from 'the store of badness'?

Indeed, our First Reading says something similar: 'Do not praise anyone before they have spoken, since this is the test of people'.

So, the tongue (one's words) are a clear indication of inner thoughts.

Most of us find ourselves critical of this or that, this person or that person. We often listen to the negative comments about another rather than see the good that they are trying to do. We can easily condemn and pull down, but struggle to praise and build up. We listen to trolls on social media; we subscribe to those who criticise others on YouTube; we applaud the destructive voices of those narcissistic politicians and leaders who are the scourge of contemporary democracy. And we can blame God for all the things that go wrong in our lives, even if we or other human beings are the true cause of difficulties.

So, my friends, are we going to do something about this? Can we start to cooperate with God's grace and start cleansing ourselves of the 'store of badness' and allow the 'store of goodness' to be uppermost in all we do and say?

Let's conclude with St Paul:

'Never give in, then, my brothers and sisters, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.'

\* ASH WEDNESDAY is this week, Wednesday 5th March.

There will be TWO masses:

9am in Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath

and 7pm in St Canice's Church, Katoomba

It is a Day of Abstinence for all, and a Day of Fast for those between 18 and 60.

\* Mass on Tuesday (4th March) will have to be earlier than normal - at 8:00am (at St Bonaventures's, Leura) as I have a Funeral on the plains at 10:30.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

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 2 March

Mass 5.00pm Leura  
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

### SUNDAY 3 March

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

### MONDAY 4 March

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 5 March

8.00am Leura

### WEDNESDAY 6 March

Mass 9.00am Blackheath  
Cuppas together 9.30-12.00  
Mass 7.00pm Katoomba

### THURSDAY 6 March

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 7 March

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba  
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

### SATURDAY 8 March

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

Mt Victoria 1.3.2025

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton

2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

### Sunday 2.3.25

1 St Reader: John Tweedie

2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Diane Stewart/  
Patricia Darvall.

Server: Paul Harris

Church Care: Pat & Phil Wicks

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: David Buckley

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

### 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!

**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

### Sunday: 9.3.2025

1st Reader: Eve McDonnell

2nd Reader: Francis Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession:

Pat Wicks

Server: Ray Wood

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian

### PPC meeting dates for 2025

6 April

1 June

10 August

12 October

9 November -Parish Assembly/ AGM



## JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE – FOOD-BANK APPEAL - LENT 2025

Our Parish, in the spirit of Lent, is once again joining the JRS Lenten Foodbank Appeal - collecting small, but essential gifts for refugees and people seeking protection within the Parramatta Diocese

Each week during the 6 weeks of Lent, we are asking parishioners to donate these essential food and household items that will make a huge difference to the lives many:

- Week of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, 09 March:** Basmati rice
- Week of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, 16 March:** Cooking or olive oil
- Week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, 23 March:** Dried red lentils (375g, 500g or 1kg)
- Week of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, 30 March:** Dishwashing detergent
- Week of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, 06 April:** Laundry detergent
- Palm Sunday, 13 April:** Long life milk

A special JRS collection bin will be available,  
Thank you for your support

### The World Day of Social Justice:

Last Friday, 20 February, was World Day of Social Justice. In Catholic Outlook, Fr Andrew Hamilton SJ writes "The cry for justice comes naturally to all human beings. Children protest that 'it isn't fair'. Adults ask their torturers, 'Why do you hurt me?' Justice has to do with relationships. In families, justice has to do with personal relationships between parents and children and between siblings. In schools, between teachers and students.

Justice, however, has also to do with the **human relationships between** groups of people, institutions, nations and our environment. These relationships have to do with **social** justice." He concludes "Our society puts a high value on human flourishing but often sees it as an individual right and entitlement. That view emphasises conflict and competition in resolving disputes. The Catholic tradition represents a more human view." The article can be found at: <https://catholicoutlook.org/a-reflection-on-world-day-of-social-justice/>

### Happy Birthday March

10th Joe Blansjaar  
16th Fr Bob Sheridan



## Project Compassion Sunday

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.



Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



### Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)  
**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

### 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.



### Nepean Catenian Group

(in formation)

#### CATENIANS

Invitation to the Men of the Parishes in the Blue Mountains To join us for a meeting and dinner at Nepean Rowing Club

6.45 pm, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March,

Enquiries and RSVP by 7<sup>th</sup> March to:

Deacon Alan Skofic 0435139106

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

### Anniversaries: March

1st Philia and Frank Portelli (2003)



**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 March:** 8th Judy Harris (2014), 8th Frederick Pateman, 14th Pete Juhas, 17th Mary Potts (Diane Stewart's Mum), 19th Tom Boylan, 28th Jim Grainger (2014) friend of Fr Paul



## Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

**ENTRANCE** The Lord became my protector.  
He brought me out to a place of freedom;  
he saved me because he delighted in me.

### First Reading.

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus (Sirach 27:4-7)

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,  
so too the defects of people appear in their talk.  
The kiln tests the work of the potter,  
the test of people in their conversation.  
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the  
quality of its fruit,  
similarly people's words betray what they feel.  
Do not praise someone before they have spoken,  
since this is the test of people.

### RESPONSE

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

### Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:54-58)

When this perishable nature has put on  
imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put  
on immortality, then the words of scripture will come  
true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where  
is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the  
sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the  
Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers and sisters, never  
admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work  
always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be  
labouring in vain.

### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 6:39-45)

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind person  
guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The  
disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained  
disciple will always be like the teacher. Why do you  
observe the splinter in your neighbour's eye and never  
notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your  
neighbour, "Friend, let me take out the splinter that is in  
your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own?  
Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and  
then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter  
that is in your neighbour's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again  
a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can  
be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from  
thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good person  
draws what is good from the store of goodness in their  
heart; a bad person draws what is bad from the store of  
badness. For one's words flow out of what fills one's  
heart.'

### COMMUNION

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me,  
sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.