

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
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)

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C)

9.2.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the readings this week Isaiah, St Paul and St Peter all see their
sinfulness, but they also all respond to the call of God.

And God calls, not despite their sinfulness but rather because of it.

It's a very clear message for us. We are all called to work with God to
bring about the new heaven and new earth, but we need to
acknowledge that we have issues so that the grace of God can help us
overcome our faults and move into a positive, creative way of living.

Like Isaiah we have heard and, in some way, experienced God in our
lives. Jesus is the revelation of God and as we develop a relationship
with Him, we experience Him, we experience God. His love and His
call.

But we also feel that we are so far from Christlike that it's almost
hopeless. But it's not.

This feeling of unholiness is the mourning that the beatitudes which
says, "happy are they that mourns" talks of. It's a deep sadness and
regret that we are the way we are. It's a mourning for the fact that our
true self, that which we are created to be, the image and likeness of
God is somewhat dead, in a dormant state. But that's just it, it's not
dead, it's in a dormant state and all it needs is the burning coal
brought to us by the angel to wake us up.

The burning coal, the fiery element is the Holy Spirit which burns
away all sin and empowers us to live more and more in harmony with
God.

Living in harmony with God is us answering the call. It's us
evangelising by the way we work and the way we interact with
people. It doesn't matter what we are doing so long we intend to do
the best for the people we are serving by our actions. To ensure our
intent is open and correct we work on a relationship with God and
pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Deacon Alan

Next Sunday 16.2.2025 after the 9.30am Mass there will be an extraordinary
meeting of the PPC with members of the MET concerning the future of the
churches in the Upper Blue Mountains.

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



**WHAT'S ON IN THE
UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS
WEEK**

SATURDAY 8 February

Mass 5.00pm Leura
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 9 February

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

MONDAY 10 February

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 11 February

9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 12 February

Mass 9.00am Blackheath
Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

THURSDAY 13 February

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 14 February

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

SATURDAY 15 February

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

Mt Victoria 8.2.2025

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

Sunday 9.2.25

1 St Reader: Brian Bright
2nd Reader: Monica Bright
Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris
Server: Diane Stewart
Church Care: Paul & Marilyn Rowe
Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson
Flowers: David Buckley
Morning Tea: Christa and David

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!



Feast of St Josephine Bakhita

Pope Francis designated 8th February, the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, as the **World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking.**

The following link to the Caritas Australia pdf resource <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/school-resources/human-trafficking-and-modern-slavery/>

explores what modern slavery is, who the victims typically are, the type of industries and employment involved and some suggested actions including purchasing Fair Trade products.

1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children.

The Modern Slavery Act was introduced into Australia in 2018.

<https://lens.monash.edu/2018/12/06/1366783/australias-modern-slavery-act-an-explainer>

Prayer

Saint Josephine Bakhita, You remained strong and brave through years of slavery. You used your knowledge and experience in helping to prepare Sisters who were going to work in Africa. Your gentle manner brought peace and strength to all. Help us to have courage when times are hard; help us to be strong and supportive to anyone in need; help us always to remain close, as you were, to Jesus, and show his love to all. Amen.

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

Sunday: 16.2.2025

1st Reader: John Tweedie
2nd Reader: Pamela Nash
Welcome/Intercession:
Francis Huckstepp
Server: Pat Wicks
Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

PPC meeting dates for 2025

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

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: The first meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will be held after Mass today 9.2.2025 in the parish meeting room

GARAGE SALE RAP UP!!

Thank you to all the helpers over the last two weeks preparing for our yearly Garage Sale.

We managed to pull off another one for the parish. A big thanks must go to Julie & Lance for

baking & selling their amazing array of cakes etc & for David & team for their wonderful BBQ which

was available over the two days.

For those who worked on their selling skills! You did us proud.

For our friends in the community that are not part of our parish family, a big thank you for your help and hard work.

Let's not forget Cec from the Blacktown refugees who came along once again and took a truck load of things

to distribute to people. How good is that!

Overall (but not finished) we have a figure of \$6095.60

Thanks again everyone! Marilyn & your Social Committee.

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

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

Happy Birthday February

3 Beryl Cornish

8th Joe Landsberg

8th Freya McNair

11th Kenya Burke (2002)



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)



*** Today we consider the call to continue the mission of Jesus by engaging in some form of ministry. The first and the last readings are call narratives; the epistle contains a statement of the faith that undergirds our response to our call; the psalm response celebrates the gracious goodness of God that makes all of this possible.

Our call is more than a summons to faith; it is a call to ministry. Isaiah is called in order to be sent; the fishermen are called in order to gather others to Jesus. So it is with us. We are called to be sent out to the world. This call comes to us in the ordinariness of life. It will usually come to us as we wash our nets or our dishes, as we teach or raise children, as we prepare a brief for trial or examine a patient; as we repair cars or work at the computer. The call of God comes to us in the ordinariness of life.

We are called to proclaim the message of the resurrection by any and every means possible. Some, like Isaiah and the disciples of Jesus, will witness in open and dramatic ways. They will teach and preach; they will nurse the sick and care for the elderly. Others will witness in less conspicuous ways. They will insist on fair practices in their own workplaces; they will weed out expressions of prejudice and violence so that a new and just world can be fashioned for themselves and for their children. Called in the ordinariness of their lives, they will witness to the death and resurrection in that very ordinariness, thus transforming everything into extraordinariness. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Nepean Catenian Group
(information) Takes Pleasure in
Inviting.



Men of the Blue Mountains
Parishes To join us for meeting
and dinner at

CATENIANS

Nepean Rowing Club

6.45pm, Tuesday 11 February. Enquiries and RSVP by
6th Feb to Alan Skofic. Phone: 0435139106

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



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year c

ENTRANCE O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings.

And they cried out one to another in this way,

'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

His glory fills the whole earth.'

The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out, and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said:

'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost,

for I am a man of unclean lips

and I live among a people of unclean lips,

and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said:

'See now, this has touched your lips,

your sin is taken away,

your iniquity is purged.'

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying:

'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?'

I answered, 'Here I am, send me.'

RESPONSE

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord.

Second Reading .

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you - believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five

hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Come follow me, says the Lord,
and I will make you fishers of my people.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 5:1-11)

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

COMMUNION

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.