

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](#)

[Community Blackheath](#)

MT VICTORIA VIGIL MASS

Vigil Mass at 5.00pm (June-August)

6.00pm (Sept-May)

MEGALONG VALLEY MASS

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 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)

Second Sunday of Lent Year C

16. 3.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Transfiguration of Our Lord points not only to the Resurrection of Our Lord in His transformed and glorified body but also to our resurrection in our transformed and glorified bodies.

That's what the letter to the Philippians tells us.

But it also tells us to refocus just as the Gospel does. The Gospel tells us the LISTEN to Christ.

This listening is not just hearing and comprehending. It's absorbing the words of Christ. Connecting His words with His actions and living them. Make them our own.

Not following rules but making the values and attitudes of Christ our values and attitudes. Allowing God to write His law on our hearts. This is how we are brought into a new land, not a physical place but a state of existence, a state of being.

This is our transformation which leads to our resurrection.

This is very important for Lent. In this season we are trying harder than ever to deepen our relationship with Our Lord through putting aside our focus on earthly matters and turning our attention to Our Lord.

The means are fasting, abstinence, prayer and alms giving. Alms giving: to see those around us, to take focus off ourselves, fasting and abstinence to take focus away from our wants and desires and use the cravings to focus on why we are denying ourselves, because we want to draw close to our Lord. Prayer to think about our Lord in order to know Him more fully, and come before Him asking for help, that He draw us away from those things that distract us and help us to hear and follow Him.

It's about making Christ the absolute centre of our lives, the connection we most desire and through this becoming part of Him, living in Him and He in us. This is our transformation.

Deacon Alan

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



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

SATURDAY 15 March

Mass 5.00pm Leura
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 16 March

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

MONDAY 17 March

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 18 March

Mass at 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 19 March

Mass 9.00am Blackheath
Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

THURSDAY 20 March

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 21 March

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

SATURDAY 22 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!



Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers: 13 May

In this Jubilee Year of Hope all liturgical ministers - readers, servers and extra ordinary ministers are invited to join us for our Annual Commissioning Mass of Liturgical Ministers. Families and friends are also invited. This celebration will take place at 7:30pm on 13th May 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To register your attendance and guests please visit parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/

Lenten Reflection Space

United in the hope that Jesus' death and resurrection, gives us all, we witness to the hope so many receive from our gifts to Project Compassion. Toefuatai'ga, a young student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school, thanks to Caritas Australia there is now a 10,000L water tank, providing clean water for all students. Lam from Vietnam was born with short stature & faced social exclusion & limited employment opportunities, through a Caritas sponsored program, Lam is now a freelance graphic designer. Irene from the Democratic Republic of Congo, faced immense challenges as a consequence of war. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received training in sewing & farming & can now support her whole family.

In this Jubilee year of hope let us especially remember those in need throughout the world.

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

Lenten reflection group

A Lenten reflection group is being held every Thursday 7pm in the church at Blackheath for six evenings leading up to Palm Sunday. Anne and Shane Young will guide us on our Lenten journey through conversation, music, Gospel readings and prayer.

Sunday: 23.3.2025

1st Reader: Anne Young
2nd Reader: Shane Young

Welcome/Intercession:
Eve McDonnell

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Pamela and Kristan

PPC meeting dates for 2025

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

Mt Victoria 15.3.25

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

Sunday 16.3.25

1 St Reader: Christa Buckley
2nd Reader: David Buckley
Welcome/Intercession: Francis Huckstepp

Server: Pat Wicks

Church Care: Pat & Phil Wicks

Counters: Diane Stewart

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & David Buckley

Morning Tea: Christine and Dominic

Mass in the Megalong Friday March 21 at 4pm:

All are invited to gather at St Joseph's in the Megalong for the monthly Eucharist. A Liturgy of the Word with Communion will be led on this occasion due to Fr John being away.



**JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE
LENTEN FOODBANK APPEAL**

CAN WE MATCH OR EXCEED YEARS GENEROUS RESPONSE??

Through the generosity of many parishioners, last Lent you donated:

- 39kg BASMATI RICE
- 13litres COOKING OIL
- 16 kg DRIED RED LENTILS
- 10 litres DISHWASHING LIQUID
- 16 litres WASHING DETERGENT and 6 kg WASHING POWDER
- 34 litres LONG LIFE MILK

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED SO GENEROUSLY!

CAN WE MATCH OR EXCEED THIS IN 2025 AS PART OF OUR LENTEN JOURNEY?

This week, the 2nd Sunday of Lent we are targeting CANOLA &/or OLIVE OIL .**

Your generosity will help many struggling refugee families living in our Diocese. **Thank you so much!**

Safeguarding the Elderly Project: 18 March

Are you interested in sharing and listening to ideas about how we can meet the needs of older people in our Parish communities? You are invited to 'Share a Cuppa' on Tuesday 18 March from 10am-12noon at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown. Those involved in ministries such as Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Pastoral Care Groups, are invited to share their experiences and reflections. RSVP by Friday 14 March. Please contact Maria Kervin (Manager, Prevention, Healing & Support) at: mariakervin@parracatholic.org if you would like more information on hosting such a Morning Tea within your own Parish with your Ministry Team.

At The Well Gathering for Women: 23 March

This At the Well Gathering is a small scale, casual gathering of women aimed at providing a space for conversation, community and encounter. This gathering will be a collaboration with the Women of St Clare with a focus on the topic of "Living as a Catholic woman in a secular world." The evening will engage three women from various vocations to share from their own experiences, and to answer questions from the crowd. For more information and to register visit parracatholic.org/events/at-the-well-gathering-23-march/

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.

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

Project Compassion Sunday

Second Sunday of Lent

15th and 16th of March 2025



Toefuata'iga - (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.

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 **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

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



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Taize Service: We warmly welcome you to Taize Prayer & Song at Leura Uniting Church this Sunday 16th March at 5pm. Our theme is "Wait for the Lord" and our worship leader is Rev Myung Hwa Park. Supper is provided after the service.

All are welcome at Taize Prayer & Song for prayer, singing and meditation.

On Tuesday 18th March at 3pm we will be welcoming Brother Merric from the Taize community in France who is travelling to more than one state in Australia visiting churches who are committed to providing Taize Prayer & Song on a regular basis. You are warmly invited to a short Taize Prayer & Song followed by conversation with Brother Merric over afternoon tea.

For catering purposes we wonder if you could let us know if you will be attending on Tues 18th March by this coming Friday 14th March?

Grace and peace, Carolyn Craig-Emilsen and LUC Taize Worship team

Happy Birthday March

- 16th Fr Bob Sheridan
- 23rd Oliver Burke (b 2005)



Anniversaries: March

- 13th Pope Francis (Became Pope in 2013)



Second Sunday of Lent Year C

ENTRANCE Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading.

A reading from the book of Genesis (Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18)

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldaeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

RESPONSE

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 3:17 - 4:1)

My brothers and sisters, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into

copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and sisters and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

COMMUNION

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.