

# 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 in April at 4.00pm as 18 April is Good Friday

## 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)

## Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

30. 3.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the first reading we hear that "Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you".

In the second reading we hear that "For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work."

Both readings are saying that God takes away the effects of sin. Frees us.

We don't free ourselves, we can only desire to be free.

In the Gospel we see two examples of liberation. The son who leaves the Father's house to live a life of debauchery and the self-righteous son who needed liberation so he could bear some fruit that we heard about last Sunday.

Let's look at younger son. To allow us to see the loving mercy of God let's imagine what this son was like. He had been feeding pigs, his clothes had probably not been washed for quite some time, he also had not been washed. He was not the kind of person you'd like to encounter yet the Father, who sees him far away, runs to him hugs him and kisses him. That's us, no matter what we've done the Father is waiting for us and if we make a move towards Him, He'll come to us, embraces us and smother us in graces to draw us to Him and adorns us with everything He has.

And yes, He gives us everything. He gave us His only begotten Son in which we become a new creation.

Now the elder son who is angered by the Father's kindness because he sees himself being unfairly treated. I'd say he's also worried about his inheritance and considers himself morally superior. He's like the Pharisees and Scribes, he's also like us. He has forgotten that he is working for himself. Everything the Father has is already His. We too have everything so long as we remain in Christ. We are already sons and heirs, so how can God give us anything more.

But how can we say who is worthy or not of God's love because we have done nothing to earn it. We were given it all by God just like the eldest son who was born into the family and so became heir. We too have been born of the Spirit through Christ, not because of what we have done but rather because it was the will of the Father.

So, we see that we are all both sons and need to be grateful for God's mercy that removes our sins, recreates us and entitles us the everything.

So, we need to accept our invitation to the banquet that the Father has called and we must rejoice in other's being invited in. In fact, we are to go out and invite others in, draw them into the banquet because we are the kind of people that offer them something different to what the world offers.

*Deacon Alan*

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



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

### SATURDAY 29 March

Mass 5.00pm Leura  
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

### SUNDAY 30 March

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

### MONDAY 31 March

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 1 April

Mass at 9.00am Leura

### WEDNESDAY 2 April

Mass 9.00am Blackheath  
Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

### THURSDAY 3 April

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 4 April

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

### SATURDAY 5 April

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

### Meditation on Tuesday

Meditation is on in Sacred Heart Church every Tuesday morning at 10am.  
All are welcome for prayer, silence and inspirational readings.  
Marilyn Jones 0401 637 759

### Mt Victoria 29.3.25

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart  
2 nd Reader:

### Sunday 30.3.25

1 St Reader: Julie Hodgkinson  
2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp  
Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks  
Server: Ray Wood  
Church Care: Pat & Phil Wicks  
Counters: Julie and Lance Hodgkinson  
Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & 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 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!



### BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S CHAPLAINCY SERVICES : NEXT WEEKEND 29 & 30 MARCH

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at [parracatholic.org/appeal](http://parracatholic.org/appeal) or scan this QR code. Envelopes are available on the pews, Thank you.



### 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.

### Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes  
**Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)  
**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413 Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

### Sunday: 6.4.2025

1st Reader: Brian Bright  
2nd Reader: Monica Bright  
Welcome/Intercession:  
Paul Harris  
Server: Diane Stewart  
Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

### PPC meeting dates for 2025

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

You are invited to a meeting to discuss the future of the parishes of the Upper Blue Mountains after the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, 30th March 2025. The meeting will be held in the church hall at Blackheath. This is an opportunity for the community to ask Alison Ryan and Michael Reid of the Mission Enhancement Team questions about the practicalities of possible new administrative structures across the Upper Blue Mountains. It is also an opportunity to gather ideas towards developing local, co-responsible leadership structures for each Church community.

Graham Beal - Chair, Sacred Hearth Parish Pastoral Council..

**WORKING BEE on Saturday 29 March 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 John on 0407 288 957 for further information and to advise if you will be coming.

**Easter Sunrise Service**

An Ecumenical Celebration

Sunday 20 April 6am

Leuralla Amphitheatre

Olympian Parade, Leura

BYO CUSHION, TORCH, BLANKET.

(IF WET, GATHER AT LEURA UNITING CHURCH)

Breakfast (Donation \$5) Leura Uniting Church,

Cnr. Grose & Megalong Streets, Leura.

**Slavery Free Easter Chocolate**

Look for Certification Logos

Purchase chocolate that has the Rainforest Alliance, Cocoa Horizons or Fairtrade certification logos.

This means these companies are working to eliminate slavery in the cocoa industry. "Every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral -and not simply an economic -act."

Pope Francis

**Happy Birthday March**

28<sup>th</sup> Ray Wood



29<sup>th</sup> Carmen Beard



**JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE  
LENTEN FOODBANK APPEAL**

Here we are – already into the 4th Sunday of Lent – this week we are TARGETING – **DISHWASHING LIQUID OR POWDER**

CAN WE EXCEED LAST YEARS GENEROUS RESPONSE – 10 LITRES??

Looking at our tally - so far you have generously donated ...

22 kg Basmati Rice – last year – 36kg

5 Litres Cooking Oil – last year – 13 L

7kg Dried Red Lentils - last year – 16 kg

Next time you are at the shops, please recall the plight of so many refugees and asylum seekers – so many are destitute. CAN WE DO A CATCH UP & STILL EXCEED LAST YEAR'S GENEROSITY?

**Thank you for your generosity**



Scan to Purchase



**DISCUSSION GROUP - NEXT MEETING**

Our Sacred Heart Discussion Group is next meeting Saturday, 29 March, 3:00-4:30 pm, Church Hall, Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath. Please let me know if you need to meet by Zoom.

The focus this time will be Pope St John Paul II's, Apostolic Letter, Salvifici Doloris (attached) published in 1984. This document focusses on the meaning of human suffering, and is highly relevant to us all. Our intention is to start with subsections 1-4 and 9-13. To aid discussion, may I suggest bringing your annotations, comments and questions to our meeting for sharing and discussion?

If you have any queries, please contact me at Blackheath

**Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers:** Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Ray Wood, Beverley Bateup, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli.

**Recently Deceased:** Anne McKeon, Paddy Dowling

**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



## Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C

**ENTRANCE** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

### First Reading.

A reading from the book of Joshua (Joshua 5:9-12)

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

### RESPONSE

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

### Second Reading .

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding people's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

### ACCLAMATION

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:  
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about, "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

**COMMUNION:** The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.