

# 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 MASSES

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)

## First Sunday of Lent Year C

9. 3.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the first reading we hear Moses telling the people that they need to bring the first fruits before God and bow down before Him in gratitude for being rescued from Egypt.

Egypt symbolises the power of the world, the kingdoms that Satan offers Christ in the Gospel. We hear how the Aramaean's went to Egypt and prospered but also became enslaved. They were led out of Egypt through the wilderness to the promised land.

We too are being led out of our modern-day Egypt into the promised land which is Christ. To believe in our hearts, that is to understand with a deep-seated feeling, that Jesus is our Lord and God who has been raised from the dead and because of this that we too are destined for eternal life with Him. A realisation which sets us free, for it makes all else except union with Christ irrelevant.

But to get there we need to live our lives in this world. This world which is a wilderness, where there are dangers, distractions and hardships which tempt us physically and psychologically and make us want to have assurances, and like the Israelites want to go back to the comfort zones of this world, back to Egypt. The comforts of indulgence, status, recognition, financial security and self-determination. But these are all life sapping rather than life giving of themselves.

Only when we feel in our hearts that Christ is the only way, that the will of the Father is our number one priority, will we start to move into the promised land.

So, as we start Lent let's really try.

There is fasting and abstinence but how about going to the Stations of the Cross each week, saying the Rosary daily, spending half an hour reading and contemplating scripture.

Adoration before the blessed Sacrament.

There are great Apps for Lection Divina like "Pray as You Go" or Discerning Hearts".

Lent is about getting closer to God, to understand God more fully, to build up our relationship so we can draw life from Him and become conduits for God's life-giving love into the world.

In God is our freedom.

Deacon Alan

**Please note: The Mass at Leura on Tuesday 11/3/25 is cancelled. There is a school Mass in St Canice's at 9.30am**

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



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

**SATURDAY 8 March**

Mass 5.00pm Leura  
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

**SUNDAY 9 March**

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

**MONDAY 10 March**

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

**TUESDAY 11 March**

9.30am School Mass at Katoomba

**WEDNESDAY 11 March**

Mass 9.00am Blackheath  
Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

**THURSDAY 12 March**

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

**FRIDAY 13 March**

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba  
Mass 4.00pm Megalong

**SATURDAY 14 March**

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

**Mt Victoria 8.3.25**

**1 St Reader:** Mary Ryan  
**2 nd Reader:** Clive Kaness

**Sunday 9.3.25**

**1 St Reader:** Eve McDonnell  
**2nd Reader:** Francis Huckstepp.  
**Welcome/Intercession:** Pat Wicks  
**Server:** Ray Wood  
**Church Care:** Pat & Phil Wicks  
**Counters:** Laurie Noyes  
**Flowers:** David Buckley  
**Morning Tea:** Monica and Brian

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 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025, at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. To register your attendance and guests please visit [parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/](http://parracatholic.org/events/liturgical-ministers-commissioning-mass/)

**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

**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.

**Sunday: 16.3.2025**

**1st Reader:** Christa Buckley  
**2nd Reader:** David Buckley

**Welcome/Intercession:**  
Francis Huckstepp

**Server:** Pat Wicks

**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  
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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent we are targeting BASMATI RICE.**

Your generosity will help many struggling refugee families living in our Diocese.

**Thank you so much!**

**CATALYST FOR RENEWAL**

**'Catalyst for Renewal' Reflection Morning.**

**March 15, 2025**

Santa Maria Hall, Lawson 9:30am-12:30pm

Parking at: Lawson Catholic Church (Enter by Somers St)

OR Kitchener St Lawson

Tea/Coffee provided. Entry by donation

email: [carol.len.thankyou@icloud.com](mailto:carol.len.thankyou@icloud.com)

**Contacts:** Carol Teodori: 0449 172 669; Len: 0405 916 326

**Seeking renewal through conversation**

*"The Art of Listening"* presented by **Laurie Woods**

**Happy Birthday March**

10th Joe Blansjaar

16th Fr Bob Sheridan



**Project Compassion Sunday**

**First Sunday of Lent**

8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2025



Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.

**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](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.*



**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**

13th Pope Francis (Became Pope in 2013)



**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



## First Sunday of Lent Year C

**ENTRANCE** When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory,

I will grant him length of days.

### First Reading.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy  
(Deuteronomy 26:4-10)

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our ancestors. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

### RESPONSE

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble .

### Second Reading.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
(Romans 10:8-13)

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

### ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 4:1-13)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,  
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him, 'throw yourself down from here, for Scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you  
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands  
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him to return at the appointed time.

### COMMUNION

One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of  
God.