

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

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 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)

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

6. 4. 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Scriptures for this Fifth Sunday in Lent encourage us not to recall the past...

- * the sinfulness that led to Israel's destruction and exile
- * the life lived as a slave to a strict interpretation of the Mosaic Law
- * the life lived as a slave to sin.

Rather, the Future is that in which we should place all our Hopes...

- * new ways in the wilderness of despair
- * new life through the Resurrection of Christ
- * new life through Liberation from Sin.

Basically, we are called to forget the past, and strive ahead for what is to come!

So appropriate given the plans for our future in the Upper Mountains!

My friends,

I apologise that the virus I contracted on the plane when returning from my annual leave (2024) resulted in a number of masses being cancelled. However, it was impossible to get another priest on such short notice.

As I write this, I am still quite sick; but I hope to be 'on deck' soon!.

Thank you for your prayers.

Last weekend members of the Mission Enhancement Team spoke to the Upper Mountains Church Communities about the coming amalgamation on 1st May, 2025.

I would like to reassure you all once again that this is basically an administrative change, a consolidation of those activities and services that look after major areas of parish ministry - such as Finance and Administration etc.

It is my intention to maintain - as far as is possible - the present celebrations in the churches of the Upper Mountains; indeed, I hope we will establish Church Community Teams that will support the Liturgies and maintenance needs of each Church.

And this will be aided by the appointment of Fr Jessie Balorio as assistant priest to the new combined Upper Blue Mountains Parish from 1st May (although he will join us later on 11th May). He is a younger priest of our diocese and will be resident in the Presbytery at Lawson.

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 5 April

Mass 5.00pm Leura
Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria.

SUNDAY 6 April

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

MONDAY 7 April

Mass at 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 8 April

Mass at 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 9 April

Mass 9.00am Blackheath
Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

THURSDAY 10 April

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 11 April

Mass 12.00 at Katoomba

SATURDAY 12 April

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

Mt Victoria 5.4.25

1 St Reader: Mary Ryan
2 nd Reader: Clive Kanes

Sunday 6. 4.25

1 St Reader: Brian Bright
2nd Reader: Monica Bright
Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris
Server: Diane Stewart
Church Care: Marilyn and Paul Rowe
Counters: Marilyn Rowe
Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & 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!



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.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes

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.*

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

Sunday: 13.4.2025

1st Reader: John Tweedie
2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession:
Francis Huckstepp

Server: Patricia Darvall/Pat Wicks
Morning Tea: Monica & 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**

Here we are – already into the 4th Sunday of Lent – this week we are **TARGETING – LAUNDRY DETERGENT CAN WE EXCEED LAST YEARS GENEROUS RESPONSE – 16L liquid and 6 kg powder??**

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
7 L washing up Liquid - last year 10L

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?**

Next Sunday we will be targeting **LONG LIFE MILK** – last year 34 Litres!.

Thank you for your generosity

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 April

- 1st Alonso Anh Quan Ho
- 2nd Pat Drummond
- 11th Heidi Lamerton
- 15th Francesca Huckstepp
- 15th Frank Portelli



Happy Anniversary! April

- 9th Adrian and Robyn Carroll (m 1983)



***Lent ends on a note of wonder. In the face of all the mighty works that God has already performed for the people, God promises something even more magnificent.



Throughout this season we have reflected on the marvels that God accomplished in the lives of the people, cutting a covenant with Abraham, leading the people out of bondage, revealing God's own personal name, bring them into a land that is bursting with life. Now God says: You haven't seen anything yet.
The first reading proclaims that something new is about to appear. In the gospel, this new thing unfolds before our eyes. Here we see Jesus neither rejecting the law nor changing it. Instead, he shows that the law, as good as it might be, serves something higher. He shows that the mercy and compassion of God exceed the authority of the law. Once again we see that the readings of Lent are less concerned with mortification and penance than they are with divine graciousness and our response of joy and thanksgiving.
Paul is not satisfied with the blessings of the past. In fact, he considers them rubbish when compared with knowing and being united with Christ. Life with Christ transforms us from people who are caught in sin to women and men who have been forgiven. Life in Christ is the new thing that God has fashioned for us. God is the one who creates something new; we are the ones who are re-created. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Easter at Sacred Heart Parish 2025

- Holy Thursday – Mass 7pm
- Good Friday – Stations in the Forest 10.00am
- Good Friday – Passion of the Lord 3pm
- Good Friday – Sunset at Mt Blackheath from 6pm
- Holy Saturday – Water Collecting Walls Cave 1.30pm
- Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil 7pm
- Easter Sunday – Ecumenical Sunrise Service 6am
- Easter Sunday - Mass 930am

Good Friday - Sunset at Mt Blackheath

Time: from 6pm
Location: Mt Blackheath Road, Blackheath
Bring: cushion/chair/blanket
Led by Pat Drummond

Holy Saturday - Easter Water Collection

Time: 130pm
Location: Walls Cave, Walls Cave Rd Blackheath
Bring: sturdy walking shoes, water containers
Led by John Tweedie

Easter Sunday - Ecumenical Sunrise Service

Time: 6am. Location: Leuralla Amphitheatre, Olympian Pde, Leura. Bring: cushion, torch, blanket Led by Leura Uniting Church. **Please note: there will be no services available at St Paul's Mt Vic.**

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 April: 1st Ken Cullen, 2nd Edna Moran, 2nd Mathew Walker, 2nd Pope John Paul II (2005), 4th Roma Ward (2007), 11th Michael Hanna (d 2012 – Fr Paul's brother), 11th Barry Leeder (2015), 12th Mary Hart (d 2014), 12th Andrew Ziolkowski (d1994 – Marjanna Gilchrist's only sibling), 14th Una Woods, 15th Terrence Bucknel (2018), 16th Lila Anthony, 17th Daisy Lillian Perriam (d 2010), 18th Kenneth Vandenberg(2018), 19th Mary Edna Forster (d 2016 -aged 94).



Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

ENTRANCE Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O
God, are my strength .

First Reading.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 43:16-21)

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army,
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:
No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.
The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

RESPONSE

The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

Second Reading .

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
(Philippians 3:8-14)

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the
supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I
look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can
have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no
longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the
perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only
the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and
is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know
Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share
his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death.
That is the way I can hope to take my place in the

resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect
yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to
capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can
assure you my brothers and sisters, I am far from thinking
that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the
past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am
racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us
upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless
glory! With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless
glory!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John
8:1-11)

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he
appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to
him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had
been caught committing adultery; and making her stand
there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master,
this woman was caught in the very act of committing
adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn
women like this to death by stoning. What have you to
say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something
to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing
on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their
question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who
has not sinned, let that one be the first to throw a stone at
her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again.
When they heard this they went away one by one,
beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with
the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up
and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned
you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,'
said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

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