

# 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)

## **CATHOLIC PARISH OF UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS SUNDAY MASSES**

**SAT: 5:00pm Leura**

**SAT: 5pm(June-Aug) 6pm(Sept-May) Mt Vic**

**SAT; 5pm Lawson**

**SUN: 8:00am Wentworth Falls**

**SUN: 8.30am Lawson**

**SUN; 9.30am Blackheath**

**SUN: 10.00am Katoomba**

**Sun: 5.00pm Leura**

## **MEGALONG VALLEY MASS**

**Mass: 3rd Friday of the month**

**Next Mass : 16 May 2025 at 4.00pm .**

**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  
[@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 Easter Year C**

**11. 5 2025**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the second reading we hear of the great multitude from every race, tribe, nation and language gathered before Christ. They are wearing white robes, a symbol of Baptism, of living in Christ. They are waving palms, recalling Palm Sunday, with Christ being proclaimed Lord and King.

But we need to note that they have washed their robes in the Blood of Christ. This means that during their lives, the time of persecution they sinned, either because of the own weakness, the influences of the world around them or as is most often the case a combination of both.

What is important is that they washed themselves in Christ, accepted the love and mercy of God and now the Tent, a reference to the Tent which the Israelites had with them through their journey in the desert, and where God dwelled, and where Moses communicated with God is to be spread over them.

The great multitude is to be given direct contact with God.

This brings us to the Gospel. Christ says that those that belong to Him listen to His voice. He knows them. This knowing is far from a casual knowing. This knowing is an indwelling. Christ dwells within them. They cannot be lost for they dwell in Christ and He and the Father are one. Not the same person, but one in unity of will.

This is what our faith is all about. Achieving this relationship with Christ where we live in Him and He in us and through Christ are brought into unity with the Trinity.

Deacon Alan Skofic

Please mute your mobile at Mass. Let's turn off the technology and turn on to God!



## WHAT'S ON IN THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

### SATURDAY 10 May

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass: 5.00pm Lawson

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

### SUNDAY 11 May

8.am Wentworth Falls

8.30am Lawson

9.30 am Blackheath

10am Katoomba

5pm Leura

### MONDAY 12 May

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 13 May

Mass at 9.00am Leura

Meditation 10am Blackheath

### WEDNESDAY 14 May

Mass 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppas together 9.30-12.00

### THURSDAY 15 May

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 16 May

Mass 12.00 noon Katoomba

Mass; 4pm Megalong

### SATURDAY 17 May

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass; 5pm Lawson

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mt Victoria 10. 5.25

1 St Reader: Peter McAuley

2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

Sunday 11. 5.25

1 St Reader: Shane Young

2nd Reader: Ann Young

Welcome/Intercession: Frances Huckstepp

Server: Paul Harriss/Patricia Darvall

Church Care: Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & David Buckley

Morning Tea: Christa and David Buckley

### 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 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.

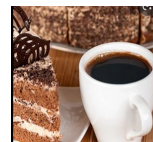


### Cuppa's on Wednesday after 9am Mass

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!



### SAVE THE DATE - Biggest Morning Tea 2025

Blackheath Parish & the Combined Churches of Blackheath & Mt Victoria will host a Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser on Thursday, 29 May 2025 between 10am - 12.30pm in the RSL sub-branch hall, Blackheath (2 Bundarra St).

Come for all or some of the time.

Join us for a delicious morning tea. This is a fundraiser to raise money for cancer research - bring your cash or card!



### Epiphany Pilgrimage Survey

Dear Community Members,

For the past ten years, Briony and Jesse Mowbray (Glenbrook parish) have been conducting a pilgrimage along the walking trails of the Blue Mountains during the early days of January to coincide with the feast of the Epiphany. Their efforts to have walkers enjoy the environment of the Blue Mountains and feel the welcome of each Catholic community along the way from Emu Plains to Mt. Victoria have resulted in an enriching experience of faith for many who have taken the opportunity.

Briony and Jesse can no longer take the helm of the pilgrimage. They are seeking feedback from the parish communities in the Blue Mountains to discern if continuing the pilgrimage is of importance to the deanery and diocese, and hence, should it be seen as of value to continue, who could manage it.

Please convey your thoughts to <[epiphanypilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:epiphanypilgrimage@gmail.com)>

\*what your own experience has been as a parishioner?

\*What impact has it had on the communities of Blackheath, Mt Victoria and Megalong? \*Would you like to volunteer to be part of the coordinating committee to manage the pilgrimage?

Briony and Jesse would be eager to hear from those who have particularly participated in this venture over the years.

With thanks, on behalf of the Deanery Pastoral Council, Len Blahut.

Sunday: 18.5.2025

1st Reader: Christa Buckley

2nd Reader: David Buckley

Welcome/Intercession: Paul Harris

Server: Pat Wicks

Morning Tea: Christine and Dom

### Low Cost Counselling Services

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provides low cost and affordable counselling services for individuals seeking support. Whether you're looking for general guidance or assistance with specific challenges like grief, loss, or family matters, Catholic Care is here to help. Call Catholic Care on 8843 2500 for a friendly chat today.

## Laudato Si' Week 2025: 24th - 31st May

Laudato Si' Week is a celebration held annually in May to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis's landmark encyclical on caring for creation. Sponsored by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, this global celebration unites Catholics to listen and respond together to the cry of creation, rejoice in the progress we have made in bringing *Laudato Si'* to life, and intensify our efforts for education and action.

This year Laudato Si' Week is extra special as we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si' in the Year of Jubilee. It is also a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the incredible inspiration of Pope Francis in caring for our common home.

Our focus this year is debt, and the impact debt has on earth and each other. Through the global campaign, *Turn Debt into Hope*, we invite you to stand with us during Laudato Si' Week. Together, we can *Turn Debt into Hope* and build a more just world.

Join the Zoom session to explore this year's theme. **Caritas "Turn Debt Into Hope" Campaign Launch Webinar** Friday 16 May 2025, 12pm – 1pm

Info and registration: [caritas.org.au/debt](https://caritas.org.au/debt)

## MOTHERS DAY MORNING TEA

The Morning Tea Team invite all Parishioners and Visitors to come down to the hall after Mass this morning to celebrate Mothers Day ... and enjoy delicious cake and other goodies made by our Mothers, Grandmothers and Great Grandmothers -served with a cuppa of course.



## JRS JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT Sacred Heart / St Paul's

St Joseph's Communities – AGAIN!!

**This year 2025 you donated:**

**53kg Basmati Rice  
16 Kg Dried Red Lentils  
13 L Cooking Oil  
15 L Washing up liquid  
13 L Dish washing liquid  
4 kg washing powder  
20 L Long Life Milk**

Overall, a significant increase on most items  
And there's more - \$200 in cash donations will help JRS purchase additional goods.

**Wonderful! Thank You Again for YOUR GENEROSITY!**

## Happy Birthday May

4<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Rowe

13<sup>th</sup> Margaret Davis



\*\*\*This Sunday is traditionally referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. However, the readings for today focus more on the flock than on the shepherd. The overarching theme appears to be unity in diversity. Placing this theme within the context of the Easter season, we might refocus it slightly and suggest that today we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord in communities of difference.

Unity in diversity is first found in the divine union of the Trinity. All other models of unity flow from it. Both the first and the second readings depict communities made up of people from every nation, race, people and tongue, Jews and Gentile alike. This is precisely the makeup of most communities today. Parishes and religious groups that were born with a particular cultural identity have changed in complexion and composition. Despite the obvious differences, all are children of the one God, all are joined in their common confession of faith.

Not everyone is happy with diversity. Some within the early community resented the success of Paul and Barnabas and they tried to turn the people against them. This sounds strangely familiar to us. Religious groups born out of struggle and hard work, that were lovingly nurtured and that grew strong, often resist what they perceived to be the invasion of foreigners. If these people could only take as their model the company of the blessed revealed in John's vision, they would see that those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb come from every nation and race and people and tongue.

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## FEAST OF PENTECOST 8 JUNE 2025.

Church communities of Katoomba, Leura and Wentworth Falls will mark this year's Pentecost Sunday (June 8<sup>th</sup>) with a celebration of the diversity and culture of our parishioners. After 10.00am Mass at St. Canice's Katoomba, we will be celebrating the day with a wide variety of ethnic flavours from all the various backgrounds of our parishioners with a selection of foods to enjoy in the parish hall. We wish to extend this invitation to our new communities of Lawson and Blackheath.

If you would like to contribute a dish of food for the event after Mass or items for the Raffle, please contact Barbara Davidson on 0417 490 103.  
Entry by donation.

Help us mark this important feast day with a celebration of our parish's rich diversity and please join us for the extravaganza of foods after the 10.00am Mass at St Canice's on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

## Happy Anniversary! May

13th Pat and Carol Drummond (m 1972)



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

**REST IN PEACE MAY:** 9th Percy Potts, 10th Kathleen Columbine (d 1966), 12th Leonard Kirkham (1976)

14th Dawn (Pauline Florence) Sheridan – (d 1997 – Fr Bob's wife), 15th Ken Austin (d 2014), 23rd Frank Mackrell

25th Lorenzo Fusina, 26th Thea Ellis, 27th Rosemary Davis (d 2009 – Mother of Michelle Davis), 29th John Pye MSC (d 2009 aged 102 - Carmel Vanny's uncle), 30th Geoff Cliff





## **Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C**

**ENTRANCE** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

### **First Reading.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52)

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God had given them.

The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

I have made you a light for the nations,  
so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

### **RESPONSE**

We are his people, the sheep of his flock .

### **Second Reading.**

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse (Revelation 7:9, 14-17)

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because

the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
Alleluia!

### **The Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 10:27-30)

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;  
I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,  
and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

**COMMUNION:** The Good Shepherd has risen,  
who laid down his life for his sheep  
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia,

