

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

Sacred Heart Church

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)

Fr. Jessie Balorio (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](https://www.facebook.com/SacredHeartParish)

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 or at

Katoomba on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
Fridays on 02 4782 2804. email

bluemountains@parracatholic.org

[Community Blackheath](#)

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

25. 5 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the second reading we hear that John is taken in the Spirit by an Angel to the top of an enormously high mountain.

Mountains are symbolic, they indicate a closeness to God.

Angels are messengers of God.

So, using the symbolism we can reread the first sentence of the second reading and see that the Angel brought John into closeness with God.

And what does John see once he has developed a closeness to God through the Spirit?

He sees the Church. The holy city, Jerusalem, coming down from God.

The people who live in the city are the people of Israel, those who live with God in the city. The city is built on the twelve foundation stones which are the Apostles, and the city is radiant with the glory of God.

The glory of God is the reflection or radiation of God which is what was made visible in the Transfiguration of Christ.

This glory is the love of God. The unconditional desire for the good of the other.

Which other we can ask? Every other, every single other person, every single part of creation.

This is what Jesus is describing to His Apostles in the Gospel. He is saying that if we keep His Word, the Father will love us and he and the Father will come and live with us.

So, what is this Word that we need to keep? It's Christ's commandment. Love one another as I have loved you. Put the "other" first in everything you say, do and think.

To allow this to become a way of life we need to give the Angel the opportunity to take us into closeness with God through the Spirit.

Because we have to keep in mind that what this new Jerusalem is, is a communion, not a community, it is people living through Christ, in Christ and with Christ which brings all people into unity in the one body, the Church. There can be no really sound close relationships except through Christ because it is the Spirit that creates the unity. The Spirit which comes to us through Christ.

That's why the city is coming down from God. We can't build it ourselves. God builds it and we enter it by entering into relationship with Christ which involves entering into relationship with all others.

Deacon Alan

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 24 May

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass: 5.00pm Lawson

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

SUNDAY 25 May

8.am Wentworth Falls

8.30am Lawson

9.30 am Blackheath

10am Katoomba

5pm Leura

MONDAY 26 May

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 27 May

Mass at 9.00am Leura

Meditation 10am Blackheath

WEDNESDAY 28 May

Mass: 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppas together 9.30 – 12.00

Mass: 5.00pm Lawson

THURSDAY 29 May

Mass: 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 30 May

Mass: 9.30am Lawson

Mass 12.00 noon Katoomba

SATURDAY 24 May

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass; 5pm Lawson

Mass 6.00pm Mt Victoria

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mt Victoria 24. 5.25

1 St Reader: Fran Leighton

2 nd Reader: Elizabeth Giddey

Sunday 25. 5.25

1 St Reader: Julie Hodgkinson

2nd Reader: Frances Huckstepp

Welcome/Intercession: Eve McDonnell

Server: Ray Wood

Church Care: Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

Counters: Marilyn Rowe

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & David Buckley

Morning Tea: Pamela and Kristan

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.

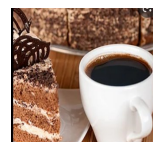


Cuppa's on Wednesday after 9am Mass

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!



BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL FOR OUR HOLY SPIRIT SEMINARIANS THIS WEEKEND 24 & 25 MAY

Will you help our seminarians to be 'Pilgrims and Sowers of Hope' for God's people? With your prayers and generosity, they can continue to grow in faith and formation, as they prepare to become priests who will sow hope, faith and love in the hearts of God's people. Please give generously to the Bishop's

Good Shepherd Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you.



Envelopes are available on the pews.

Catholic Church and Mission Discussion Group

A group meets on the last Saturday of every month to discuss Church documents that speak to our times and our ongoing formation as Christian people. The next meeting is at **3:00-4:30pm, 31 May, Church Hall, Sacred Heart, Blackheath**. We will be discussing Part 4 of *Salvifici Doloris* (follow the link https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/1984/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_11021984_salvifici-doloris.html) which focusses on Pope St John Paul's teaching on the meaning of suffering. Please don't be put off if you have missed previous meetings as our discussions are free flowing, inclusive and friendly. Please let me know <blackheath@parracatholic.org> if you need a Zoom link or have any questions.

Sunday: 1.6.2025

1st Reader: John Tweedie

2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Ann Young

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

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.

SACRED HEART PARISH LUNCH 2025

The venue for this year will be:
Blackheath Golf & Community Club



When: Sunday 29th June -12pm

Cost: \$35 a head for a 2 course lunch

Mains: Please nominate if you would like a Vegetarian Meal
Tickets for the lunch will be available either Saturday night or Sunday after Mass from 24st May.
Please see a social club member for your tickets either Pamela or Marilyn (Sunday) or Diane on Saturday night.

WORKING BEE on Saturday 31 May 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.

Mountains Primary Schools Offer Fee Discounts

To help more families access quality Catholic education, three local schools are offering major fee discounts from 2026 (T&Cs apply). Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson and St Thomas Aquinas Springwood will offer a **50% discount on Diocesan fees** while St Canice's Katoomba will be **fee-free!** Contact the schools or visit their websites to learn more

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

May 27 to June 3.

Parishioners and friends are invited to join in a celebration of National Reconciliation Week on Sunday 1 June at Lawson Mechanics Institute, 1pm - 4pm. More details on Notice Board.

The theme for NRW 2025, 'Bridging Now to Next', reflects on our ongoing connection between past, present and future and urges us to look ahead as past lessons guide us.

Information sessions for the community

WaterNSW, together with Sydney Water and NSW Health, is holding drop-in information sessions for the community. Representatives will be available to answer any questions relating to our water contamination, quality and investigation findings – please walk in, no RSVP necessary.

Tuesday 27 May

10am - 1pm

Phillips Hall, Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre
Corner of Gardiner Crescent and Great Western Highway,
Blackheath

Tuesday 27 May

3pm - 6pm

Seminar Room, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
30 Parke Street, Katoomba

BCKG: Laudato Si Week - Revolution

Pope Francis in his [words](#) to the 2017 TED Conference in Vancouver, called for a revolution:

“The ... message I would like to share today is, indeed, about revolution: the revolution of tenderness. What is tenderness? It is the love that comes close and becomes real. It is a movement that starts from our heart and reaches the eyes, the ears and the hands. Tenderness means to use our eyes to see the other, our ears to hear the other, to listen to the children, the poor, those who are afraid of the future. To listen also to the silent cry of our common home, of our sick and polluted earth.

Tenderness means to use our hands and our heart to comfort the other, to take care of those in need. “

FEAST OF PENTECOST 8 JUNE 2025.

Church communities of Katoomba, Leura and Wentworth Falls will mark this year's Pentecost Sunday (June 8th) 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 8th June, 2025

Please Pray For the Sick and Their Carers: Betty Zeman, 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



Sixth Sunday of Easter Year C

ENTRANCE Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth:

The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

First Reading.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2. 22-29)

Some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, 'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.' This led to disagreement, and after Paul and Barnabas had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that Paul and Barnabas and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

Then the apostles and elders decided to choose delegates to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; the whole church concurred with this. They chose Judas known as Barsabbas and Silas, both leading men in the community, and gave them this letter to take with them:

'The apostles and elders, your brothers and sisters, send greetings to the brothers of pagan birth in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia. We hear that some of our members have disturbed you with their demands and have unsettled your minds. They acted without any authority from us, and so we have decided unanimously to elect delegates and to send them to you with Barnabas and Paul, men we highly respect who have dedicated their lives to the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accordingly we are sending you Judas and Silas, who will confirm by word of mouth what we have written in this letter. It has been decided by the Holy Spirit and by ourselves not to saddle you with any burden beyond these essentials: you are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from fornication. Avoid these, and you will do what is right. Farewell.'

RESPONSE

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading.

A reading from the book of the Revelation (Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23)

In the spirit, the angel took me to the top of an enormous high mountain and showed me Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down from God out of heaven. It had all the radiant glory of God and glittered like some precious jewel of crystal-clear diamond. The walls of it were of a great height, and had twelve gates; at each of the twelve

gates there was an angel, and over the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel; on the east there were three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. The city walls stood on twelve foundation stones, each one of which bore the name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

I saw that there was no temple in the city since the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb were themselves the temple, and the city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans.

I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 14:23-29)

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone love me they will keep my word,

and my Father will love them,

and we shall come to them

and make our home with them.

Those who do not love me do not keep my words.

And my word is not my own:

it is the word of the one who sent me.

I have said these things to you

while still with you;

but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,

whom the Father will send in my name,

will teach you everything

and remind you of all I have said to you.

Peace I bequeath to you,

my own peace I give you,

a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say:

I am going away, and shall return.

If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father,

for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens,

so that when it does happen you may believe.'

COMMUNION: If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.