

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 Liturgy of the Word: 18 July 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

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

29.6 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

For the Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul we have three readings. The first is the miraculous escape of St Peter from prison. The second is St Paul reflecting on his life, and the Gospel where St Peter identifies Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God and is selected by Christ to be the "rock" on which the Church will be built.

St Peter and St Paul were very different. St Peter was a fisherman, so not highly educated but a man who had to work with his hands and manage a business and staff. So not a simple man by any means. St Paul was a highly educated Pharisee, educated in the Judaic tradition but also very well educated in Greek Philosophy. Two very different men. One more or less an academic, the other a businessman. Both developed by God for the specific roles they were to play

These two were the means through which the Spirit spread the faith in Christ across the world.

What united them was their longing to see the Kingdom of God realised. They saw the value of the Kingdom so they longed for God to work through them, and they opened themselves to go to any lengths to do God's will.

And God supported them. He broke Peter out of Prison, from the clutches of Herod who wanted to kill him to make himself popular with the Jews.

And St Peter did eventually die a martyr, but he had long again given his life for Christ. That's exactly what St Paul is saying, he's already "run the race" given his life for Christ. So, St Paul's execution was in his eyes only the final note in a life sacrificed for Christ.

What does this mean for us. We are called to be evangelists. We are called to live for Christ. Be as Christ like as possible in our work, our relationships, in our dealings with people, in our prayers and in our thoughts and attitudes. We too have been developed by God for our functions.

We too are meant to convert the world, our spheres of influence, not so much with words but with actions and attitudes.

Yes, we will make mistakes, like St Peter who denied Christ, who cut off a person's ear, but what made St Peter great was that in his heart He was devoted to Christ. He cut off the ear to protect Christ, he denied Christ only out of fear, but we must not forget he did actually follow Him when others had run. He repented his faults, and it came very easily because of His deep love for Christ. That is why he's the rock of trust and devotion that gives us the example of stability from which to go forward in life. *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 28 June

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass: 5.00pm Lawson

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria

SUNDAY 29 June

8.am Wentworth Falls

8.30am Lawson

9.30 am Blackheath

10am Katoomba

5pm Leura

MONDAY 30 June

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 1 July

Mass at 9.00am Leura

Meditation 10am Blackheath

WEDNESDAY 2 July

Mass: 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppas together 9.30 – 12.00

THURSDAY 3 July

Mass: 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 4 July

Mass: 9.30am Lawson

Mass 12.00 noon Katoomba

SATURDAY 5 July

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass; 5pm Lawson

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

Mt Victoria 28. 6.25

1 St Reader: Diane Stewart

2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

Sunday 29. 6.25

1 St Reader: Monica Bright

2nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Pat Wicks

Server: Diane Stewart

Church Care: Pat and Phil Wicks

Counters: Pamela and John

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & David Buckley

Morning Tea: No Morning Tea

Bpoint - Parish contributions using your credit card.

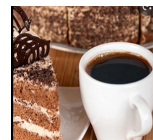
Bpoint is an easy way to contribute to both our 2nd collection (funds raised are for our Parish) and 1st collection (funds raised are for the clergy of the Diocese). You need a credit card (Visa or Mastercard only) and a mobile phone number. Please follow this link and make your choice of option. You 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!



2025 Peter's Pence Collection: This Sunday 29 June

The annual Peter's Pence Collection for the Holy Father will be held on this Sunday 29 June 2025. The collection, usually held around the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, supports the Pope's mission; which extends throughout the entire world from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education, peace and brotherhood among peoples. Every offering – large or small – will support the Holy Father in his ministry and in his charitable activities in response to emergencies and needs around the world. Please donate generously via the envelopes on the pews.

SAVE THE DATE: Afternoon Tea to celebrate Sr Jacinta Shailer

Date: Friday 15 August (Sr Jacinta's 98th Birthday)

Time: 2-4pm

Location: Sacred Heart Church Hall

Before Sr Jacinta leaves the Blue Mountains, you are invited to gather as a community to celebrate, give praise and offer gratitude for Sr Jacinta's ministry among us.

For enquiries phone 0474774009

Caritas Australia appeals for support for amputees in Gaza

The UN [described](#) Gaza as being "home to the largest cohort of child amputees in modern history". As of April, the UN reported that [4,500](#) people have been made amputees due to the current conflict.

In response, Caritas Jerusalem is working to support those affected by the loss of limbs, as part of a program supported by Caritas Australia's Gaza Emergency Appeal.

We urgently need your support.

Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal.

You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

Sunday: 6.7.2025

1st Reader: Shane Young

2nd Reader: Ann Young

Welcome/Intercession: Frances Huckstepp

Server: Paul Harris

Morning Tea: Karen and Marlene

Cancellation of Morning Tea 29 June 2025

Please be informed that the Morning Tea scheduled for today 29th June 2025 has been canceled due to the Parish Lunch taking place today at the Golf club Blackheath.

SACRED HEART PARISH LUNCH 2025

The venue for this year :Blackheath Golf & Community Club

When: Sunday 29th June -12pm
Cost: \$35 a head for a 2 course lunch

Just a quick reminder that our Parish Lunch is on today. We look forward to seeing you there.



Fr Abraham Appointment:

We offer our prayers and ask for God's blessing upon Fr Abraham who has been recently installed as the fifth parish priest of Corpus Christi Parish, Cranebrook. Read about him by Googling "Catholic Outlook Fr Abraham". Our best wishes to Fr Abraham for his ministry of love and service.

JRS Australia 'Free Together' Refugee Week Event: 4 July

You are warmly invited to JRS Australia's Refugee Week event, showcasing stories, art and music shared by refugee leaders of JRS Australia's Refugee Leadership Program. The event will be held on Friday 4 July from 6pm at the St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta. Entry cost is a \$10 voluntary donation to cover the costs of dinner for those able to contribute. To RSVP, please visit <https://events.humanitix.com/jrsrefugee-week-2025>.

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

Happy Birthday June

26th Marion Crowley

28th Louise Noyes



***Peter is associated with the community in Jerusalem and Paul with the Gentile converts. Together they represent the universality of the church. The red vestments worn today remind us of the price their commitment exacted of them.



The followers of Christ come from every race and culture, every generation and social class. It is not a common culture that draws them together, but a common faith. The church has been strengthened by the blood of the martyrs. This was the case in its earliest years, and it is the case today. Both Peter and Paul are examples of how God takes those weak in faith and transforms them into champions of the gospel. Once transformed, each man threw himself wholeheartedly into the mission that was his. Their fate should not surprise us, for they were disciples of one who gave his last breath for the life of the world.

In so many places in the world today modern martyrs pay the ultimate price for their faith. We see this in Latin America, in many African countries, in the Middle East, and in Asia, to name but a few areas. Although the word martyr usually refers to one who dies for the faith, the Greek word (mártys) really means witness, one who gives testimony. Like Peter and Paul, the martyr is one whose life gives witness to the faith. However, when this witness is too much of a challenge, the witness' life is placed in jeopardy. Peter and Paul call us all to this kind of testimony to faith.

Dianne Bergant CSA

Catholic Religious Australia 10,000 for 10 Initiative

To mark the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Catholic Religious Australia has launched the "10,000 for 10" initiative to encourage the planting and/or protection of 10,000 trees. If you cannot plant a tree, you can protect one or make a donation to a not-for-profit organisation focused on regenerative projects. To learn more, visit <https://www.catholicreligious.org.au/10000-for-10>

Penrith Parish Winter Wonderland Holiday Program: 6-9 July

St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith, are hosting a Winter Wonderland Holiday Camp in the July school holidays from Monday 7 to Wednesday 9 July for boys and girls aged Kindy to Year 4. Please refer to the attached for more information on activities, cost and how to register your child.

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 June: 1st Cy Schreiber (d 2013), 7th Mignon Spessot (2017), 8th Leonard Kirkham, 11th Eric Noble 13th Irene Peacock, 15th Rasa Blansjaar, 16th Norma Ward, 22nd Eusebio Dizon (d 2011), 23rd Frank Mackrell (2019), 29th David Harris



Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

ENTRANCE These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God .

First Reading.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11)

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly.

On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said 'Hurry!' – and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the angel next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. 'Now I know it is all true,' he said. 'The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me.'

RESPONSE

The Lord set me free from all my fears .

Second Reading .

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18)

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 16:13-19)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

COMMUNION: Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church .

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27-28 JUNE 2025
Liverpool Catholic Club

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