

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](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)

Parish website:

[sacredheartblackheath.org.au](http://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: 15 August 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

[bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto: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](mailto:graham_beal@hotmail.com) or Julie O'Keeffe

[julesongodson@bigpond.com](mailto:julesongodson@bigpond.com))

## 18th Sunday in Ordinary Times Year C

3.8 .2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Greed! Avarice! Materialism!

These come in for a serve in the Readings this weekend.

In the Gospel Jesus makes it clear that the man who built bigger barns had stored up his 'treasure' wrongly. Putting all his eggs in the one basket of 'money', he had forgotten to care for others. "One's life is not made secure by what one owns, even when one has more than one needs".

Paul's words to Timothy echo this thought: "you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is... Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth". Paul is telling us all to work for what builds up Christ and our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

After all, as the OT Book of Ecclesiastes (Qoholeth) reminds us: too much focus on our earthly life is a waste of emotional energy, for it will come to an end.

Concentration on material wealth is vanity and chasing after wind. After all, someone else will get it all when we die!

So...

Greed! Avarice! Materialism!

They are false gods that lead us astray.

Generosity! Sharing! Godly things!

These are what build up and do not tear down. They prepare us for true life with God.

And thus, my friends, we are once again encouraged by the Scriptures to put away those false gods in our lives and recommit ourselves to allow the Holy Spirit to remake us in the image of Christ our Lord!

Our hope to start a monthly PARISH morning tea at Katoomba after the Solemn Sung Mass at 10am on the first Sunday of the month will be delayed until next Sunday, as bookings for the use of the Katoomba Hall were made prior to our plans.

So: after 10am Mass next Sunday (10 August) there will a morning tea for all commencing at 11am.

Sacred Heart Church Community offer a morning tea almost every week after their 9:30am Mass; and Our Lady of Nativity Church Community after a morning tea after their 8:30am Mass every First Sunday.

God Bless you all

Fr John

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 2 August

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass: 5.00pm Lawson

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria

### SUNDAY 3 August

8.am Wentworth Falls

8.30am Lawson

9.30 am Blackheath

10am Katoomba

5pm Leura

### MONDAY 4 August

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 5 August

Mass at 9.00am Leura

Meditation 10am Blackheath

### WEDNESDAY 6 August

Mass: 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppas together 9.30 – 12.00

### THURSDAY 7 August

Mass: 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 8 August

Mass: 9.30am Lawson

Mass 12.00 noon Katoomba

### SATURDAY 9 August

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass; 5pm Lawson Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden 11-1pm

**RCIA:** For all enquiries regarding joining on coming back to the Church please contact Deacon Alan via the Parish office.

**Mt Victoria 3. 8. 25**

**1 St Reader:** Diane Stewart

**2 nd Reader:** Carla Edan

### Sunday 3. 8.25

**1 St Reader:** Brian Bright

**2nd Reader:** Monica Bright

**Welcome/Intercession:** Shane Young

**Server:** Diane Stewart

**Church Care:** Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

**Counters:** Laurie Noyes

**Flowers:** Julie Hodgkinson & David Buckley

**Morning Tea:** Karen and Maylene

### 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>.  
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!



### **Wrapped in Love – A Homelessness Week Memorial Service**

**DATE:** Friday 8 August 2025

**TIME:** 6:30pm–7:30pm

**VENUE:** St Patrick's Cathedral Forecourt, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta

You can find more information at [parracatholic.org/events/homeless-memorial-service](http://parracatholic.org/events/homeless-memorial-service)

Together, let us honour and remember those who have died while experiencing homelessness or hardship, through ecumenical prayer, reflection and a spirit of compassion. Whether you want to commemorate a friend or stand in solidarity, all are welcome.

Building on [last year's inaugural service](#), this heartfelt gathering is hosted by the Diocese of Parramatta's Mission Enhancement Team, St Patrick's Cathedral Social Justice Group, Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains, Heaven on Earth Ministry, Parramatta Mission, St Merkorious Charity, St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) NSW, The Salvation Army (Salvos) Parramatta, Thread Together and Wesley Mission.

### **INVITATION**

Afternoon Tea to celebrate & thank Sr Jacinta Shailer before she leaves the Blue Mountains.

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

Time: 2-4pm

Location: Sacred Heart Church Hall

If you are able, please bring a small plate to share for afternoon tea. Let us know if you plan on coming to assist with setting up the Hall. For enquiries phone 0474774009

### **INVITATION** Afternoon Tea to celebrate Sr Jacinta Shailer



- Date: Friday 15 August (Sr Jacinta's 98th Birthday)
- Time: 2-4pm
- Location: Sacred Heart Church Hall, Wentworth St, Blackheath
- If you are able, please bring a small plate to share for afternoon tea.

Before Sr Jacinta Shailer 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

**Sunday:** 10.8.2025

**1st Reader:** Pat Wicks

**2nd Reader:** Eve McDonnell

**Welcome/Intercession:** Francis Huckstep

**Server:** Paul Harris

**Morning Tea:** Karen and Maylene

### **The Mass & More**

This video is produced by the Dominican Fathers.

Highly recommended viewing as it explains the theology and logic behind Catholic practices, the Sacraments and the Mass.

<https://tanbooks.wistia.com/medias/2ln3fnbdqg>

### St Canice's Primary Schools Offer Fee Discounts

St Canice's School is our Parish school. It will be fee-free from 2026, enabling all families to consider it as an educational option.

It has two goals:

- to instil into our students the Gospel values of respect and compassion for all

- to provide our students with an excellent education, with a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy.

Please support our school and encourage enrolment among family and friends. Our door is always open during school hours. All enquiries welcome via the office, email at [stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au) or by phone on 02 47806800.

### JUBILEE YEAR 2025 PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

25 September - 4 October.

Cross the Holy Door in Rome. Celebrate the Jubilee Year 25 September - 4 October 2025 visiting holy places in Rome, Lanciaio (Eucharistic Miracle), Assisi, Pompei, Montecassino and the Amalfi Coast. Open to all, it will be extra special for those involved in teaching the faith as it coincides with the Jubilee of Catechists. Enquiries: [pp@mibp.org.au](mailto:pp@mibp.org.au) or text 0417 259 617.

### Homelessness Week

Homelessness Week 2025 will take place from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August.**

Help make a difference by signing the petition **Everybody's Home.**

Click onto the link for the petition <https://everybodyshome.com.au/take-action/petition/>

Vinnie's supports this petition and encourages as many as possible to sign it- thank you!

### July 30 Reflection Day at Mary MacKillop Place

The Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to join us for the next Jubilee Year Of Hope Reflection Day, themed "Patient in Suffering, Persistent in Belief, Conviction, and Love." Drawing on Romans 8:15-30 and Gaudium et Spes, this day invites reflection on enduring faith through suffering. All people, at all experiences of faith are welcome. Morning tea provided, BYO lunch, no cost. RSVP to [ministries@mmp.org.au](mailto:ministries@mmp.org.au)

### Happy Birthday August

6<sup>th</sup> Maree Crawford

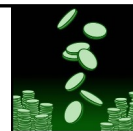
10<sup>th</sup> Adrian Carroll

10<sup>th</sup> Marie Johnston

11<sup>th</sup> Phil Wicks



\*\*\*Both the first reading and the psalm response speak about the transitoriness of life. Life is all we have and it is so fragile, so fleeting. When we realise this, we may fear that in the end we will have nothing to show for our lives. Such thoughts show that we have not learned the most basic lesson of life – life is to be lived!



The goods of the earth are both good and essential for survival and advancement. However, they do not satisfy the deepest longings of the human spirit. They provide us with pleasure and challenge, but they cannot shield us from the transitoriness of life itself. In the face of such impermanence, they are ultimately worthless. Life itself is the far greater good; goods only enhance life.

Recognising the transitoriness of life and the vanity of goods, we come to see that the only reality worthy of our total commitment is our relationship with God in Christ. Though made of dust and thus subject to perishability, we are joined with Christ and are promised imperishability. Having died to the vanities of this world, having taken off our old selves with their evil desires, we can now live as a new self, in generosity rather than greed, with openness to others rather than religious or gender or social biases. In our commitment to Christ we will discover that we can transform what is transitory in life by giving it away in love. If we can live in this way, life is anything but vanity!

Dianne Bergant CSA

### Christian Contemplation

every **Tuesday** morning at **10-10:45am** in Sacred Heart church, Blackheath.

Commencing at 10am with a short recorded talk from Father Laurence Freeman, then 20 minutes of quiet contemplation, followed by a reading and concluding with a prayer.

During the quiet contemplation time, a prayer phrase, *Maranatha*, meaning *Come Lord Jesus*, is repeated quietly in our mind and breath helping to keep focus during this time of prayer.

Benedictine monk, Father John Main, developed the structure that is followed during the contemplation time on Tuesday morning and since his death, has been carried on by Father Laurence Freeman OSB. For more information about this form of contemplative prayer click on the link to <https://johnmain.org>

Marilyn Jones leads the weekly contemplation gathering.

### Happy Anniversary! August

4<sup>th</sup> Julie and Lance Hodgkinson (1979)



**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 August:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Commens, 5<sup>th</sup> Joseph Tassanyi (d 2022), 6<sup>th</sup> Madge Carey (d 2009 - Monica Bright's mother), 7<sup>th</sup> Flo Gillette, 7<sup>th</sup> Dellas Holmwood (d 2013), 15<sup>th</sup> Francis Doyle, 20<sup>th</sup> Julie Wicks (2023), 23<sup>rd</sup> Barry Bowden (2019), Barbara Hodgkinson (2019), 26<sup>th</sup> Wladyslaw Ziolkowski (d 2006 - Marjanna Gilchrist's father), 28<sup>th</sup> Ian Maguire (d 2015 - husband of Claire), Marion Crowley, 27<sup>th</sup> Jeff Thurlow



## **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**

**ENTRANCE** O God, come to my assistance;  
O Lord, make haste to help me!  
You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

### **First Reading.**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23)

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that one who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is one's own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does one gain for all the toil and strain that one has undergone under the sun? What of all one's laborious days, one's cares of office, one's restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

### **RESPONSE**

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

### **Second Reading.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians (Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11)

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!  
Alleluia!

### **The Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 12:13-21)

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for one's life is not made secure by what one owns, even when one has more than one needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when one stores up treasure for oneself in place of making oneself rich in the sight of God.'

### **COMMUNION:**

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,  
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.