

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)

## 19th Sunday in Ordinary Times Year C

10.8 .2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This week's readings talk about hope based on trust.

The first reading gives us an insight into the theme of the readings when it says, "once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage"

So, when we read the letter to the Hebrews, and we replace the word "faith" with "trust" we get the truer message that the writer is trying to convey. This is because "faith" rather than meaning we believe that God exists implies that we have confidence in God, we trust in His promise with confidence that He will look after us.

This is the core of Christian Hope. As Pope Francis pointed out "Hoping, in fact, is not a mere act of optimism, like when we sometimes hope to pass an exam at university ("Let's hope we make it") or when we hope for good weather for the trip out of town on a Sunday in the spring ("Let's hope for good weather"). No, hoping is waiting for something that has already been given to us: salvation in God's eternal and infinite love."

It is this hope based on trust that calls us forth like Abraham to leave our own country and go to a foreign land, but it's not talking about a physical locality, it's talk about what St Augustine called the City of God. We no longer live as citizens of this world but rather as 'strangers and nomads', living in tents, temporary structures waiting for the City of God to be constructed.

This City of God is the Kingdom. This is what Christ is saying to us in the Gospel; "There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom."

Consequently, as we have Christian hope that God will give us the Kingdom we can live in a different way, focusing on doing good, helping those around us and learning how to live in this new state of existence in closeness with God. Detached from the anxieties and fears of this world and the pressures it imposes on us to be noticed and control our lives and situations and rather live in the freedom of God. Our hands and hearts set free to love God and neighbour without fear and concern for our security.

But it's easier said than done so we need to work at it and not let ourselves drift off. Let's also remember something else St Augustine pointed out, that we need a Saviour, we can't do it ourselves, so we need to seek Christ. To seek Him and pursue Him and invite Him into our "house", but let's make sure there's room for Him in our "house".

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 9 August

Mass 5.00pm Leura

Mass: 5.00pm Lawson

Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria

### SUNDAY 10 August

8.am Wentworth Falls

8.30am Lawson

9.30 am Blackheath

10am Katoomba

5pm Leura

### MONDAY 11 August

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 12 August

Mass at 9.00am Leura

Meditation 10am Blackheath

### WEDNESDAY 13 August

Mass: 9.00am Blackheath

Cuppas together 9.30 – 12.00

### THURSDAY 14 August

Mass: 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 15 August

Mass: 9.30am Lawson

Mass 12.00 noon Katoomba

### SATURDAY 16 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 or coming back to the Church please contact Deacon Alan via the Parish office.

**Mt Victoria 9. 8. 25**

**1 St Reader:** Diane Stewart

**2 nd Reader:** Carla Edan

**Sunday 10. 8.25**

**1 St Reader:** Pat Wicks

**2nd Reader:** Eve McDonnell

**Welcome/Intercession:** Francis Huckstepp

**Server:** Paul Harris

**Church Care:** Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

**Counters:** Diane Stewart

**Flowers:** Julie Hodgkinson & David Buckley

**Morning Tea:** Krista 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>.  
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!



**Megalong Valley Mass August:** There will be no Mass or Liturgy on 15th August at St Joseph's Megalong Valley this month to enable attendance at Sr Jacinta's farewell.

### **Modern Slavery Webinar hosted by Vinnies**

The theme for 2025 is *Human trafficking is Organised Crime – End the Exploitation*. Criminal networks continue to profit from forced labour and other forms of modern slavery, affecting millions globally, including an estimated 41,000 people in Australia.

To raise awareness and increase understanding, we invite you to join our online session:

### **Hidden in Plain Sight: Understanding Modern Slavery in Australia**

- ☐ 14 August 2025
- ☐ 11:00 AM – 11:45 AM
- ☐ Join [here](#)

Our panellists are:

[Peter Houweling](#), President, The Trustees of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (NSW)

[Biba Honnet](#), Manager, North Coast Settlement Services, Vinnies Services

[Jenny Stanger](#), Executive Manager, Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network

[Moe Turaga](#), Lived Experience Advisor, Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network

Learn from Moe Turaga's powerful first-hand account of surviving modern slavery in Australia.

We will talk about what Vinnies NSW is doing to address modern slavery, and will launch Vinnies' latest Modern Slavery Statement.

**Sunday:** 17.8.2025

**1st Reader:** Monica Bright

**2nd Reader:** Brian Bright

**Welcome/Intercession:** Julie Hodgkinson

**Server:** Pat Wicks

**Morning Tea:** Monica and Brian

### **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>

### Masses for the Assumption

Thursday 14th August—6.00pm vigil Blackheath

Friday 15th August:

9.30 am Lawson

12.00non Katoomba

6.00pm Katoomba

### 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, *Mara-natha*, 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.

### INVITATION

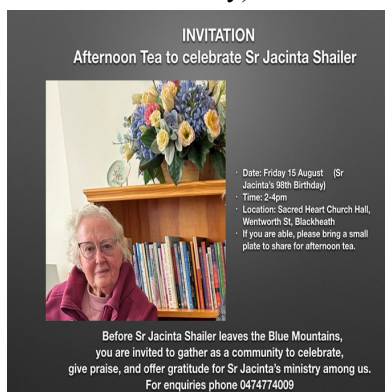
Afternoon Tea to celebrate & thank Sr Jacinta Shailer before she leaves the Blue Mountains.

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



### 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



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Diocesan Mission Enhancement Team (MET) will soon be assisting us in a discernment process that will result in the establishment of five (5) new Church Community Pastoral Teams (CCPT) for the worshipping communities of ...

\* Sacred Heart, Blackheath

(which includes St Paul's, Mt Victoria and St Joseph's, Megalong Valley)

\* St Canice, Katoomba

\* St Bonaventure, Leura

\* St Francis Xavier, Wentworth Falls

\* Our Lady of Nativity, Lawson.

These Church Community Pastoral Teams will be responsible for local church activities, such as the following:

\* the celebration of the Liturgy in each church (with the guidance of the soon-to-be established new PARISH Liturgy Team)

\* the care and basic maintenance of the worshipping community's church, any other buildings and grounds (with the support of the soon-to-be established new PARISH Maintenance Team, a sub-committee of the PARISH Finance Committee (PFC))

\* the initial pastoral care and support of members of the worshipping community (with the support of the soon-to-be established new Parish Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Team)

\* the forwarding of local news and activities to be placed in the soon-to-be established new Bulletin for the whole Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains; this new bulletin will include a section for each Church Community's news, as well as news and events for the whole Parish, the Mountains Deanery and any Diocesan and other relevant and topical information.

I hope that this process will get underway next month.

In the meantime I would appreciate any feedback or suggestions.

Furthermore, if people are interested in any of the above or other ministries, please let me know of your interest.

My email: [john.mcsweeney@parracatholic.org](mailto:john.mcsweeney@parracatholic.org)

God Bless you all.

Fr John

**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



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

**ENTRANCE** Look to your covenant, O Lord,  
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.  
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,  
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

### **First Reading.**

A reading from the book of Wisdom (Wisdom 18:6-9)  
That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that,  
once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in,  
they would joyfully take courage.

This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the  
virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act  
with which you took vengeance on our foes

you made us glorious by calling us to you.

The devout children of worthy men and women offered  
sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one  
accord:

that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers  
alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of

### **RESPONSE**

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his  
own.

the ancestors.

### **Second Reading.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 11:1-2,  
8-19)

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or  
prove the existence of the realities that at present remain  
unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were  
commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a  
country that was the inheritance given to him and his  
descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he  
was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the  
Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country,  
with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same  
promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward  
to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the  
age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that  
he who had made the promise would be faithful to it.  
Because of this, there came from one man, and one who  
was already as good as dead himself, more descendants  
than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or  
the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things  
that had been promised, but they saw them in the far  
distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were  
only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such  
terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in  
search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant  
the country they came from, since they had the opportunity  
to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better  
homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is

not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the  
city for them.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up  
Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the  
promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is  
through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was  
confident that God had the power even to raise the dead, and so,  
figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

### **ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

You know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

### **The Gospel**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 12:32-48)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little  
flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that  
do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where  
no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your  
treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be  
like those waiting for their master to return from the wedding  
feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks.  
Blessed those servants whom the master finds awake when he  
comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them  
down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch  
he comes, or in the third, but blessed those servants if he finds  
them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the  
householder had known at what hour the burglar would come,  
he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his  
house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is  
coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for  
everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is  
faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his  
household to give them their allowance of food at the proper  
time? Blessed that servant if his master's arrival finds him at  
this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over  
everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself,  
"My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating  
the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and  
getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect  
and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off  
and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not  
even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many  
strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to  
be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes.  
When people have had a great deal given them, a great deal will  
be demanded of them; when people have had a great deal given  
them on trust, even more will be expected of them'

### **COMMUNION:**

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,  
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.