#### 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

#### **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

NO Liturgy of the Word this month (August)

**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

#### 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)

### 20th Sunday in Ordinary Times Year C 17.8.2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

We must accept that we aren't going to be popular. This is the theme of this Sunday's reading.

In the first reading we hear that the "king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this."

Jeremiah was a prophet of God and the king's leading men, the politicians and generals of the day, didn't like the fact that Jeremiah was saying that Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Babylonians. The king and his leading men had turned from trust in God to trust in a political alliance with the Egyptians.

The Egyptian and Babylonians symbolise the powers of the world, not only military and economic powers, but earthly attitudes and values. By saying that Israel should put their trust in God and that trust in earthly powers would lead to disaster Jermiah's popularity and security were severely affected.

In the second reading we hear how Christ too faced huge opposition from "sinners", and we know that he was eventually murdered under the façade of a judicial execution. The sinners were the Scribes and Pharisees, again the leaders of the people. Leaders who didn't want any challenge to their power or status.

Like Jeremiah and Christ, we too must be ready to face opposition and rejection, this is what Christ is saying when he says, "I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already". This fire will bring division.

This fire is the Holy Spirit, the fire that Moses saw in the burning bush when God spoke to him. The fire that blazed in the bush but didn't consume it. The fire that drew Mosses attention so he could hear the voice of God and accept the mission to set the people of God free from Egypt, the powers of this world.

This fire is the Holy Spirit that descended on the Apostles at Pentecost and sent them out into the world to proclaim the Good News of the victory of Christ over the powers of this world.

Christ came to bring this fire. He came so that we may have access to the Holy Spirit so that with our hearts burning with love for God we will go out and build St Augustine's city of God. A universal city, the Church, in which the citizens love God and neighbour and radiate the love and mercy of God to all.

It should also be obvious to us that our political leaders, the attitudes put forward by the media, education systems, medical systems, legal systems and attitudes and values in society are estranged from God's Law.

So, let us turn to Our Lord and pray that He set the world ablaze through us no natter how unpopular our commitment to God makes us.. 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 16 August Mass 5.00pm Leura Mass: 5.00pm Lawson Mass 5.00pm Mt Victoria

SUNDAY 17 August 3.am Wentworth Falls 3.30am Lawson 9.30 am Blackheath 10am Katoomba 5pm Leura

**MONDAY 18 August** Mass 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 19 August Mass at 9.00am Leura

Meditation 10am Blackheath

WEDNESDAY 20 August Mass: 9.00am Blackheath Cuppas together 9.30 – 12.00

THURSDAY 21 August

Mass: 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 22 August Mass: 9.30am Lawson Mass 12.00 noon Katoomba

**SATURDAY 23 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 16. 8. 25 1 St Reader: Diane Stewart 2 nd Reader: Carla Edan

Sunday 17. 8.25

1 St Reader: Monica Bright 2nd Reader: Brian Bright

Welcome/Intercession: Julie Hodgkinson

Server: Pat Wicks

**Church Care:** Pat & Phil Wicks

Flowers: Julie Hodgkinson & David Buckley

Morning Tea: Monica and Brian

Counters: Pamela and John

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 the show that the show an alternative to following the link, you can also use the attached QR Code.

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!



#### PARISH DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of the parish discussion group will be 3:00-4:30pm,

27 SEPTEMBER (no August meeting), Sacred Heart Church Hall, Black-

At this meeting we'll be concentrating on Part VI (The Gospel of Suffering) of Pope St John-Paul's teaching on suffering, Salvifici Doloris (https://www.vatican.va/ content/john-paul-ii/en/apost letters/1984/documents/hf jpii apl 11021984 salvifici-doloris.pdf). In this work we find the following sen-

tence: "Those who share in the sufferings of Christ preserve in their own sufferings a very special particle of the infinite treasure of the world's Redemption, and can share this treasure with others." This encapsulates a way to understand the mystery of the Cross in terms which are both personal and universal. Also, in pointing to the paradox in which Redemption is both once and for all and active and ongoing, it throws light on our overall vocation that is to share in Divinity of Christ.

Please don't be concerning if you weren't able to attend previous meetings as discussions are free flowing, bite-sized and mutually supportive. Let me know if you need a Zoom link.

#### Listening to the Wisdom of Women: A Conversation About Discipleship, Leadership and Synodality from an African Lay Woman's Perspective

Tuesday 2 September from 6:00pm to 8:00pm St Patrick's Cathedral Cloister Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta or via Livestream

Bishop Vincent Presents event with **Dr Nora Nonterah** – one of Africa's leading voices in theological ethics – as she shares her insights on discipleship, leadership, and synodality through the lens of an African lay woman.

**Sunday:** 24.8.2025

1st Reader: John Tweedie 2nd Reader: Pamela Nash

Welcome/Intercession: Francis Huckstepp

Server: Patricia Darvall Morning Tea: Christine and

**Dominic** 

#### The Mass & More

This video is produced by the Dominican

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

https://tanbooks.wistia.com/medias/2ln3fnbdgg

#### 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 <a href="mailto:stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au">stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au</a> 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, Lanciano (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: <a href="mailto:pp@mibp.org.au">pp@mibp.org.au</a> or text 0417 259 617.

#### **Masses for the Assumption**

Thursday (tonight) 14th August—6.00pm vigil Blackheath Friday 15th August :

9.30am Lawson

7.50am Lawson

12 noon Katoomba

6.00pm Katoomba

### From the Jesuit & Ignatian Spirituality of

#### **Season of Creation 2025- Star Contemplations**

This year, five weekly *Star Contemplations* will be offeredgentle reflections inspired by the mystery and majesty of the night sky. Each week a guided video contemplation featuring a star filled image will be sent to your inbox, commencing

on Thursday September 4 and concluding on Thursday October 4. Created by Michael Hansen SJ, these contemplations are

#### Happy Birthday August

6<sup>th</sup> Maree Crawford 10<sup>th</sup> Adrian Carroll

10<sup>th</sup> Marie Johnston

11th Phil Wicks



\*\*\*In our desire to affirm that the scriptures are inspired, it can be easy to forget that they come out of the lived experience of a community of faith. Indeed, one of the things that is wonderful about our belief in God's revelation is that it occurs within human ex-

perience. Today's Gospel is an excellent example. Jesus predicts that one of the consequences of believing in him is that divisions will follow.

We can tell from the whole text of Luke's Gospel that these divisions were certainly a part of the earliest Christian community which wrote this book and that their faith in Christ led them to confront some very tough issues: how could Gentiles inherit the promises made to the Jews; why the rich members of the community had special responsibility to the poor; the centrality of forgiveness in the Christian life; and what leadership role women should have in the earliest Church. We know that fights over these issues and faith in Jesus as the Christ or the Messiah, divided families and villages, cities, nations and a religious tradition.

This gospel is both a stark reminder of the costs involved in following Jesus and a comfort to us in the church today.

May this Eucharist give us the courage to divide the crowd for the right reasons. May we be a blazing fire that casts light on darkness where people are exploited and injustice smothers the growth Christ wants to see in the human family. No one promised us that Christian faith was ever going to be a picnic! © Richard Leonard SJ

#### **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.

Marilyn Jones leads the weekly contemplation gathering.

#### **WORKING BEE on Saturday 23rd August at 8.00am**

Please come along and help Lance and John look after our wonderful grounds. Please bring a hat and sturdy shoes or boots and garden gloves (also eye 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. Thank you

#### Happy Anniversary! August

23rd Ingeborg and David Caplice (1967)

28th Kate and Robert Forbes (m 1982)



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

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

#### Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

**ENTRANCE** Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one;

one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

#### First Reading.

## A reading from the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10)

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

#### RESPONSE

Lord, come to my aid!

#### **Second Reading.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 12:1-4)

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

#### ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;

I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

#### The Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 12:49-53)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

#### **COMMUNION:**

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

#### THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY

August 15





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on Thursday September 4 and concluding on Thursday October 4. Created by Michael Hansen SJ, these contemplations are

invitations to listen deeply- to what stirs in your heart, and to what God might be revealing through the beauty of Creation. To register for these free weekly Star Contemplations click onto the link www.jisa.org.au