

TO DO
 Gen 15:5-12. 17-18 ; Phil 3:17 – 4:1
 Lk 9:28-36

Psalm Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ. From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Servers

17 Mar Grahame Adams
 24 Mar Ray Wood

Readers

17 Mar	1st Reader	Brian Bright
	2nd Reader	Monica Bright
	Intercessions	Paul Harris
24 Mar	1st Reader	Pat Wicks
	2nd Reader	Claire Maguire
	Intercessions	Patricia Dee

Communion

17 Mar David & Christa Buckley
 24 Mar Brian & Monica Bright

Counters

17 Mar Barbara Grieves
 24 Mar Marilyn Rowe

Morning Tea

17 Mar Pamela Nash
 24 Mar Claire Maguire

Church Care

22 Mar Cathy and Jim McNamara

St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley

Entrance Ant: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Communion Ant: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Saints Days of the Week (18th Mar to 23rd Mar)

18	St Patrick	Irish Patron Saint
19	St Joseph	Husband of Mary, foster father of Jesus
20	St. Paul and	Companions martyrs
21	St. Enda	Founder of monasticism in Ireland
22	St. Lea	widow and holy woman
23	St. Felix	African martyr



**Second Sunday in Lent
 Year C
 17.3.19**

Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' body was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light.

That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, bodysoul. That is our ultimate destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts. © Fr Michael Tate

Next Week:
 Ex 3:1-8. 13-15 ; 1 Cor 10:1-6,
 10-12 : Lk 13:1-9

PARENTS' ROOM: The Sacristy, which contains a few books and toys, is available for parents when young children are restless. We hope this makes it a little easier for you

Sacred Heart Parish

**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, including those who may be with us today.

Blackheath	Sunday Mass	9.30am
Evening Mass	Tuesday	6.30pm
Morning Mass	Wednesday, Friday and Saturday	9.00am
	Thursday	8.00am
Benediction	2nd Saturday after 9.00am Mass	
Exposition	All other Saturdays after 9.00am Mass	
Reconciliation	Saturdays	9.30am
Healing Mass	1st Saturday of the month	9.00am
Mount Victoria	Vigil Mass (1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays)	6.00pm
Megalong Valley	Vigil Mass (2nd and 4th Saturdays)	6.00pm

Administrator: Father Bob Sheridan **Parish Office:** 02 4787 8540

Parish House: 0455 104 994.

Parish Mobile: 0417 355 479
 (Emergency only)

E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org

Office hours: Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
 Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm
 Fri 12.00 - 3.00pm

Parish House:	18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath. 2785
Sacred Heart Church:	167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath.
St Paul's Church:	65 Great Western Highway, Mount Victoria.
St Joseph's Church:	1270 Megalong Road, Megalong Valley.

For Baptisms, Marriages and sick calls, please contact the Parish House.

Parish Pastoral Council meets the 4th Sunday of each month. If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Fr Bob; Diana Landsberg (Chair); John Barclay (Deputy Chair) or Patricia Dee (Secretary).

Sacred Heart Care Group (helping parishioners in times of need) call Monica Bright 4757 3943.

BULLETIN ITEMS: Please contact the Parish Office on Wednesday or Thursday during office hours on 4787 8540 or email blackheath@parracatholic.org

Website: <https://sacredheartblackheath.org.au/>

www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/

An American Jesuit theologian, John Powell, tells the story of a young man named Tommy who was the resident atheist during one of his courses in the Philosophy of God at Loyola University in Chicago.

At the end of the course while he was turning in his final paper, Tommy said to Fr Powell, 'Do you think I will ever find God?' 'No', Powell replied bluntly, but as he walked away he continued, 'But I think God will find you'. Tommy kept walking.

Years later, Tommy returned to see John Powell to tell him that he had been diagnosed as having terminal cancer. More than ever, Tommy said, he wanted to find God or to be in the right place at the right time to be found by God. John Powell told Tommy to go and tell the people that he most loved in the world that he loved them.

Within a week Tommy reported to John Powell that in the midst of doing this he had a genuine and significant encounter with God. They had found each other. Tommy died three months later. John Powell reports that the only way to describe the final three months of Tommy's life was to say that, whatever happened to him in the process of telling others he loved them, he was transfigured by God.

The Transfiguration is no mountaintop light show. In borrowing heavily from similar stories in the Old Testament, it describes, in a dramatic way, how loved Jesus was by God and how this experience was seen and known by his disciples.

So often we hear people say they have not, or cannot, experience the presence of God, and therefore deny that God exists. These readings show us that if you want to encounter God then you have to experience love. This is not an optional extra for the Christian life. As St John says, 'The one who says they love God, yet they hate their brother or sister, is a liar.'

The Transfiguration is not a once off event for Jesus alone. It is a moveable feast for all of us who have become God's sons and daughters in Christ.

The problem with love is that we have devalued the currency. We say it too often about things we don't or can't love, like our car, a bottle of wine or our holiday. We say 'I love you' to people we don't love and because we have learnt that actions are more telling than words we don't easily believe others when they tell us they love us.

We can feel unlovable and cynical about the whole experience. But there are three things of which we can be sure: If we feel distant from God, we only have to guess who has moved away from whom. Nothing we do stops God from loving us.

God loves us as we are, not as we like to be. As the old saying goes, 'you don't have to get good to get God. You have to get God to get good.'

Finally, as the song runs, 'You ain't nobody until somebody loves you.'

And so for a Christian, being vulnerable enough to tell those we love that we love them is no sentimental exercise but a participation in the heart of God. By taking the risk of doing this, others may clearly hear the voice of God through us and we may discover ourselves transfigured by the personal love of God for us too.

In the process God may move from being an idea, an abstraction, even an object of curiosity to the focus of a loving experience that can give our lives meaning, purpose and hope.

In this Eucharist then, let's ascend the mountaintop and let's listen to Jesus say, 'You are my son. You are my daughter. And I love you.' © Richard Leonard SJ.

Walk the Camino Portugués ~ Walk the Camino Portugués. Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, Santiago de Compostela. May 2019 and June 2019. Small group led by Sr Veronica OP, (0451 387 906). See www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues

BALANCING THE BOOKS WITH BALLADS

Pat Drummond is holding a one night only concert on 30th March 2019 at the Sacred Heart Hall, 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath.



From 7.00pm, Pat will take us on a journey of his well documented songs about real people and places, drawn from interviews gathered on his erratic tours across Australia and present a composite picture of our country and her people. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available after Mass today or at the Parish Office (Wed-Fri. phone 4787 8540). Tea/Coffee and cakes are included. Get in early for your tickets for a great evening. Pat is holding this concert to assist our Parish ministries and financial commitments for 2019.

Taize Service ~ You are warmly invited to our next Taize Service this Sunday 17th March from 5 - 6 pm at Leura Uniting Church. The theme is 'Seeking Peace'. All are welcome at this special meditative time of singing, prayer and silence in the Taize tradition. Taize Services are held on the third Sunday of each month.

Happy Birthday

23rd Oliver Burke (b 2005)



Please pray for the sick and their carers: Barry & Madeleine Bowden, John and Marion Crowley, Kevin Madden, Maria Slater, Frank Mackrell, Marie Johnson, Trennah Portelli and Pat Frazer

✠Rest In Peace✠

17th Mary Potts (Diane Stewart's Mum)
19th Tom Boylan

CARITAS (Project Compassion): As ever, Caritas is our key charity and fundraiser for this year with donations being received throughout the Lenten/Easter period. Through Project Compassion, you and I have a unique opportunity to help Caritas Australia to support those far less favoured than us by helping to reduce their poverty, promote justice for them and uphold the dignity that is the right of every living human being. All the Caritas literature, including Project Compassion boxes are to be found dispersed around the church today. If you haven't already done so, please take one home with you, fill it with your spare coins, and return same to us at Easter. By so doing, you will be assisting more than you could imagine those severely deprived, dispossessed and suffering people/families in many countries around the world. Thank you for caring! Thank you for your generosity!

Public Conversation: *Francis, A Voice in the Wilderness:* You are warmly invited to this public conversation between papal biographer, Dr Austen Ivereigh and Bishop Vincent. This is a contribution to our Church's Australian Plenary 2020 process and to our local reflection on priorities here in the diocese of Parramatta. Wednesday, 20 March at 7pm. St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta

Volunteers Needed ~ Help make a difference to someone's life... Visit a lonely person who would enjoy your company. Learn a little about them and share a little about your life. A weekly or fortnightly visit can make the world of difference! Contact Bodington Age Care Facility... Nadja (02) 4757 810

JRS Foodbank ~ The Jesuit Refugee Service's foodbank need our help each week over Lent. Contact 02 9098 9336 or kim.smith@jrs.org.au for more information.