

TODAY
 Jos 5:9-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21 ;
 Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

Psalm Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ King of endless glory. I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ King of endless glory.

Servers
 31 Mar Paul Harris
 7 Apr Michelle Davis

Readers
 31 Mar 1st Reader Christa Buckley
 2nd Reader David Buckley
 Intercessions Marilyn Rowe
 7 Apr 1st Reader Breda Seamons
 2nd Reader Barbara grieves
 Intercessions Pat Wicks

Communion
 31 Mar Mary Roberts & Pat Wicks
 7 Apr Elizabeth Doolan & Grahame Adams

Counters
 31 Mar Pamela & John
 7 Apr Laurie Noyes

Morning Tea
 31 Mar Rasa Blansjaar
 7 Apr

Church Care
 5 Apr Marilyn Rowe and Noeleen Cliff

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

Entrance Ant: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Communion Ant: The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.

Saints Days of the Week (1st to 6th April)

1st Apr	St. Hugh of Grenoble	Benedictine Bishop
2nd Apr	St. Francis of Paola	Franciscan hermit
3rd Apr	St. Irene	Virgin martyr
4th Apr	St. Isidore of Seville	bishop, doctor
5th Apr	St Vincent Ferrer	priest, patron saint of builders
6th Apr	St Sixtus 1	Pope



**Fourth Sunday in Lent
 Year C
 31.3.19**

Today's Gospel is not just about each of us being welcomed into the arms of our compassionate God, it is also a challenge for us to defend the right of the outcasts, the public sinners and the losers who seek to turn their life around to be welcomed here as well.

This is not just about the table of the Eucharist, either. To the degree that we help our country be more hospitable to the most defenceless, the poor and the displaced then we live out the power of this parable.

May this Eucharist then, help us live beyond our history, which so often colours those toward whom we can give the benefit of the doubt and show compassion and may it give us the courage and faith to be ridiculously generous, and magnificently loving.
 © Richard Leonard SJ

**Next Week:
 Is 43:16-21 ; Phil 3:8-14
 Jn 8:1-11**

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 and your littlies.

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 **Office hours:** Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
 (Emergency only) **Thu** 9.00am - 12.00pm
E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org **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/

AETARE SUNDAY: Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is one of the two occasions in the Church year when the priest is entitled to wear pink (or should I say 'rose-coloured') vestments. This is an optional choice, which is just as well considering that I do not possess any vestments of that colour. The word "Laetare" is taken from the first word of today's Entrance Antiphon whose translation from the original Latin means "Rejoice with Jerusalem!" By way of general interest, the other Sunday authorised for the wearing of pink vestments occurs on the Third Sunday of Advent. From this Sunday forward, our attention will particularly focus on Jesus' Passion, Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR 2019: I confirm last week's Bulletin commitment to send introductory letters to the parents of all children taught by our catechists at the three local public schools. The letter invites those eligible children to be nominated by their parents for participation in this year's Sacramental list. We should have an idea of the numbers involved by the end of next week. However, any parent may separately register their child/children in this year's Sacramental programme even though the children may attend an out-of-area school. We will instruct this year's group towards receipt of the four Sacraments of Initiation (or part thereof, as necessary) – Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation during the next six months. Please contact me regarding any queries or registration on 0417 355 479.

CARITAS (Project Compassion): Once more, I draw your attention to our major fundraiser for Lent – Caritas' Project Compassion. Please give all that you can to assist those in this world unable to provide for themselves and their families. There are coin boxes and envelopes at each of the three entrances to the Blackheath church. In this week's visual presentation, we see that we might learn from our first Australian sisters and brothers the importance of family and that we preserve what is good and true. By God's grace, may we also recognise that we are God's mercy in today's world. Again, many thanks for your on-going support!

BALANCING THE BOOKS WITH BALLAD: Well! Did you attend last night's one man show by Pat Drummond? As I pen this column three days before the event, I am still filled with anticipation for what is to come. I hope (know!) that it was a raging success! It deserved to be! Pat arranged the evening's entertainment totally at his cost, with all receipts donated to parish general funds. A grateful, humble 'thank you' Pat from the rest of us – and many thanks to all who attended!

FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES RETREAT: This retreat has been exclusively organised for Blue Mountains people at no cost to participants (a gold coin would be gratefully accepted). The retreat is for men and women, young and old, married or singles. It is designed for people just like you. The retreat allows you to continue your ordinary daily life with its usual round of going to work, caring for the family or whatever is the shape of your busy life. The retreat will guide your prayer and reflection on life within your daily routine. There is an explanatory brochure (a lot of them) on the brochure stand for those interested. For more details, contact Carol & Len Teodori-Blahut on 4758 7549.

PS: Don't forget that next Sunday sees the end of daylight saving for the now past summer (3am becomes 2am), but after Mass a gathering of interested parishioners will be briefed regarding the possible employment of a Pastoral Associate for this parish in the hall.

God Bless! Fr. Bob

Coffee Capers Wednesday 3rd April at the Megalong Tea Rooms, in the Megalong Valley Meet at 12 noon. ALL Welcome. Ring Elizabeth on 47875537 to RSVP and/or arrange a lift.



Phoenix Choir- Back to Bach Concert ~ To be held on Sat April 6, 4.00pm at St Hilda's Anglican Church Katoomba
Sun April 7 3.00pm at Hoskins Uniting Church Lithgow
- *Sleepers Awake*
- *Christ lay in death's dark prison*

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

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

Happy Birthday
2nd April- Pat Drummond



OLN Celebrates 90 years:
6 April ~ Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Community, Lawson will celebrate with a "Back to Lawson 90th Anniversary Ball" on Saturday 6 April from 6 pm. Tickets \$45 per person, contact Mary McKenna 0439 267 691.
7 April ~ Bishop Vincent will concelebrate Mass at 10am for the 90th Anniversary of the Consecration of Our Lady of the Nativity Church. Priests, religious, ex-students, boarders, teachers and past parishioners are all welcome. Following Mass, a morning tea and photographic history display will be held in the School Hall. Enquiries parish office (Wed, Thurs, Fri) Phone 02 4759 1034 or olon3@bigpond.com.

✠Rest In Peace✠

- 1st Ken Cullen
- 2nd Edna Moran, Mathew Walker and Pope John Paul II (2005)
- 4th Roma Ward (2007)
- 5th Jean Barks

Carmelite Retreat Centre~
Contact Ph: 02 8795 3400
retreats@carmelite.com
www.carmeliteretreats.com.au
Praying with St John of the Cross - April 6: 10:00 am – 4:00pm. Cost: \$30 (please bring your lunch). Pick-ups from Minto train station at 930am and 1000am.
Presenter: Barbara Stenning OCDS

Jesuit Retreat for the Parish of the Blue Mountains - An invitation has been extended from Lawson parish to experience a Jesuit Retreat: the **First Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius**. Fr. Paul Slyney from Lawson has extended this same opportunity to all the parishes in the Blue Mountains and Sacred Heart Parish has been booked for 4 weeks in May (2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd May from 1.00pm to 2.30pm). The retreat takes the form of small groups (of 6-8 persons) facilitated by Fr. Meyo Obwanda from Kenya. He is 45 years old and presently a high school principal. He did some studies in the UK and is fluent in English. Details for this retreat are being put in place. Please look out for all the notices including application forms.