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Isaiah 55:1-11 **Come to the water**
1 John 5:1-9 **Three witnesses**
Mark 1:7-11 **You are my Son**

Response to the Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with his peace.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (repeat)
The Heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! (repeat)

Servers

11 Jan Catherine Beaver
18 Jan Ray Wood

Readers

11 Jan 1st Reading Ian Maguire
Ps/Intercessions Claire Maguire
2nd Reading Mary Duggan
18 Jan 1st Reading Steve Gauci
Ps/Intercessions Ron Davis
2nd Reading Carmel Vanny

Ministers of the Eucharist

11 Jan Carla Endean and Pat Wicks
18 Jan Diana Landsberg and Elizabeth Giddey

Children's Liturgy

11 Jan To be advised.
18 Jan To be advised.

Counters

11 Jan Louise and Laurie
18 Jan Barbara and Charles

Morning Tea

11 Jan Carmel Vanny
18 Jan Janice Lane

Church Care

16 Jan Julie Hodgkinson
23 Jan Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons



Baptism of the Lord
Year B

Jesus joins the crowd at the Jordan where John is baptising. No one recognises him as anyone special; he is just one of the crowd. John the Baptist tells the people of the One who is to come, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit. After Jesus' baptism, John's words come to life: the Spirit descends, and God's voice proclaims that Jesus is indeed God's Son.

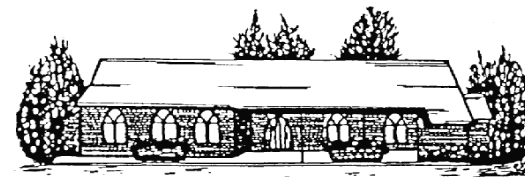
Next Week: **Come and see**
1 Samuel 3:3-10.19; Psalm 39
1 Corinthians 6:13-15.17-20;
John 1:35-42



God's beautiful gift

Baptism is God's most beautiful and magnificent gift... We call it gift, grace, anointing, enlightenment, garment of immortality, bath of rebirth, seal, and most precious gift. It is called *gift* because it is conferred on those who bring nothing of their own; *grace* since it is given even to the guilty; *Baptism* because sin is buried in the water; *anointing* for it is priestly and royal as are those who are anointed; *enlightenment* because it radiates light; *clothing* since it veils our shame; *bath* because it washes; and *seal* as it is our guard and the sign of God's Lordship. St. Gregory of Nazianzus (c.330-390)

SACRED HEART PARISH



Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

Our Mission Statement

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.

All enquiries regarding Baptisms, Marriage and sick calls to the Parish House.

~ Parish Administrator ~ Fr Bob Sheridan ~

Parish House 4787 8811 Fax: 4787 6143
Parish Office 4787 8540 email: shbheath2@bigpond.com

Website: <http://www.keepersoftheflame.net/SacredHeartParish/index.html>

Blackheath - Mass Sunday 9.30 am
Evening Mass Tuesday 7.00 pm
Morning Masses Wednesday to Saturday 9.00 am
Praying the Rosary Thursday 2.00 pm
Meditative Prayer Service (one hour) using Scripture and Taizé music 4th Saturday of month 2.00 pm
Mount Victoria - Mass 1st Friday of month 7.00 pm

Care Group: Carmel Vanny (4787 8706) Michelle Funnell (4757 2638)

Parish Pastoral Council meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month. If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Fr Bob, Monica Bright (Chair), Adrian Carroll (Vice Chair) or Chris Le Gras (Secretary).

Bulletin Items: Please contact Kate by 7.00pm Thursday - phone 4787 8520 or email sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com

Warm Greetings,

It's wonderful to be back in the Mountains again, and especially so, to be in this newly designated parish of Blackheath. I have been overwhelmed since my arrival on Monday by the extraordinary level of hospitality extended to me by all parishioners with whom I have come into contact. It's great personally for me to be part of our Blackheath family, and I look forward to both meeting and working with each of you in the days, weeks and months to come.
Bless you, (Fr.) Bob.

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WELCOME, FR BOB!

Our community extends a warm welcome to Fr Bob Sheridan for his duration with us. Fr Bob, we hope your time with us is one of many blessings and good health.
Thank you for ministering to our Sacred Heart Community.

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Parish Office Hours: I am the new Parish Administration Officer, and the hours that the parish office will be open are:
Tuesday afternoon: 1.00pm – 3.00pm
Thursday morning : 10.30am – 12.30pm
Barbara Smith

Pregnancy Support Parramatta Inc.
Pregnant, need someone to talk to?
Call Pregnancy Support Parramatta on (02) 9683 4086 or visit www.pregnancysupport.com.au

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

With this feast, the Christmas cycle comes to a close. It expands the universality of God's presence proclaimed on the Epiphany and locates it in the messianic mission of Jesus established at his baptism. It might be seen as the summary of the entire liturgical cycle: the one born among us is the servant of God who brings to all the nations a universal promise of justice and the fulfilment of hope.

Jesus is a mysterious servant through whom God's saving action is accomplished. He is the light that guides those in darkness. He has been given to the nations as the promise of liberation and the hope of the age to come. His mission is directed to all peoples. Since God's voice spoke over creation and over the head of Jesus as he emerged from the waters of the Jordan, God's regeneration of nature is accomplished in and through him.

Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus is commissioned to begin his prophetic work and ministry, a work of inclusivity and the relinquishment of bondage and fear. As the heavens opened, Jesus was identified as the beloved one of God. Now the community of believers is identified with Jesus the servant of God. Through Baptism, Christians share in his prophetic and divine ministry. They too receive at baptism a commission to commit themselves to the service of the poor and to the cause of compassion. The feast of the Baptism of Jesus is a reminder of the call to Christian service. (from LiturgyHelp.com)

Mass Times

Sunday: 9.30am
Weekdays: Monday: No Mass
Tuesday: 6.00pm
Wednesday to Saturday: 9.00am

~In memoriam~
John Lorant ~ 11 January
Gerard Johnston ~ 11 January

*Come to me, listen,
and your soul will live.*
Isaiah 55:3

LENTEN GROUPS for 2009

Kindly place your name and phone number on the notice board if you are interested in joining Lenten Groups. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the Scriptures and to pray. If you are interested in being a host home, kindly place (host) beside your name. We will use the program for 2009 which is entitled "**Grace to You**". There are Scripture Reflections by Sr Helen Dyson OSU and Fr Chris Gleeson SJ.



PARISH PICNIC ON AUSTRALIA DAY
Also, our Parish Birthday ~ 107 years on 26th January.

Our kind hosts, Diana and Joe Landsberg, have again offered the grounds of WITHYCOMBE at Mt Wilson for our annual picnic.

Thank you Diana and Joe!



Bring a picnic lunch to share and enjoy good company and relaxing surrounds. It is also a chance to meet new parishioners and to welcome Fr Bob to our community. Mass will be held at 9.30am.

Be a light unto the world: Mini WYD - Your chance to be part of it.

For girls aged 9-12 and 13-15.
Separate program for each group.
Cost: \$45 (incl. food & accommodation).
When: Friday, 16 January from 5pm to Sunday, 18 January finishing at 4pm.
Where: Home of Light, Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa.
Bookings: Sr M Luka Juenemann
tel 0409 221 016, sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

WORKING BEE

Saturday
24 January
If you can spare an hour or two, please join us from 8am onwards.



Janę Schmuđę
for 14th January

*Please pray for those who are ill, especially, **Thea Elliss** (Karen Hayward's mother), **Barbara Hunt; Roger Johnstone; Travis Kingston; Chelsey Laird; Cec O'Brien and David Ridoutt.** May the vital, loving strength of this community help them on their journey to full health.*



I was thinking this afternoon how rich my life is now. It's great having God in my life. I don't know if I'll ever get to heaven but I feel a little slice of heaven has reached me down here. (Michael)