

Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11 **Good news**
 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 **Our Lord comes**
 John 1:6-8.19-28 **A witness speaks**

Response to the Psalm:

My soul rejoices in the Lord
 and magnifies his name.

Gospel Acclamation:

Change your lives, he's coming.
 The one who is the light of the world is coming.
 Change your lives, he's coming.
 The reign of God is near! Alleluia, alleluia!
 The reign of God is near.

Servers

14 Dec Ray Wood
 21 Dec Diane Stewart

Readers

14 Dec	1st Reading	Frances Huckstepp
	Ps/Intercessions	Kevin Burns
	2nd Reading	Robyn Burns
21 Dec	1st Reading	Terry Beaver
	Ps/Intercessions	Catherine Beaver
	2nd Reading	Elizabeth Giddey

Ministers of the Eucharist

14 Dec Sr Lyn and Anthony Gilchrist
 21 Dec Heather Carroll and Diana Landsberg

Children's Liturgy

14 Dec Carroll Family
 21 Dec Frances Huckstepp

Counters

14 Dec Robyn and Adrian
 21 Dec Barbara and Bill

Morning Tea

14 Dec Elizabeth Giddey
 21 Dec Carroll Family

Church Care

19 Dec Peter and Jennifer Ticehurst
 26 Dec Pat and Phil Weeks

Please remember in your prayers, Fr Paul Hanna, and his family, on the recent loss of his aunty, Mary, aged 96, last Sunday. May she be at rest in the arms of her loving God.

A VOCATION VIEW: There was a man _____ sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is your name in the Gospel today?

Next Week: **You will bear a son** 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16;
 Psalm 88 Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38



3rd Sunday of Advent
 14 December 2008

John is baptising and proclaiming the imminent coming of the Messiah. He declares emphatically that he is not the Christ; he is a light showing the way.

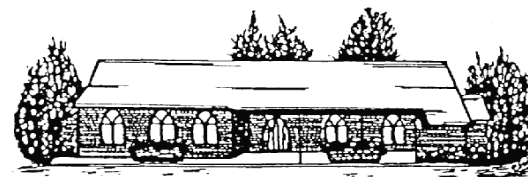
John is led by the Spirit to prepare the minds and hearts of the people, so that they will recognise Christ when he comes.

This Advent may we have open hearts and open minds to see Christ and give him welcome.

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In memoriam:  
**Rosalie Sandor**  
 ~13 December~  
**Maria Naraj**  
 ~14 December~

# 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.**

~ Pastoral Director ~ Sister Lyn Eastmure O.P. ~

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

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

|                                      |                       |         |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| <b>Blackheath</b> - Mass             | Sunday                | 9.30 am |
| Liturgy of the Word                  |                       |         |
| and Communion Service                | Wednesday             | 9.00 am |
| Praying the Gospel                   | Wednesday             | 9.30 am |
| Praying the Rosary                   | Thursday              | 2.00 pm |
| Prayer of the Church                 | Friday                | 9.00 am |
| Meditative Prayer Service (one hour) |                       |         |
| using Scripture and Taizé music      | 4th Saturday of month | 2.00 pm |
| <b>Mount Victoria</b> - 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 Sr Lyn, Monica Bright or Chris Le Gras.

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

Dear Friends,  
*The Rabbi Noah benShea taught, "Know that you are like a person with a lantern who goes in search of a light." We have been given within us everything we need to live well. There is really no reason for us to wait for more people, more achievements, more money before we can live a happy life. Why is it then, do you suppose, that we keep looking for things outside of us to make us happy?* P.19 Sparks of Advent Light. J Chittister 2008

**"Let God's Dream Be Born"**

*Blessings, Lyn.*

**Advent Festival Morning:** Sisters Therese and Jacinta invite you and your friends to attend the Advent Festival Morning at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Rd, Wentworth Falls on **Friday, 19 December**, 10 am - 12 noon. This is a very special preparation for Christmas with proclamation, ritual of lighting the Advent candle, Advent readings, hymns and prayers, communal responses and time for silent reflection in the garden, a directed discussion, and a Scriptural reflection on the gospel by Sr. Therese, followed by a special morning tea. Enquiries 4757 2290

The **Parish Library** is open for borrowing. Stop a moment to browse after Mass and speak to Barbara Smith. CDs of Talks from the Parish Mission are available. There is also a section of Christmas Books for Children!

~ **Blackheath Community Carols** ~  
Come along and sing along with our church group outside the Community Hall from 6pm to 6.15pm today. Please be there by 5.50pm and wear something red or green.  
Free family fun in the park from 4.30pm - 6.30pm.  
Carols in the Hall begin at 6.30pm.  
Be part of the joy of the Festive Season.

At each of the church doors, you will find copies of the book "**Mary MacKillop East Timor 1994 - 2006**". This is **free** for the taking.

**CHRISTMAS  
MASS TIMES  
CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Wednesday, 24 December  
Carols at 7.00pm  
Mass at 7.30pm

We encourage children to come to Christmas Eve and take part in the Gospel Story. They may like to dress as a shepherd or an angel.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Thursday, 25 December  
Carols at 9.10am  
Mass at 9.30am

**HELP EDUCATE  
CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN**

In Multan, Pakistan, the De La Salle Brothers run St Vincent's school for children from extremely poor families. Their parents earn less than US \$1 a day. Currently, the school is overflowing. It cannot accommodate the 495 students who attend, and with no other alternatives, some classes are held outside under a nearby tree. The Brothers seek financial support for building projects and school materials. Please donate to the school's development program through the Lasallian Foundation. Contact Br Paul Smith ph: (03) 9832 3100 or email [info@lasallianfoundation.org](mailto:info@lasallianfoundation.org)  
Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Important Date for your Diary  
**SR LYN'S OFFICIAL FAREWELL  
SUNDAY, 21 DECEMBER, 2008**

You are invited to say Thank You to Sr Lyn for her wonderful years of loving service after our Eucharist here at our Sacred Heart Community followed by a presentation and speeches in the hall.

You are asked to bring along a special plate of goodies to share in hospitality. Following this morning tea, you are invited to join us in a parish picnic in the park at Blackheath so you can personally, but informally, connect with Lyn. This was her special wish.

We will have a SPECIAL COLLECTION after Mass at each of the doors TODAY. We thank you in anticipation for your usual generosity.

**PARISH AGM IN THE HALL TODAY.**  
We look forward to your presence with our community.

**Happy Birthday**  
**Katie Robb** for 14th December  
**Ashley Crawford** for 16th December  
**Sr Lyn Eastmure** for 20th December  
**Robert Forbes** for 20th December  
**Charles Hodgkinson** for 20th December

**Christmas Hamper Raffle**  
A list of suitable items for the Hamper is on the noticeboard and small books of tickets are available. \$1.00 per ticket.

Please pray for those who are ill:  
**Barbara Hunt; Roger Johnstone; Travis Kingston; Chelsey Laird; Cec O'Brien; Irene Peacock, David Ridoutt and Thelma Samuel.** May the vital, loving strength of this community help them on their journey to good health.

Today, we will welcome to the Waters of Baptism  
**Byron Bjorn Kneppers.**  
We pray for his parents, Gerardus and Melanie, and sister Emily, that they will be aware of the all-enfolding love of our Gracious God.



### The Power of Voice

While shopping in our local supermarket I ran into a neighbour and started chatting. After a minute or two, a man whom I had not noticed interrupted our conversation and directing his attention to me, said, 'You wouldn't be Mick B...?' I looked, and not recognising him, gave a tentative 'yes', all the time wondering what the connection was. 'You may not remember me', he said, 'I am Doug H, we went to school together.' Even though that was almost fifty years ago, memories and emotions came flooding back. To my embarrassment, I literally abandoned the conversation with my neighbour to take in the missing fifty years worth of history, all in the middle of a busy supermarket.

We talked about our lives, our families and our mutual school friends. We agreed to meet the following day but knowing how our appearances had changed I felt compelled to ask one final question. 'How did you recognise me after all these years?' 'To tell the truth', he said, 'it was not your face but your voice that I recognised.'

What a powerful instrument the voice is!  
(Mick) from **peoplespeak**