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Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46 **Outcast**
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 **For God's glory**
Mark 1:40-45 **Outcast no longer**

Response to the Psalm:

In time of trouble I turn to you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (repeat)
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (repeat)

Servers

15 Feb Wayne Kelly
22 Feb Ray Wood

Readers

15 Feb 1st Reading David Buckley
Ps/Intercessions Ron Davis
2nd Reading Christa Buckley
22 Feb 1st Reading Kevin Burns
Ps/Intercessions Robyn Burns
2nd Reading Frances Huckstepp

Ministers of the Eucharist

15 Feb Ray Wood and Barbara Smith
22 Feb Jan Roberts and Anthony Gilchrist

Children's Liturgy

15 Feb Bettina LeGras
22 Feb Carol Drummond

Counters

15 Feb Robyn and Adrian
22 Feb Barbara and Bill

Morning Tea

15 Feb Robyn Burns
22 Feb Christine Burke

Church Care

20 Feb Noleen Cliff and Mary Kingston
27 Feb Sue Gracey and Barbara Grieves

Please pray for the sick: Thea Elliss; Barbara Hunt; Roger Johnstone; Travis Kingston; Cec O'Brien, Ray O'Brien and David Ridoutt.



Sixth Sunday

Year B

A leper appeals to Jesus' compassion: 'If you want to...' Indeed, Jesus *does* want to cure him, and not only him, but everyone who asks. In his joy, the man could not keep the cure to himself, but proclaimed the good news everywhere.

We too can proclaim the Kingdom of God by our joy and enthusiasm in being followers of Christ, because we also have been healed many times.

Next Week: Sins forgiven
Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24-25;
Psalm 40
2 Corinthians 1:18-22;
Mark 2:1-12

The new roster for Liturgical ministers is available for collection at the back of the church.

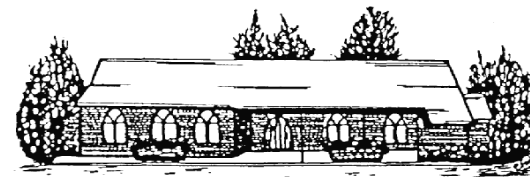
Thank you to Diane Stewart for preparing it.

We also need someone to organise the **Children's Liturgy Roster**. Please see Kate after mass or phone her on 4787 8520 if you can help.

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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
Office hours: Tuesday 1.00pm - 3.00pm and Thursday 10.30am - 12.30pm

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

Blackheath - Mass
Sunday 9.30am
Evening Mass Tuesday 6.30pm
Morning Mass Wednesday to Saturday 9.00am
Praying the Rosary Thursday 2.00pm
Reconciliation Saturday 9.30am to 10.00am

Mount Victoria - Mass 1st Friday of month 7.00pm

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

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES:

Last Sunday's impromptu homily on the Victorian bushfires, while potentially equating us in the Blue Mountains with their plight, never for one moment anticipated the depth of their tragedy. Our knowledge of what happened has taken some days to emerge. The full story, in fact, cannot yet be told because details of all that occurred over the 7th and 8th February are still being determined.

We do know, however, that at least 181 lives have been lost and about 800 homes have been totally destroyed. Whole families have been taken, others have been decimated by the loss of family members. Their independence, their livelihood that a lifetime of effort endowed them with, has been indiscriminately and forever lost to them in a matter of just a few hours.

We know all about that, don't we, because it has happened before to us, also, in our community. Given the enormity of their personal and material losses, an obvious opportunity exists for us to render assistance to them at this time in a true spirit of Catholic giving.

I have therefore arranged, in collaboration with Mrs. Monica Bright, Chairperson of our Pastoral Council, to have a special (third) collection taken up today and next Sunday, with all monies contributed by you to be distributed to our suffering Victorian fire-stricken brothers and sisters. I commend this act of Christian love and mercy to you! God Bless!...(Fr.) Bob

Blessed Mary MacKillop's Centenary

In this centenary year of Blessed Mary MacKillop's death, the Sisters of St Joseph have organised two national pilgrimages: "**In the Footsteps of Blessed Mary MacKillop**" to visit Sydney, Melbourne, Penola and Adelaide from 18-28 May and from 12-22 October 2009.

To book, please contact the National Co-ordinator on 02 8912 4818 or email mmp.ministries@sosj.org.au

WORKING BEE

**(The Memorial Festival of Barry Lott)
Saturday, 28 February From 7am.**

Please come along and give a hand for an hour or two. Jobs to be done: weeding, mowing, and removing the catonias.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: A reminder that the first Men's Breakfast for 2009 will be held next **Saturday, 21 February at 8am** (more details - see bulletin insert). **The usual time of Mass will be changed to 10am** to follow the breakfast.

LIVING THE GOSPEL Who is your leper?

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God, and made in the image and likeness of God.

Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, 'Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!'

PRAYERS FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN VICTORIA: *Our hearts go out to the many communities that have been devastated by the bushfires. The loss of family members, friends, homes, pets and native animals seems too much to bear. Yet there emerges those wonderful people who have volunteered their services and time to comfort those who grieve deeply, those who nurse the physically wounded and those that continue to fight the fires. Strangers appear who wish to care and empathise with a broken and wounded people. This spirit of 'mateship' is deep in the Australian psyche and rallies when the going gets tough. Walking with us are also our wonderful multi-cultural people of Australia. All are offering their services, whether it's monetary, or providing clothing or food or companionship. The basics we so often take for granted. We, as mountain people, know the dangers of living in bushfire prone areas and the experiences that have tested our resilience. Let us continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Victoria and be reminded of Jesus' words, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren you did it to me."*

Blessings, Monica.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Catherine Beaver

for 16th February

Clare Carroll

for 17th February

Happy Anniversary
Peter and Kate Grbanac
for 17th February
Ron and Cec O'Brien
for 20th February

BOOK LAUNCH:

"Blue Mountains Dreaming"

Fr Eugene Stockton, the author of the book 'Blue Mountains Dreaming' 2nd edition, invites the people of Blackheath Parish to the launch of his book dealing with the Aboriginal heritage of the Blue Mountains area. This will take place on **Saturday, 21 February at 2.30pm** at **Lawson Catholic church.**

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

We know that we will all have to face some kind of suffering, and so we try to prepare ourselves for it. Yet when it comes, as prepared as we try to be, it can overtake us with such fury that we fall back defenceless. We look to others for support and assistance, and if we are fortunate, we find it. However, even in the most supportive of communities, suffering tends to alienate us from those who are healthy and secure. Suffering reminds us of our own finitude and the contingent nature of all of life. It threatens our sense of order.

Jesus is not deterred by human suffering. He welcomes all who approach him; his healing touch reincorporates those who have been ostracised; his loving embrace reassociates those who have been alienated. In the reign of God, there are no outsiders. All belong to Jesus, and, therefore, all belong to each other. When the one afflicted is embraced by the community, the community is an authentic manifestation of the inclusive reign of God.

In suffering we witness human vulnerability and our desperate need of each other and of God. There, at the edge of life and on the fringes of the community, we may experience the tenderness and compassion of God. The loving touch of Christ that can heal our souls, if not our bodies. It is there that we may most authentically participate in the cross of Christ. Joined to him we are anything but unproductive or worthless.

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