

TODAY

Isaiah 35:1-6,10 Rejoice in God's coming  
James 5:7-10 Wait patiently  
Matthew 11:2-11 Persevere in faith

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Come, O Lord, come and save us.

**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**

16 Dec Wayne Kelly  
23 Dec Michelle Davis

**Readers**

16 Dec 1st Reading Brian Bright  
Ps/Intercessions Marjanna Gilchrist  
2nd Reading Monica Bright  
23 Dec 1st Reading Christa Buckley  
Ps/Intercessions David Buckley  
2nd Reading Sr Lyn

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

16 Dec Anthony Gilchrist and Julie Hodgkinson  
23 Dec Pat Leeder and Jan Roberts

**Children's Liturgy**

16 Dec Bettina Le Gras  
23 Dec Moira McNair

**Counters**

16 Dec Robyn and Kevin  
23 Dec Louise and Laurie

**Morning Tea**

16 Dec Carroll Family  
23 Dec Fiona Evans and Jo Gauci

**Church Care**

21 Dec Noeline and Kevin Phelps  
28 Dec Judy Harris and Monica Van Horen



**Third  
Sunday  
of  
Advent  
Year A**

Rejoice!  
Have  
courage,

hope and do not be afraid. In prison, John the Baptist hears of the wonders Jesus is doing. Can he be the Christ? Yes! John rejoices, even though he will die for the truth. We too can be joyful messengers to the world, as we live out our lives in truth and integrity. By our ordinary, everyday kindness we preach the Gospel in our words and actions.

Next Week:

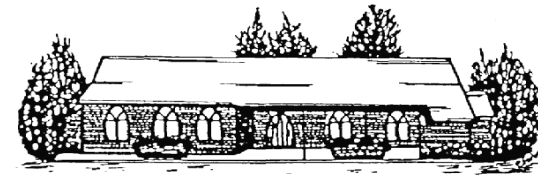
**Joseph's faithful obedience**  
*Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23*  
*Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24*

Please pray for those  
who are ill:

**David Ridoutt,  
Irene Peacock,  
Les Thomas, and  
Travis Kingston.**

**Prayer Book Launch:** You are all warmly invited to the launch of Sister Jacinta Shailer's new book, *Wildflower Journey Prayers*, a David Lovell Publication. This book combines Jacinta's colourful photography of wildflowers and landscapes with a week's morning and evening prayers on the theme of creation. The launch will be held TODAY at 3pm at 'Maria Tal', 2 Victoria Street, Wentworth Falls (off Valley Road). Sister Veronica Hoey sgs will launch the book and afternoon tea will be served. There will also be an exhibition and sale of enlarged, framed photos and photographic cards from the book. You and your friends will be most welcome. Enquiries: 4757 2290.

# 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 - Mass</b>	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
Christian Meditation (one hour)	Tuesday (4787 7098)	7.00 pm
Meditative Prayer Service (one hour) using Scripture and Taizé music	4th Saturday of month	2.00 pm
<b>Mount Victoria - Mass</b>	1st Friday of month	7.00 pm

**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, David Buckley (Chair), Monica Bright (Deputy 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](mailto:sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com)

## Here is your God.

It would not be far wrong to say that, for very many of us, Christmas is thoroughly secular. Yet what happens to us at this time is that a strange, reflective mood overcomes us. And, paradoxically enough, it is often in the secular thoughts that preoccupy us at Christmas that the holy element comes close to us.

This is simply because, whenever we are open in our humanity, the mystery of God is present among us. God is very close and can be found in the most obvious and simple things.

What, then, is the meaning of Jesus' birth and how should we react to it? First, it is a message of joy - and a call to joy! It is also a call to follow him - to proclaim by our lives and sometimes by our words that we do try to follow him and his way.

Let us then for the remaining days before Christmas ponder on Jesus' gift of himself for us. Let us join in Isaiah's hymn of joy: Let the wilderness and the dry land be glad - Do not be afraid ... Look, your God is coming ... Sorrow and lament are ended! (from Daily Prayer online)

## Vinnie's Christmas Appeal

*'Even the first Christmas family needed a little help.'*

St Vincent de Paul Society members reach out to the most disadvantaged in the community to provide food, clothing, assistance with rent and bills, and importantly much needed friendship and compassion. But demand is increasing each year, and at Christmas the effects of poverty and homelessness are especially damaging.

You can be sure that what you give will have a fundamental effect on someone's life; and at Christmas, what could be a better gift than changing someone's story?

**Make a difference.**

**Make THE difference.**

Please give as generously as you can. To make a credit card donation to the appeal call 13 18 12 or visit [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au).



**church below the rooftops**

## Spirit of Christmas

I introduced a friend to a colleague and as Christmas was approaching, the conversation turned to plans for family celebrations. On learning that my friend and her husband both came from large families and that they had seven of their own, she said, 'Your Christmas must be huge.' My friend said that because they no longer felt that it was practical for all to congregate on Christmas Day they had established the custom of picnicking together in a park on a weekend before Christmas. The children were easily entertained, adults could catch up while keeping an eye on the young ones, there were no cooking/cleaning marathons and minimal cleaning up! Thus the emphasis could be on simply being together in the spirit of Christmas. (Tracey)

### Reflect

*Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. (James 5:8)*

*Happy is the one who does not lose faith in me. (Matthew 11:6)*

## Christmas Timetable

### 18 December, Tuesday:

7.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (2nd Rite)

### 24 December, Monday:

6.30pm Carols  
7.00pm Christmas Vigil  
Children's Mass

### 25 December, Tuesday:

9.00am Carols  
9.30am Mass

On Thursday 20 December a Mass will be offered here at 6.30pm for the repose of **Kevin Eastmure,**

Sr Lyn's father. Fr Paul Hanna will be our celebrant. As it's Lyn's birthday we will be taking her out to dinner after mass. If you would like to come along, please see Anne-Marie.

## Happy Birthday

**Ashley Crawford**

for Today

**Sr Lyn Eastmure**

for 20th December

**Robert Forbes**

for 20th December

**Charles Hodgkinson**

for 20th December

**Dominic Burke**

for 21st December

See noticeboard:

**CIS Catholic Institute for theology and ministry:**

January Summer School Program  
Living As Joy: New Years Eve  
Workshop - Mulgoa

There will be a practice for children participating in the Christmas Eve Mass with Pat Drummond and Sr Lyn on Saturday 22 December, 3-4pm at the Church. All children of all ages are welcome.



**PALMS AUSTRALIA** is interested in meeting Teachers, Doctors, Nurses and other professional, technical, and trades people willing to share their skill for 1-3 years in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. Persons interested in departing in 2008 or 2009 should register their interest now, by calling 02 9518 9551 or online at [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au) Information sessions will be held across Australia early next year.

Happy Anniversary  
**Kerry & Paul Rapley**  
for 18 December

### Christmas Raffle ~Hamper~

A list for suitable items for the Hamper is on the notice board and small books of tickets are available. Thank You.

## FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Katoomba Christmas Lunch is held each year by the Kinship at Christmas Foundation - a community group that provides a meal and some company on Christmas Day.

~There is NO CHARGE~

~There is NO PREACHING~

~There are NO STRINGS~

Just a friendly get-together for Christmas.  
**Lunch will be served from 11.30am on Christmas Day at the Katoomba Civic Centre, Katoomba St, Katoomba.**

Doors open at 10am for tea and coffee.

Transport is available for those who have mobility problems. If you need more information, ph 4576 0720.

The Foundation relies on the generosity of community members and sponsors ~ donations are appreciated.

**SEE YOU AT CHRISTMAS!**