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*Zephaniah 3:14-18 Rejoice, exult
Philippians 4:4-7 The Lord is near
Luke 3:10-18 What must we do?*

Response to the Psalm:

The Lord is the God of my salvation,
I trust in him and have no fear.
I sing of the joy which his love gives to me
and I draw deeply from the springs
of his great kindness.

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!

Servers

13 Dec Bill Grieves
20 Dec Michelle Davis

Readers

13 Dec 1st Reading Monica Bright
Ps/Intercessions Anthony Gilchrist
2nd Reading Brian Bright
20 Dec 1st Reading Elizabeth Giddey
Ps/Intercessions Frances Huckstepp
2nd Reading Anthony Gilchrist

Ministers of the Eucharist

13 Dec Heather Carroll and Carla Edean
20 Dec Heather Carroll and Julie Hodgkinson

Children's Liturgy

13 Dec Anne Broomfield
20 Dec No Liturgy during School Holidays

Counters

13 Dec Judith and Frank
20 Dec Julie and Lance

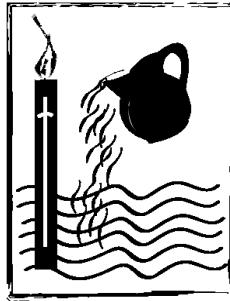
Morning Tea

13 Dec Jan Roberts
20 Dec Robyn Burns

Church Care

18 Dec Julie Hodgkinson
24 Dec Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons

Please pray for those who are ill: John Duggan;
Bernadette Ellery; James Ford; Dominic and
Lachlan Gilchrist; Rita Jenner; Roger Johnstone;
Ray Lee; Kenneth Kirkham; Irene Peacock;
Cecily O'Brien; Hugo Riggs; Cy Schreiber;
Eric Tokoli and John Wilkinson.



**Third Sunday of
Advent ~ Year C**

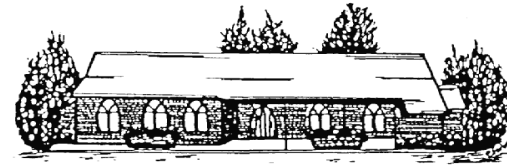
Rejoice!

This is our theme this
Sunday, as a feeling
of expectancy
grows among us.
We have sorrows and
anxieties in our lives
but God promises to
renew us by his love.
John the Baptist
announces the Good
News: the Christ is
coming. We have to
change our ways, let
go of fear and worry,
share with others, be
happy and pray for
what we need.

Next Week: **Mary visits Elizabeth**
*Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 79
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44*

*'I baptise you with water,
but someone is coming,
someone who is more
powerful than I am,
and I am not fit to undo
the strap of his sandals;
he will baptise you with the
Holy Spirit and fire.*

SACRED HEART PARISH



Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath

Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria

Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

We wish to acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people,
the original custodians of this land.

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.

Administrator: Fr Bob Sheridan Parish Office hours:
Parish House: 4787 8811 Wednesday: 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Parish Office: 4787 8540 Thursday: 10.00am - 2.00pm
Fax: 4787 6143 All enquiries regarding Baptisms,
email: shbheath2@bigpond.com Marriages and sick calls, phone 4787 8811.

Parish Address: 18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath NSW 2785

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

Blackheath - Mass	Sunday	9.30am
Evening Mass	Tuesday	6.30pm
Morning Mass	Wednesday, Friday & Saturday	9.00am
	Thursday	8.00am
Benediction	2nd Saturday after 9.00am Mass	
Exposition	All other Saturdays after 9.00am Mass	
Reconciliation	Saturday	9.30am
Mount Victoria - Vigil Mass	1st and 3rd Saturdays	6.00pm
Megalong Valley - Vigil Mass	2nd and 4th Saturdays	6.00pm

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

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

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

Some Christmas Notes

'Gaudete' Sunday (today!)

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and as reported in my column two weeks ago, this is the Sunday in which we rejoice the Coming of Christ at Christmas. Gaudete is from the Latin and means 'rejoice!' And for those who have Advent wreaths, this is the day where the pink candle is lit to emphasise the change in direction which now takes place in our preparation for Christmas. From this Sunday we focus more on Mary, soon to be Jesus' Mother as you will see from the scripture readings.

Parish Pastoral Council

By the time you read this column, the four new appointees to our Parish Council will have been selected. We congratulate those who have been chosen to share in the administration of Blackheath Parish next year and beyond.

Our gratitude is also expressed to all those who volunteered for these positions, and as well, to those who have retired from the Council, for their valuable contribution to the advancement of our Parish.

Annual General Meeting

This meeting will take place today immediately following the 9.30am Mass. You and you and you are personally invited to attend and participate! Bring your morning tea along with you!

Post Christmas Mass Times

There will be the normal 9.30am Mass on Sunday 27th December. However, during the period between Tuesday, 29th December, and Thursday, 31st December, (inclusive), Communion Services will be held daily at 9.00am. A New Year's Day Mass will be celebrated at 6.00pm at Blackheath on that day. Please note there will be no service on Monday, 28th December.

After New Year's Day, normal Mass times will apply. The Sunday Vigil Mass for the week will be celebrated at Mt Victoria on Saturday, 2nd January, from 6.00pm.

God Bless! Fr. Bob

Feast Days for this week! (13th December to 19th December 2009)

Sunday	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (d304), memorial
Monday	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor (1542-1591), Memorial
Tuesday	St Mary Di Rosa, Virgin (1813-1855)
Wednesday	St Adelaide of Burgundy, Queen (931-999)
Thursday	St John of Matha, Priest (1155-1213)
Saturday	St Anastasius, Pope (d404) Blessed Urban V, Pope (1310-1370)



TODAY IS OUR AGM

for the community in the hall after our Eucharist. All are welcome to attend. Peace and blessings, Monica Bright.

~Parish Working Bee~

Friday 18 December: 5pm - 7pm

Saturday 19 December: 7am - 9.30am

Please help to tidy up the grounds so they look their best for Christmas.

CHURCH CARE GROUP: A new roster is about to be drawn up for the following six months. If there are any changes, please let Mary Kingston know. Once again, thank you to all who have helped during the year.

Happy Birthday

Boudi Maassøn

60 on 17th December



Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake?

The winner may be YOU! \$1.00 a guess.

~ ECUMENICAL ADVENT FESTIVAL ~

This year's Advent Festival will be celebrated in an Australian context. As this gathering is a preparation for the celebration of Christmas, it will consist of song, readings, poems, O antiphons, sharing of Christmas stories and customs with a special morning tea. It will be held at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Rd, Wentworth Falls on Friday, 18th December, from 10am till noon. This is a welcome to all to come and bring your friends. Enquiries: Sisters Therese & Jacinta 4757 2290.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Small books of tickets are available today. There is also a list of suitable items needed on the notice board. Fund Raising Committee

~In memoriam~

Rosalie Sandor ~ 13th December; **Maria Naraj** ~ 14th December

"Always be joyful. Never worry about anything."

Philippians is a very joy-filled letter. Sometimes it's not easy to feel joyful, but that's exactly when you need to hear these words. I was feeling anything but joyful and feeling overburdened with worry. Paul's words urged me to hand it over to God.

I poured it all out—why I wasn't feeling joyful, why I felt fragile in mind and spirit—and asked for God's peace. I listened long and the answer came in this way: If I can be joyful, I can lift others, for if my dark cloud is apparent to others it drags them down too.

So I understand why Paul urges this message on us. It's like the Ignatian teaching on desolation and consolation, or the story of the leather bracelet that the teacher gave the student and told him to look at it whenever he felt happy or sad. The message inscribed was: 'This too will pass.' -from *Daily Prayer online*