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Micah 5:1-4 **Awaiting his birth**  
Hebrews 10:5-10 **I am coming**  
Luke 1:39-44 **Mary visits Elizabeth**

**Response to the Psalm:**

Save us, O Lord, carry us back,  
rouse your power and come, rescue your people  
show us show your face, bring us back.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

By the power of the Spirit  
Mary will give birth to a son called Jesus.  
By the power of the Spirit, Emmanuel is near.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Emmanuel is near.

**Servers**

20 Dec Michelle Davis  
24 Dec Bill Grieves  
25 Dec Bill Grieves  
27 Dec Pat Wicks

*Christmas Eve  
Christmas Day*

**Readers**

|        |                  |                   |
|--------|------------------|-------------------|
| 20 Dec | 1st Reading      | Elizabeth Giddey  |
|        | Ps/Intercessions | Frances Huckstepp |
|        | 2nd Reading      | Anthony Gilchrist |
| 24 Dec | 1st Reading      | Connor Lillis     |
|        | Ps/Intercessions | Bridget Carroll   |
|        | 2nd Reading      | Connor White      |
| 25 Dec | 1st Reading      | Ian Maguire       |
|        | Ps/Intercessions | Gerard Nolan      |
|        | 2nd Reading      | Claire Maguire    |
| 27 Dec | 1st Reading      | Carmel Vanny      |
|        | Ps/Intercessions | Julie Hodgkinson  |
|        | 2nd Reading      | Brian Bright      |

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

20 Dec Heather Carroll and Julie Hodgkinson  
24 Dec Carla Endean and Heather Carroll  
*Patricia Dee and Margaret Davis (Wine)*  
**(Please see notice inside the bulletin.)**  
25 Dec  
27 Dec Carla Endean and Diane Stewart

**Children's Liturgy**

20 Dec No Liturgy during School Holidays  
27 Dec No Liturgy during School Holidays

**Counters**

20 Dec Julie and Lance  
27 Dec Robyn and Adrian

**Morning Tea**

20 Dec Robyn Burns  
27 Dec Frances Huckstepp

**Church Care**

24 Dec Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons  
1 Jan Peter Ticehurst and Carla Endean



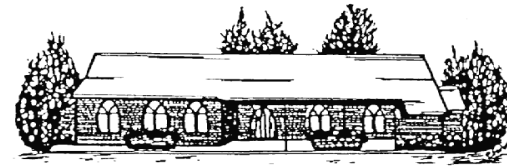
**Fourth Sunday of  
Advent ~ Year C**

It is open ears and open hearts that hear the word of God. Mary has been told by the angel Gabriel that her cousin Elizabeth is expecting a child. Mary's immediate response is to visit Elizabeth, and in doing so she receives confirmation of the greatness of her own child, the Lord and Christ. Both women are models of faith for us as we await the Lord's coming.

**Please pray for those  
who are ill:**

John Duggan;  
Bernadette Ellery;  
James Ford; Dominic Gilchrist; Rita Jenner; Roger Johnstone; Ray Lee; Kenneth Kirkham; Irene Peacock; Cecily O'Brien; Hugo Riggs; Cy Schreiber; Eric Tokoli and John Wilkinson.

# 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,<br>Marriages and sick calls, phone 4787 8811. |
| email:         | shbheath2@bigpond.com |   |

Parish Address: 18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath NSW 2785

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

|                                     |                                       |        |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Blackheath</b> - 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 |
| <b>Mount Victoria</b> - Vigil Mass  | 1st and 3rd Saturdays                 | 6.00pm |
| <b>Megalong Valley</b> - 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](mailto:sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com)

### Holy Day Greetings

Through this Christmas edition of The Bulletin, on behalf of all parishioners, I take this opportunity to extend to you

*God's richest blessings, His truest joys  
and his most tender guidance at Christmas and always.*

Also, congratulations to our four new members of our Pastoral Council who were elected at a Discernment Meeting the day before our Annual General Meeting. They are Michelle Davis, Marjanna Gilchrist, Frances Huckstepp and Gerard Nolan. And to all councillors and members of our Finance Committee and all other Groups within our Parish, may you return wholly refreshed at the end of January ready to once more engage in your ministries.

### Emergencies

During my absence from the afternoon of December 27 until January 1, please contact either Katoomba Parish on 4782 2804 or Lawson Parish on 4759 1034. My normal schedule will apply through January, and I may be contacted at the Parish House on 4787 8811.

**Have a great break!  
God Bless! Fr. Bob**

### Liturgical Ministers' Roster

Rosters are available for collection in the Church foyer. Please check your availability during the Christmas/New Year period and, if unavailable, arrange with another minister to take your place. Thank you.

### Christmas Day Liturgical Ministers

Please let Fr Bob know if you are available for the duties of Ministers of the Eucharist for the Christmas Day Mass at Blackheath. It seems we have come up short. Thanks.

**FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** The Mountains' 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 Blackheath Community Centre. Doors open at 10am for tea and coffee. For more information, call 4787 8119. Flyers are available in the church or see the noticeboard. Share Christmas with us.

### Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake?

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

### ~In memoriam~

**Josip Basic ~ 26 December**

### Feast Days for this week! (20th to 26th December)

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Sunday 20th    | Sts Abraham, Isaac & Jacob (OT Fathers)                     |
| Monday 21st    | St Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor (1521-1597), optional     |
| Wednesday 23rd | St John of Kanty, Priest (1390-1473), optional              |
| Thursday 24th  | Christmas Eve<br>Sts Adam & Eve - Progenitors of human race |
| Friday 25th    | Christmas Day (Birth of Jesus) Solemnity with Octave        |
| Saturday 26th  | St Stephen - Protomartyr, Feast                             |



### Happy Birthday

**Robert Forbes** for today  
**Charles Hodgkinson** for today  
**Dominie Burke** for 21 December  
**David Buckley** for 24 December

### 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

### "One Solitary Life"

"He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. He then became an itinerant preacher. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to school.

He had no credentials but Himself.  
Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that

**One Solitary Life."**

*[Attributed to James Allen Francis]*

**VINNIE'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Monica Van Horen has banked the money contributed by the Parish to our Christmas Appeal. We have all been overwhelmed by the financial support we have been given. The total donated was \$2,460. This is the largest sum we have been entrusted with by the parish. It will bring comfort to many in our community. *Catherine Beaver*

### ~ CHRISTMAS MASSES ~

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Blackheath:</b>  | <b>Christmas Vigil</b> (Children's Mass) 7.30pm                           |
| 24 Dec              | (preceded by Carols from 7.00pm)  |
|                     | <b>Children are invited to come dressed as a shepherd, angel or king.</b> |
| 25 Dec              | <b>Christmas Day</b> 9.30am   |
| <b>Mt Victoria:</b> | <b>Christmas Day</b> 7.00am   |



**Please note that there will be no Christmas Day Masses at St Joseph's in the Megalong Valley.** However, there will be a special **Reconciliation available from 7.00pm on Tuesday, 15 December at Blackheath.**

Also, note that following Christmas Day, normal Mass times will apply for that weekend, i.e.

|                  |                |        |   |        |        |
|------------------|----------------|--------|---|--------|--------|
| Blackheath:      | Saturday       | 9.00am | / | Sunday | 9.30am |
| Megalong Valley: | Saturday Vigil | 6.00pm |   |        |        |

**Please have items for the next week's bulletin to Kate  
by Wednesday, 23 December.**

Phone 4787 8520 or email: [sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com)