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1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 **Dedicated to God**
1 John 3:1-2,21-24 **God's children**
Luke 2:41-52 **My Father's affairs**

Response to the Psalm:

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in His ways.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise the Word of Truth and Life.

Servers

27 Dec Pat Wicks
2 Jan Diane Stewart (Mt Vic)
3 Jan Jan Roberts

Readers

27 Dec 1st Reading Carmel Vanny
Ps/Intercessions Julie Hodgkinson
2nd Reading Brian Bright
3 Jan 1st Reading Claire Maguire
Ps/Intercessions Ron Davis
2nd Reading Ian Maguire

Ministers of the Eucharist

27 Dec Carla Endean and Diane Stewart
3 Jan Diana Landsberg

Children's Liturgy

27 Dec No Liturgy during School Holidays
3 Jan No Liturgy during School Holidays

Counters

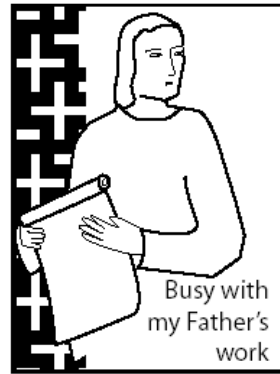
27 Dec Robyn and Adrian
3 Jan Barbara and Bill

Morning Tea

27 Dec Frances Huckstepp
3 Jan To be advised.

Church Care

1 Jan Peter Ticehurst and Carla Endean
8 Jan Judy Harris and Vicky



**The Holy Family
Year C**

Mary, Joseph and Jesus go to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Jesus has reached adolescence, and is awakening to and maturing in his religious experience. Perhaps it is reassuring for parents of teenagers to know that Jesus caused anxiety to Mary and Joseph. He was truly human and they did not understand him! Yet he returned and lived under their authority as he grew to adulthood.

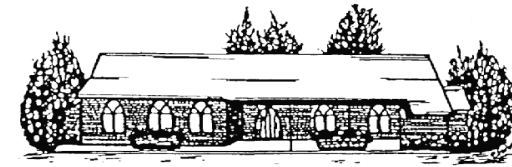
Next week: **Go find the child** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71 Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matt 2:1-12



Paths of thorns or roses

God shares in the life of those who love him and sows along their path a thousand opportunities to link their flat earthly life to a divine design. And you see. You see because the Light gives light. And you respond to his call in faith, at first just a little, then more and more. There are unusual circumstances and they have a meaning; and you understand it, and you follow the God of your heart along paths of thorns or roses. But you do not worry; they are the paths of God. *Chiara Lubich (1920-2008)*

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

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

The specifics of customs and roles played within the family may be culture-bound, but the values out of which they emerge are not. Though Sirach sketches a picture of ancient family customs, it is easy to look beneath them and find values that are enduring and that speak to us today. There we discover mutuality, respect and service between wives and husbands, between parents and children and between the young and the old.

The model placed before us is the Holy Family. There we find mutuality in the relationships; compassion, kindness, and humility; gentleness and patience; obedience to parents along with respect for the uniqueness of children. In this portrait of the Holy Family, people do not claim privilege. Jesus, who was the Son of God, submitted himself to his human mother and father. Mary and Joseph, who exercised authority over Jesus, also stood in wonder of him.

While this feast considers the family unit, it also celebrates the Church as the Family of God. Thus the values of mutuality, respect and service become characteristics of the Church or the ecclesial family. What binds the family of God together are virtues that are as relational as are the ties that bind the members of the natural family together. Within the family of God, the virtues outlined by Paul are to be lived in a mature manner. We are all called in one body to live in a collaboration of love, of mutuality, and of service. We are joined in a bond of perfection. - from Liturgyhelp online

Feast Days of the Week (27 December to 2 January)

Sunday 27th	St John, Apostle & Evangelist, Feast
Monday 28th	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Feast
Tuesday 29th	St Thomas Beckett, Bishop, Martyr (1117-1170)
Friday 1st	Mary, Mother of God, Solemnity



Growing in Wisdom – *This is one of the very few “family” stories in any of the Gospels and it shows Jesus imbibing the Jewish traditions of his parents. ... In the temple Jesus is seen learning from his Jewish elders as any young Jewish boy would learn from the rabbis.... There is no suggestion that he “knows everything”. He learns the traditions of his people from his parents, whose authority he accepts, and the teachers... Families today in all their varied forms, continue to be the first and primary places where children learn the wisdom and values that will shape their lives.*

Sundays Under the Southern Cross. Mary Coloe PBVM pp13-14

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.

Christmas Blessings to all in our Community of Sacred Heart



Sr Lyn and Fr John Frauenfelder send you all, their blessings for Christmas. You will be remembered in their prayers and Christmas Mass.

I wish to convey to you all, my heartfelt thanks for your wonderful care, support and sharing of your personal gifts with our community over this year. I wish to thank Fr Bob for his support and wisdom and nurturing of the spirit at Sacred Heart. May we all strive this Christmas to allow Christ to be reborn in our hearts, with a time for reflection, prayer and reaching out to those in need in the wider community. Mary MacKillop lived by the creed of “Never see a need without doing something about it.” It is wonderful news that in our lifetime we will see her declared our first Australian Saint.

May this time be one of many blessings for you and your families. In a humble stable in Bethlehem, our first Refugee Family of the Gospel, left us a legacy of selfless love and courage.

Christmas Peace, Joy and Hope!
Monica Bright

Special thanks to Kate Forbes for collating our Parish Bulletin each week and to Gabrielle Byrne for running it off for us each week.

Monica Bright

Happy Birthday

Sean Lillis for Today

Meg Huckstepp for 28 December

Brent Tokoli for 29 December

Happy 41st Anniversary



Christa and David Buckleg

for 28 December

Christmas Hamper Winners

1st Prize: **Leanne McManus**
(Lithgow);

2nd Prize: **Rachel Brogan**
(Blackheath)

**Guess the weight of the
Christmas Cake:**

3.90kg - won by Dulcie Davis

Thanks to everyone for donating goodies for the hamper and buying and selling tickets.

A wonderful result: Raffle: \$1,114.00 Cake: \$91.00

Sorry you didn't win - try again next year.

Fund Raising Committee

Liturgical Ministers' Roster

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

In memoriam

~ Les Thomas ~
31 December

**Please have items for the next week's bulletin to Kate
by Wednesday, 30 December.**

Phone 4787 8520 or email: sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com