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Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11 **Console my people**
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 **Salvation for all**
Luke 3:15-16.21-22 **God's beloved Son**

Response to the Psalm:

O praise the Lord, my soul,
My God, how great you are.
My heart and my soul sing out your praise,
My God, how great you are.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise the Word of Truth and Life. (repeat)

Servers

10 Jan Diane Stewart
17 Jan Wayne Kelly

Readers

10 Jan 1st Reading Christa Buckley
Ps/Intercessions Jane Nolan
2nd Reading David Buckley
17 Jan 1st Reading Carmel Vanny
Ps/Intercessions LeGras Family
2nd Reading Gerard Nolan

Ministers of the Eucharist

10 Jan Ray Wood and Elizabeth Giddey
17 Jan Pat Wicks and Anthony Gilchrist

Children's Liturgy

No Liturgy will be held during the School Holidays.

Counters

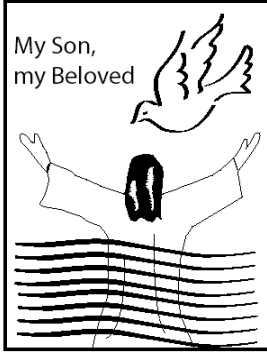
10 Jan Christa and David
17 Jan Robyn and Kevin

Morning Tea

10 Jan Michelle Funnell
17 Jan Carmel Vanny/Barbara Smith

Church Care

15 Jan Sue Gracey and Barbara Grieves
22 Jan Phil and Pat Wicks



**The Baptism of the Lord
Year C**

The prophet Isaiah announces the consolation of the people, because God is coming with forgiveness and salvation.

John the Baptist points to Jesus as the Christ, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit. After Jesus' baptism with water, God proclaims: 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'. Our faith and hope must always rest in Jesus, who offers God's free gift of salvation to all.

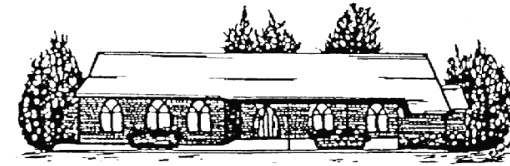
Next week: His glory seen *Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 95 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11*



**echoes
from
the
past**

Renewed by the Holy Spirit Christians who live out their baptism become saints and heroes. No one is worth more among the citizens of a country than baptised citizens who are faithful to their baptism... That is why we preach this way. We wish to shake our baptised people out of habits that threaten to make them practically baptised pagans, idolaters of their money and power. What sort of baptised persons are these? Those who want to bear the mark of the Spirit and the fire that Christ baptises with must take the risk of renouncing everything and seeking only God's reign and his justice.
Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980)

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

With this feast, the Christmas cycle comes to a close. It expands the universality of God's presence proclaimed on the Epiphany and locates it in the messianic mission of Jesus established at his baptism. It might be seen as the summary of the entire liturgical cycle: the one born among us is the servant of God who brings to all the nations a universal promise of justice and the fulfilment of hope.

Jesus is mysterious servant through whom God's saving action is accomplished. He is the light that guides those in darkness. He has been given to the nations as the promise of liberation and the hope of the age to come. His mission is directed to all peoples. Since God's voice spoke over creation and over the head of Jesus as he emerged from the waters of the Jordan, God's regeneration of nature is accomplished in and through him.

Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus is commissioned to begin his prophetic work and ministry, a work of inclusivity and the relinquishment of bondage and fear. As the heavens opened, Jesus was identified as the beloved one of God. Now the community of believers is identified with Jesus the servant of God. Through Baptism, Christians share in his prophetic and divine ministry. They too receive at baptism a commission to commit themselves to the service of the poor and to the cause of compassion. The feast of the Baptism of Jesus is a reminder of the call to Christian service. -from Liturgyhelp.com

Comfort, Comfort All My People

Composer: Robin Mann

(USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

**Comfort, comfort all my people with the comfort of my Word.
Speak it tender to my people, all your sins are taken away.**

Though your tears be rivers running, though your tears be an ocean full,
though you cry with the hurt of living, comfort, comfort.
Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain shall be low,
every rough place will be smoother, comfort, comfort.

Though your eyes see only darkness, though your eyes can see no light,
though your eyes see pain and sorrow, comfort, comfort.
Every night will have its morning, every pain will have an end,
every burden will be lightened, comfort, comfort.

Though we build strong walls for prisons, though we feast while others starve,
though we fill this world with weapons, comfort, comfort.
Every prisoner will be rescued, every hungry mouth be filled.
every gun will rust, forgotten, comfort, comfort.

Though we fracture God's creation, though we stand so far apart,
though we fail to love each other, comfort, comfort.
Every wall will crack and crumble, every stranger will be a friend
Every one embrace another, comfort, comfort.

NEW YEAR'S THOUGHT

Thinking of hope as a virtue, in a world that thinks of hope as the fancy of dreamers and children, turns religion upside down. Without hope, evil is a state of life and failure is a given. With hope, no amount of failure is an excuse to despair. "Constant has been my hope in you," the psalmist says. "Constant." Whatever you regret in life, whatever you have done that you fear, put it down; hope in God, be at peace. Constantly.

- Joan Chittister

<http://www.benetvision.org/>

Happy Birthday

Cassie Huckstepp for Today
Jane Schmutz for 14 January

✠ In memoriam ✠

Henry Columbine ~ 10 January
John Lorant ~ 11 January
Gerard Johnston ~ 11 January

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.

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.

New beginning

Alex, a young priest, was telling us about an experience of God's Spirit at work in his ministry. Two brothers, ten and twelve years old, wanted to be baptised. Their parents were Catholics but were not practising and so had not had the boys baptised as babies. As he was preparing the boys, Alex became aware of strong tensions in their family. The in-laws from both sides had never got on with each other and the continuing squabbles were putting a lot of strain on this young family. Alex prayed repeatedly for the Spirit to grant these families peace.

When the big day came, the boys' grandparents, uncles and aunts from both sides attended the ceremony which took place in a happy, relaxed atmosphere. Addressing the boys, Alex explained to them among other things that baptism was very much to do with reconciliation and making a new beginning, and that it was really only God who could grant us this. He noticed that some of the adults seemed moved by his words; some even had tears in their eyes.

Two days later he received a letter from the boys' mother. She thanked him for the service, saying that it had resonated deeply with her and that it made her long to become a regular churchgoer. She then described what had happened afterwards. They had gone home for a festive meal and at this meal, for the first time ever, both families had chatted happily with each other. The atmosphere had been peaceful, without any barbs or innuendoes. It had really been like a new beginning.

Alex concluded: 'Baptism is so much more than an initiation rite; it is about allowing God's Spirit to invade us and transform our lives.' (Elisabeth)
-from *peoplespeak* (Carmelprint)

