

TODAY

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

Psalm Response:

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

12 Dec Diane Stewart
19 Dec Jan Roberts

Readers

12 Dec 1st Reading Claire Maguire
Intercessions Ian Maguire
2nd Reading Ron Davis
19 Dec 1st Reading Ron Davis
Intercessions Robyn Burns
2nd Reading Kevin Burns

Ministers of the Eucharist

12 Dec Monica and Brian Bright
19 Dec Pat Wicks and David Buckley

Children's Liturgy

12 Dec Frances Huckstepp
19 Dec No liturgy during school holidays.

Counters

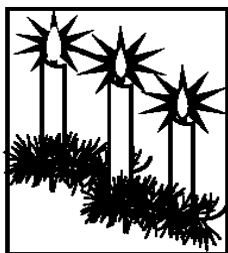
12 Dec Carla and Neil
19 Dec Monica

Morning Tea

12 Dec Barbara Grieves
19 Dec Elizabeth Giddey

Church Care

17 Dec The Gatt Family
24 Dec Noeleen Cliff and Mary Kingston



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

Happy Birthday **George Commens** ~ 13 December

Feast Days for this week! (12 - 18 December)

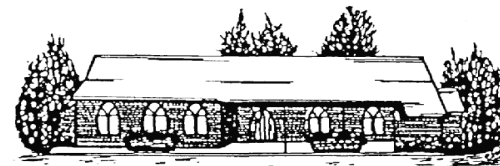
Sun Our Lady of Guadalupe, optional
Mon St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (d304), memorial
Tue St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor (1542-1594), memorial
Wed St Mary Di Rosa, Virgin (1813-1855)
Thu St Adelaide of Burgundy, Queen (931-999)
Fri St John of Matha, Priest (1155-1213)
Sat St Gatian, Bishop of Tours (3rd Century)



ARE YOU AVAILABLE?

On the Notice Board there is a Roster for Masses on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and 26 December. If you are available as a Eucharistic Minister, Reader, Collector, etc, please note your name and preferred Mass on the list on the Board.

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.

Parish Priest: Father Bob Sheridan

Parish House: 4787 8811 Parish Office hours:
Parish Mobile: (24 hrs/7 days) 0428 878 810 Wednesday: 12.00pm - 4.00pm
Parish Office: 4787 8540 Thursday: 10.00am - 2.00pm
Fax: 4787 6143 All enquiries regarding Baptisms,
email: shbheath2@bigpond.com Marriages and sick calls, ph 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 Fr Bob or Michelle Davis (Chair), Marjanna Gilchrist (Deputy Chair) and Diane Stewart (Secretary).

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

Bulletin Items: Please contact the Parish Office on Wednesday or Thursday during office hours on 4787 8540 or email shbheath2@bigpond.com

'GAUDETE' SUNDAY (TODAY)

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. 'Gaudete' is from the Latin and means 'rejoice'. So, this is the Sunday when we anticipate Jesus' birth and we rejoice in the coming of our Christ at Christmas. I call this 'Pink Sunday' because this is one of only two Sundays in the year when the priest may wear rose-coloured vestments, should he so desire, (the other Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent, called 'Laetare' Sunday, also taken from the Latin whose meaning is 'rejoice with Jerusalem'). This is also the Sunday when the pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit. Through the lighting of this candle, the Church emphasizes the change that 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 in the scripture readings.

'BIBLE!'

I didn't know that the word 'Bible' may stand for - Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth. Did you?

THE 'JESSE' TREE

Right from the time of the first Isaiah (about 740BC), the 'Jesse' Tree has been used by God's people to present the history of humankind from its beginning to the birth of Jesus - from Adam to Jesus. Isaiah introduced this concept when in chapter 11 he says, "A shoot springs up from the stock of Jesse." And later in that same chapter, he also writes, "That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious."

St Paul, on the first Sunday of Advent, in his Epistle of Romans 15 in part says "and again Isaiah says; There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise up to rule the Gentiles, in him the Gentiles shall hope."

Continually, throughout Advent, we hear references to Christ's ancestors in the Mass readings. Some of the early Jesse Trees were very involved, in that they presented the 28 generations listed in St Matthew's Gospel, starting with Jesse and ending with Jesus.

These days, most modern Jesse Trees use symbols that summarize the Old Testament and show, basically, the history of the world up to Christ (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, etc.). Jesse Trees are to be found in churches and homes of the faithful. Cut-out symbols of apples, the 10 Commandments, an ark, a whale and suchlike are produced, mostly by children (but adults, too) and are hung from the Jesse Tree's branches.

Trees may be either large or small, though the best trees to use will probably have no leaves (less mess, and the symbols stand out better). Like the Advent Wreath, Jesse Trees can be a very productive family project. Here at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath, you will already have seen our Jesse Tree in position with nothing on it. Our goal is to have appropriate symbols cut out and coloured during Children's Liturgy, and to be hung by each child on the Jesse Tree during the Children's Christmas Eve Mass. Hope you like and support this activity!

Blessings! Fr. Bob

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND: An amount of \$807.75 was raised for the DWF. Again, thank you for your generosity.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL (Sunday 5 Dec) We thank you for your generosity for this appeal, so close to Christmas. An amount of \$757.75 was raised. Thank you again!

In memoriam: **Rosalie Sandor** ~ 13 December; **Maria Naraj** ~ 14th December

Advent Wreath: Week 3

Adults: **O Jesus Christ, Key of David,
Come and set your people free
From the prison of our selfishness;
Come, deliver us from evil.**

Children: **King David was a mighty king,
who built a city long ago.
He left a key -
that Jesus found in the manger hay.
Key of David, Jesus Christ,
open our hearts to love.**

Advent Festival: Instead of the usual Cosmology Morning, you are invited to an Advent Festival at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls on **Friday, 17th December**. The time will consist of input on Advent, Advent liturgy, time of quiet prayer in preparation for Christmas, and an early lunch. If you can, you are invited to bring something a little special for our lunch. It is for everyone so you and your friends will be very welcome. Enquiries: Srs. Therese and Jacinta 4757 2290

CHRISTMAS - NEW YEAR MASS TIMES

Blackheath: **7.30pm Christmas Vigil**
(Children's Mass)
(preceded by Carols from 7.00pm)



9.30am Christmas Day
(preceded by Carols from 9.00am)

Mt Victoria: **7.00am Christmas Day**

Please note that there will be **no Christmas Day Mass at St Joseph's in the Megalong Valley. Nor will there be any Sunday Vigil Mass on Christmas Day evening.** However, there will be a special **Reconciliation** available from 7.00pm on **Tuesday, 14 December**, at Blackheath.

As normal, there will be a 9.30am Mass on Sunday, 26 December, at Blackheath.

Post Christmas Masses

Monday, 27 December	No services
Tuesday, 28 December	9.00am Eucharistic Service
Wednesday, 29 December	9.00am Eucharistic Service
Thursday, 30 December	8.00am Mass
Friday, 31 December	9.00am Mass
Saturday, 1 January 2011	9.30am Mass
Sunday, 2 January 2011	9.30am Mass



OFFICE HOURS

The Parish office will be closed for holidays from 23rd December, 2010 returning on 20th January, 2011. Any urgent matters, please phone the parish mobile on 0428878810.

NOTICEBOARD ITEMS

- ◆ Bishop Anthony's Advent Message
- ◆ Noel! Noel! with the Brandenburg: 16 Dec
- ◆ Position Vacant: Youth Minister
- ◆ Film Screening: 18 Dec
- ◆ Youth Summer Schools of Evangelisation: 9-16 January 2011
- ◆ Schoenstatt Girls' Camps: January 2011
- ◆ Do you want to give something back to the community?
- ◆ Free Christmas Lunch

Gospel: Historical Context - Least and Greatest

Jesus declares that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater even than John whom he has just finished praising as greatest of all men. It is an indication that in the kingdom, things are not as they are on earth. The blind, lame, deaf, poor and lepers that Jesus named earlier would have been seen as the very lowest of society. Their afflictions were seen as punishments from God and so it was assumed that they, or their parents, had done something to deserve this punishment. Jesus rejects this interpretation and shows these people to be the most open to responding to his message.
- from Liturgyhelp online