

Isaiah 49:3,5-6 God my strength
 1Corinthians 1:1-3 Lord of all
 John 1:29-34 Baptist's witness

Psalm Response:

Here I am, Lord; I come to do Your will.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! (x2) The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.
 Alleluia, Alleluia! (x2)

ROSTERS

Servers

16 Jan TBA
 23 Jan TBA

Readers

16 Jan	1st Reading	TBA
	Intercessions	TBA
	2nd Reading	TBA
23 Jan	1st Reading	TBA
	Intercessions	TBA
	2nd Reading	TBA

Ministers of the Eucharist

16 Jan TBA
 23 Jan TBA

Children's Liturgy

No children's liturgy during the school holidays.

Counters

16 Jan Barbara and Bill
 23 Jan Christa and David

Morning Tea

16 Jan Jan Roberts
 23 Jan Carroll Family

Church Care

21 Jan Judy Harris and Vicky
 28 Jan Sue Gracey and Barbara Grieves



2nd Sunday ~ Year A

John the Baptist witnesses to Jesus by identifying him as the Chosen One of God.

John was the voice preparing the people for the coming of the Messiah.

He does not seek his own glory and popularity, but encourages the people to follow Jesus.

We can be a guide to others who are searching for God, and then we too must step aside and let God take over.

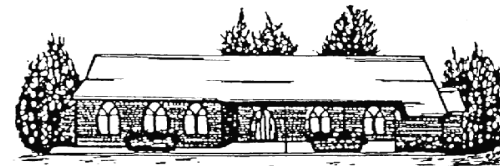
Next Week: **Light has dawned** Isaiah 8:23-9:3; Psalm 261 Corinthians 1:10-13,17; Matthew 4:12-23

Learning moments

Read the four gospel accounts of the baptism of Jesus (Mk 1:9-11; Lk 3:21-22; Mt 3:13-17; and Jn 1:29-34). What similarities and differences exist? What changes occur in the account from the earliest (Mark) to the latest (John)?

Develop a list of people who have 'pointed the way' for you in some aspect of your life. What qualities or characteristics do you notice about these people? Where/when do you see these qualities and characteristics in yourself? Prepare another list of the opportunities that exist for you to 'point the way' for someone else.

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, Marriages and sick calls, ph 4787 8811.
email:	shbheath2@bigpond.com	

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

Gospel Focus – Ranking

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.

-from Liturgyhelp online

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Trish Carey
Kim Crawford
Marion Crowley
John Duggan
Barry Finch
James Ford
Virginia Hayward
Miriam Helby
Kenneth Kirkham
Fran Knight
Ray Lee
Barry Leeder
Cecily O'Brien
Irene Peacock
Hugo Riggs and
Cy Schreiber.

May the vital, loving strength of this community help them on their journey to wholeness.

Please note:
Those who have booked for
JERSEY BOYS
in April need to pay
Anne-Marie by 9th February.
Please ring her on 4787 6325
to arrange payment or
give her a cheque. Thanks.

Happy Birthday
Connor Illis ~ 20 January
Simon Maguire ~ 20 January
Jenny Inman for 22 January
Barbara Smith for 22 January

The power of the Incarnation



By virtue of the Creation,
and still more of the
Incarnation, nothing here
below is profane for those
who know how to see.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin
(1881-1955)

Living the Gospel: Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

-from Liturgyhelp online

'Here I am Lord; I come to do your will.'

Dear Lord, it seems to me that what we do in prayer is simply present ourselves to you and wait, in trust, for you to tell us your will and give us the means to do it. As your word puts it: 'Be still and know that I am God.' We come silently and lovingly to you with all our baggage and know that you will love and guide us.

It needs an open generous heart to be able to say that I am here, Lord, weak but ready to do whatever you ask of me. It is also frightening because we always think that God's work is hard and demanding, feeling that it will be more crucifixion than resurrection.

With love and trust and the help of the Spirit we realise that, although God's will is not always ours, doing it will bring peace and good for all.

-from Daily Prayer online

ST VINCENT DE PAUL STATEWIDE EMERGENCY APPEAL

The State Office of St Vincent de Paul has announced that they will run a statewide emergency appeal for those affected by the recent catastrophic flooding.

Flood appeal envelopes are being printed and will be sent to each Conference as soon as they are available. Donations will be accepted at the local level as well as credit card donations. The St Vincent de Paul plays an important role in the recovery process. Usually, we are called on to co-ordinate the supplies of new clothing, furniture and other household goods. Because Conferences are attached to most parishes in Australia, this extensive grassroots network can reach into the disaster affected communities very quickly.

I have just been informed that towns around Moree are being evacuated and our disaster recovery teams have been called upon to set up emergency centres. This emergency has a long way to go before it is over.

Catherine Beaver

Parramatta Diocesan Disaster Recovery Co-ordinator

January Cosmology Meeting

The next Cosmology meeting will be on Friday, 21 January, from 10.00am till noon. The theme of the meditation will be "Listening to Silence". Discussion will centre on Chapter 1 of our book "Fields of Compassion" by Judy Cannato. Prayer, reflection and morning tea will be included. New guests are always welcome to join the group. Enquiries to Sr Jacinta 4757 2290



AUSTRALIA DAY and our 109th PARISH BIRTHDAY ~WEDNESDAY 26TH JANUARY 2011~

Mass will be held at 9.30am on this day.

Diana and Joe Landsberg have kindly invited us, once again, to their beautiful historic property, "Withycombe", Church Rd at Mount Wilson.

This is a BYO everything, although hot water, tea and coffee will be provided. Within the grounds, there is play equipment to keep the children entertained and plenty of room for them to run!

There is lots of shade for adults to sit and chat! Do come along!

Bring a picnic lunch to share and enjoy good company and relaxing surrounds.

It is also a chance to meet new parishioners on this day. ALL WELCOME.

The Parish Office will re-open on 20th January. Please call the parish mobile on 0428 878810 for urgent matters.

Why not support a young Australian and make a huge investment in their Spiritual future?

Harvest Pilgrimages have recently launched the WYD Madrid Personalised Gift Certificates. The gift certificates come in the value of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1000, \$2000 and \$5000. A great gift for birthdays, graduations or as an incentive.

To purchase a gift certificate, go to www.wydtours.com.au/gift or you can contribute to the WYD Sponsors Fund where the money you sponsor can go to a WYD 2011 pilgrim from your parish, your diocese or an underprivileged youth.