

**TODAY**

Isaiah 52:7-10 **God's saving power**  
 Hebrews 1:1-6 **God speaks through his Son**  
 John 1:1-18 **The Word was made flesh**

**Psalm Response**

All the ends of the earth have seen  
 the saving power of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! A holy day has dawned upon us.  
 Come, you nations, and adore the Lord.  
 Today a great light has come upon the earth.  
 Alleluia!

**Servers**

25 Dec Diane Stewart  
 1 Jan Jan Roberts

**Readers**

25 Dec	1st Reading	Ron Davis
	Intercessions	Carla Endean
	2nd Reading	Barbara Smith
1 Jan	1st Reading	David Buckley
	Intercessions	Frances Huckstepp
	2nd Reading	Christa Buckley

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

25 Dec Brian and Monica Bright  
 1 Jan Anthony Gilchrist and Ray Wood

**Children's Liturgy**

25 Dec TBA  
 1 Jan TBA

**Counters**

25 Dec Marilyn  
 1 Jan Laurie

**Morning Tea**

25 Dec No Morning Tea on Christmas Day  
 1 Jan David and Christa Buckley

**Church Care**

30 Dec Julie Hodgkinson  
 6 Jan Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons

Next Week: **Mary, mother of God**  
 Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 66 Galatians 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**Feast Days for this week:** 25 Dec to 31 Dec 2011

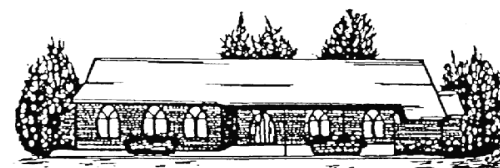
Sun 25 Dec	Christmas Day
Mon 26 Dec	St Stephen
Tue 27 Dec	St John, Apostle and Evangelist
Wed 28 Dec	The Holy Innocents
Thu 29 Dec	St Thomas a Becket
Fri 30 Dec	Holy Family
Sat 31 Dec	St Sylvester



**Christmas Day**  
 Year B

In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. With these words, John begins his gospel and in the verses that follow he summarises the ideas he will develop later in his gospel. The contrast between this reading and that from Luke (*during the night*) which people know well as the Christmas story, could not be more obvious. Christmas invites us to celebrate the Lord's involvement with human history, with its most insignificant and poorest people. The Lord is neither intimidated by the hostile darkness nor by the fact that his own people do not accept him. His light is more powerful than all the shadows. Entering into the hereness and nowness of our own history; nourishing our hope with the will to live for our country's poor, these are the unavoidable conditions to dwell in the tent which the Son pitched among us. In this way, we will experience in our own flesh, in the flesh of so many brothers and sisters, the encounter with the Lord who announces the reign of life." Gustavo Gutierrez Sharing the Word through the Liturgical Year.

# 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 Mobile:** 0428 878 810 (Emergency only)

**Parish Office:** 4787 8540 **Fax:** 4787 6143

**e-mail:** shbheath2@bigpond.com

**Parish Office hours:**

**Wednesday:** 12.00pm - 4.00pm

**Thursday:** 10.00am - 1.00pm

All enquiries regarding Baptisms, Marriages and sick calls - 4787 8811.

**Parish Address:** 18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath. NSW 2785

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

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Blackheath/153850768029631>

<b>Blackheath - Mass</b>	Sunday	9.30am
Evening Mass	Tuesday	6.30pm
Morning Mass	Wednesday, Friday and Saturday	9.00am
	Thursday	8.00am
Benediction	22nd Saturday after 9.00am Mass	
Exposition	All other Saturdays after 9.00am Mass	
Reconciliation	Saturday	9.30am
Healing Mass	1st Saturday of the month	9.00am
<b>Mount Victoria - Vigil Mass</b>	1st and 3rd Saturdays	6.00pm
<b>Megalong Valley - Vigil Mass</b>	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), Frances Huckstepp (Deputy Chair) and Diane Stewart (Secretary).

**Sacred Heart Care Group:** Carmel Vanny 4787 8706 or 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](mailto:shbheath2@bigpond.com)

**Dear Sacred Heart Community,**

*I wish you a joyful Christmas blessed with the peace, love and hope of Jesus born anew in our hearts and lives. I wish us all a healthy and happy new year.*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the honour of serving you for the past two years as the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council. It has been a privilege. Thank you to those who supported me in this task. I wish the new executive, to be elected in February, all the very best as they serve our community.*

**Blessings, Michelle Davis.**

### Gospel Reflection (Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5. 9-14)

If you were to give just a cursory glance at a collection of 'religious' Christmas cards, or even the local nativity scene, you would undoubtedly see a varied assortment of shepherds, wise men, livestock and angels gathered around the Holy Family in a timber structure of some sort. Even the most casual reading of Luke's account of the birth of Christ would reveal that most of the Nativity figurines are missing! Our retelling of the birth of Christ tends to be an amalgamation of the Luke and Matthew versions with a bit of creative tradition thrown in for good measure.

The Luke account of the Nativity carries a very specific theology that runs throughout the rest of that gospel. It is a theology that places the outcast and downtrodden at the centre of Jesus' mission. In this account, Jesus is born outside the town because there is no room for Joseph and Mary within the safety of the inn. Like those he will minister to later in life, Jesus is born 'on the edge' - even outside the boundaries. Rather than the impressive 'Wise Men' of the Matthew infancy account, the witnesses to Jesus' birth in the Luke account are lowly shepherds. Unlike the somewhat romantic notion we may have of shepherds, in Jesus' time they were regarded as little better than thieves and cut-throats. All they could be trusted to do was tend sheep outside of townships and away from 'civilised' society. They held one of the lowest positions in Jewish society. The gospel writer's choice of these witnesses to the birth of Jesus is a very deliberate one that clearly announces the purpose and direction of Jesus' mission. -from Liturgyhelp online



### **The Christmas spirit**

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts.*

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

### **ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**

Bishop Chadwick - Traditional French Carol  
(USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201E)



Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?



Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the new born King.

**Thank you  
Fr Paul Hanna for being  
our ordained celebrant  
for the following  
masses.**

Christmas Day and  
1st, 8th & 15th January.

**Happy Birthday  
Sean Billis  
for 27th December**

**Parish Garage Sale  
4th and 5th February  
2012 in the Parish Hall.**

You may leave your saleable goods after Australia Day. Helpers are needed for both before with sorting and on the day. Please keep dates available and closer to the date, we will have a list for names and times available.



In memoriam  
~ Josip Basic ~  
26 December  
~ Les Thomas ~  
31 December

### **CAROL OF THE BIRDS**

Music: William James / Words: John Wheeler  
(USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201E)

Out of the plains the broilgas are dancing,  
Lifting their feet like war horses prancing.  
Up to the sun the woodlarks go winging,  
Faint in the dawn light echoes their singing.  
Orana! Orana! Orana! To Christmas Day

Down where the tree-ferns grow by the river,  
There where the waters sparkle and quiver,  
Deep in the gullies Bell-birds are chiming,  
Softly and sweetly their lyric notes rhyming.  
Orana! Orana! Orana! To Christmas Day.

Friar-birds sip the nectar of flowers,  
Currawongs chant in wattle-tree bowers.  
In the blue ranges, Lorikeets calling.  
Carols of bushbirds rising and falling.  
Orana! Orana! Orana! To Christmas Day.

*Please remember in your prayers:*

**Iris Austin; Neal Evans; Fr Frank Fletcher MSC;  
James Ford; Virginia Hayward; Kenneth  
Kirkham; Loretta Laird; Ray Lee; Barry Leeder;  
Lorraine McKelvie; Irene Peacock; Lee Piercy  
and his mother, Kellie; Jean Pye; Fr Bob  
Sheridan; Cy Schreiber and Matthew Walker.**

**Happy 43rd Anniversary  
Christa & David Buckley ~ 28th December**