

TODAY

*Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8 Come down
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 While waiting
Mark 13:33-37 Stay awake!*

Psalm Response

Lord, let us turn to you and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Stay awake, be ready. You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming. Stay awake, be ready. The Lord is coming soon. Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord is coming soon.

ROSTERS

Servers

27 Nov Diane Stewart
4 Dec Bill Grieves

Readers

27 Nov 1st Reading Pat Wicks
Intercessions Ron Davis
2nd Reading Frances Huckstepp
4 Dec 1st Reading Ron Davis
Intercessions Patricia Dee
2nd Reading Carla Endean

Ministers of the Eucharist

27 Nov Diana Landsberg and Margaret Davis
4 Dec Michelle Davis and Pat Wicks

Children's Liturgy

27 Nov TBA
4 Dec TBA

Counters

27 Nov Judith and Frank
4 Dec Julie and Lance

Morning Tea

27 Nov Michelle Funnell
4 Dec Claire Maguire

Church Care

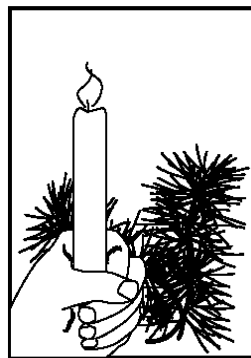
2 Dec Karen Hayward and Jennifer Milani
9 Dec Michelle Funnell and Tony Perriam

Next Week: **Prepare a way** *Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11; Psalm 84 2Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8*

In Memoriam: † **Joyce Richardson** ~ 29th November

Feast Days for this week: (Sunday 27th November to Saturday 3rd December)

Sunday 27th Nov St Maximus, Bishop (d460)
Monday 28th St James of the March - Priest (1391-1476)
Tuesday 29th St Saturninus, Bishop & Martyr (d257)
Wednesday 30th St Andrew - Apostle - Feast
Thursday 1st Dec St Eligius, Bishop - (590-660)
Friday 2nd St Bibiana - Virgin & Martyr (d362)
Saturday 3rd St Francis Xavier - Priest - (1506-1552) - Memorial



**1st Sunday of Advent
Year B**

27th November 2011

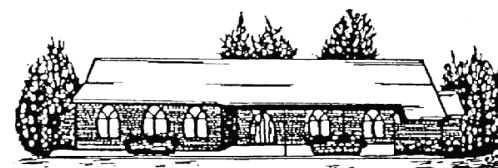
Today we begin the season of Advent, a time when we are asked to 'stay awake' and be alert.

We are asked to act with integrity, and to turn away from anything that will dull our perception of the coming of Christ.

It is a time of fine-tuning our priorities.

We are clay in the hands of the potter, God, who yearns for our love and attentiveness.

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>

Blackheath - Mass	Sunday	9.30am
Evening Mass	Tuesday	6.30pm
Morning Mass	Wednesday, Friday and 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
Healing Mass	1st Saturday of the month	9.00am
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), 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



As Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus, our Messiah, we have assembled the empty crib to symbolise that waiting and we will, each week of Advent, add something to the contents culminating in the placing of the Baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Mass.

Update on Fr Bob: Fr Bob has been released from hospital and is recovering at home. He sends his love and best wishes to everyone! Please keep him in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

Youth Breakfast with Bishop Anthony, Christmas Celebration and Youth Forum

Don't forget to RSVP for the last Diocesan Youth event of the year. Bishop Anthony would like to hear your insights and thoughts on youth ministry in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Hope to see you there.

Date: Saturday 17th December

Special Guest: Bishop Anthony Fisher OP

Place: St Patrick's Cathedral Precinct, 1 Marist Pl, Parramatta. Time: 8:30am-10.30am

RSVP needed for catering purposes by 10th December to youth@parra.catholic.org.au or for any enquiries, please call 8838 3418.

Download the flyer from the Catholic Youth Parramatta website.

Happy Anniversary

Anne-Marie & Tony Bland for Today

Fiona & Wayne Evans for 2nd December

Lex & Melanie Dignam for 3rd December

CAN YOU HELP?

A washing machine is desperately needed for a single mum in Blackheath with two children. If you can help, please contact Helen on 0405 839 828.

POSITIONS VACANT

Director of the Institute for Mission

Responsible for the development, promotion, implementation and management of a range of formation within the Diocese of Parramatta. Closing date: 9 December 2011.

Pastoral Care Worker

Cumberland Hospital at Westmead.

Part-time, commencing 2012, 4 days per week (Tuesday to Friday). Closing date: 17 December 2011.

For details of these positions, go to "Employment" at

www.parra.catholic.org.au

Inquiries: Maureen Sewell tel (02) 8838 3411,

msewell@parra.catholic.org.au

CHRISTMAS RAFFLES

Remember to get your tickets for our fabulous Christmas Hamper Raffle.

This year it will also include a Cuisinart Hot & Cold Blender.

A separate raffle will also be held with the lucky winner to receive a beautiful Christmas stocking made, and kindly donated, by Anne-Marie Bland.

Prayers are requested for: Gabrielle Byrne; Marion Crowley; Neal Evans; Fr Frank Fletcher MSC; James Ford; Virginia Hayward; Kenneth Kirkham; Loretta Laird; Ray Lee; Barry Leader; Lorraine McKelvie; Irene Peacock; Jan Pettit; Lee Piercy; Jean Pye; Fr Bob Sheridan; Fr John Smith; Cy Schreiber and Roma Ziolkowski.



Advent Chant

Composer: Phil Porter

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

Twilight then darkness, night falls and candles glow,
gently surrounding us - a new birth of hope.
Watching, waiting, awakening a new birth of hope.

Reflection (Mk 13:33-37)

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that. - from Liturgyhelp online

December Benedictine Spirituality: The December Benedictine Spirituality gathering will meet on **Friday, 2nd December**, from 10am till noon at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls. Preparational reading and input will be on Part 3 (pp. 71-81) in "The Rule of Benedict for Beginners." Morning prayer, Lectio Divina and morning tea will be part of our gathering together. New participants are welcome. Enquiries: Sisters Therese and Jacinta 4757 2290.

AFTERNOON CAPERS

will be on **Tuesday, 6th December.**

As it is a busy time of year, we will be meeting in the coffee shop in the Arcade 11am-12pm for a social get together. All ages welcome.

Hope to see you there. *Diane S.*

Priest Supply during Fr Bob's absence

4 December	Fr John Hogan
11 December	Fr Paul Maloney
18 December	Fr John Hogan
Christmas Eve	Fr Paul Hanna
Christmas Day	Fr Paul Hanna
1/8/15 January	Fr Paul Hanna