

TODAY

Micah 5:1-4 *Awaiting his birth*  
Hebrews 10:5-10 *I am coming*  
Luke 1:39-44 *Mary visits Elizabeth*

**Psalm Response:**

Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

By the power of the Spirit,  
Mary will give birth to a son called Jesus.  
By the power of the Spirit, Emmanuel is near.  
Alleluia, Alleluia! Emmanuel is near.

**Servers**

23 Dec Bill Grieves  
30 Dec Michelle Davis

**Readers**

23 Dec 1st Reading Lillis Family  
Intercessions Pat Wicks  
30 Dec 2nd Reading Lillis Family  
1st Reading Monica Bright  
Intercessions Patricia Dee  
2nd Reading Brian Bright

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

23 Dec Michelle Davis and Ray Wood  
30 Dec Diane Stewart and Margaret Davis

**Children's Liturgy**

23 Dec TBA  
30 Dec TBA

**Counters**

23 Dec Judith and Frank  
30 Dec Julie and Lance

**Morning Tea**

23 Dec Claire Maguire  
30 Dec Barbara Grieves

**Church Care**

28 Dec Carla Edean and Gail Shepherd  
4 Jan The Gatt Family

**Happy Birthday  
David Buckley**

for 24th December  
**Sean Lillis**  
for 27th December

**Happy  
44th Anniversary  
Christa and David  
Buckley  
for 28th December**

**Liturgical Ministers Rosters (20/1/13 - 10/3/13)**  
are available for collection at the back of church.

*In memoriam: Josip Basic ~ 26th December*

**Feast Days of the Week: Sun 23rd - Sat 29th December**

Sun 23rd St John of Kanty, Priest (1390-1473), optional  
Mon 24th Christmas Eve/Sts Adam & Eve - Progenitors of human race  
Tue 25th Christmas Day (Birth of Jesus) Solemnity with Octave  
Wed 26th St Stephen - Protomartyr, Feast  
Thu 27th St John, Apostle and Evangelist  
Fri 28 Dec The Holy Innocents  
Sat 29th Thomas à Becket



**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent Year C**

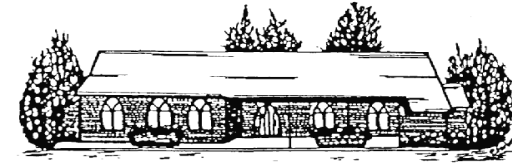
23rd December 2012

It is open ears and open hearts that hear the word of God. Mary has been told by the angel Gabriel that her cousin Elizabeth is expecting a child. Mary's immediate response is to visit Elizabeth, and in doing so she receives confirmation of the greatness of her own child, the Lord and Christ. Both women are models of faith for us as we await the Lord's coming.

**Shepherds' joy**

Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 96  
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

# 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:** 9.30am - 1.30pm

**Thursday:** 9.30am - 12.30pm

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	2nd Saturday after 9.00am Mass	
Exposition	All other Saturdays after 9.00am Mass	
Reconciliation	Saturdays	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 4th Sunday of each month (after 9.30am mass).  
If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to Fr Bob or Frances  
Huckstepp (Chair), Diana Landsberg (Deputy Chair) or Colette Lillis (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)

**CHRISTMAS DAY 2012:** Through this Christmas edition of the bulletin, I seek for you and those near and dear to you, all the Compliments of this Season. On behalf of our parishioners, we welcome all visitors, and pray too, that they also will enjoy a safe, healthy, happy and Holy Christmas. In this joyful time, our hearts and minds are filled with memories of family and friends. We remember too, that it is in the name of Jesus that we gather, because it is through belonging to His Family that we have the meaning for this Holy Season. The Birth of Jesus reminds us that God is to be found in the ordinary events of life. Our God is not hidden from us, but is revealed to us in the innocence and vulnerability of a child. It is because God loves us so much that He makes Himself so accessible to us. His promise to us is to be with us, to help us face life and all its challenges through His unlimited love for us. At Christmas, we celebrate the eternal truth that His love never ends!

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:** To our Parish Councillors, Finance Committee members, Musicians, Liturgical Ministers, Counters, Office Staff, Carers, Catechists, Morning Tea Hosts, and those behind the scenes who we don't see but who look after the cleaning of the church, floral displays, garden maintenance and the 'keepers of the loo' and sundry other workers, I thank you for your invaluable support and contribution during this past year and I wish each of you a loving, healthy and happy God-filled family Christmas and 2013.

**~Christmas Masses~**

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Sacred Heart Blackheath**  
 7.15pm Carol Service  
 7.30pm Vigil Mass

*Children are invited to dress as angels, kings or shepherds. Contact: Julie on 4787 8096 or Norma.*

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**  
**St Paul's Mt Victoria**  
 7am Christmas  
 Morning Mass

**Sacred Heart Blackheath**  
 9.15am Carols  
 9.30am Christmas Day  
 Mass

Please note that there will be **no Christmas Day Mass at St Joseph's, Megalong Valley.**

*There will be no masses celebrated on 26th, 27th and 28th December, while normal Mass times apply on Saturday, 29th December (9.00am Blackheath). Normal Masses will apply from 2nd January, 2013.*

**CHRISTMAS STALL:** Congratulations to all organisers and you astute buyers, who availed yourselves of the heavily discounted Christmas goodies which last Sunday raised a total of \$389.50 for our Awasa orphans in Ethiopia.

**CHRISTMAS ROSTERS:** Should you be available to assist with the Christmas Liturgies, please add your name to the list on the notice board, for as of now, there is a shortfall in the number of volunteers needed. Many thanks.

**PARISH OFFICE:** Re-opens on **23rd January, 2013.** Contact on 4787 8540 will be available as the phone will be diverted to the Parish House. All other numbers are available. While the Parish Office is closed, **please send your items for the bulletin to Kate at [sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com) by Thursday each week.**

**FAREWELL TO SCHOOL!** Look out mums and dads - the Christmas school holidays are now with us until the 29th January, 2013. May you and your children enjoy this wonderful opportunity to come together as family and enjoy life together in whatever you do or wherever you go during this celebratory period. Take care, be safe and find fulfilment through God's wonderful presence.

**2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION REVIEW:** Congratulations to Fr Paul Hanna and Michelle Davis for organising and hosting last Wednesday's 2nd Rite of Reconciliation. Congratulations also to the 20 people who attended. **Blessings! Fr Bob**

He who comes, comes to us now. In the silence. In the darkness. In the confusion. In the loneliness. As Word and As Light. As Truth and As Love. Emmanuel. God-with-us. Now.

Just One Year ed. Timothy Radcliffe OP, Dkt. 2006, p.61 H. Wiggett.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

(Theme: Fulfillment)

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. As there are only a few days now before Christmas, I encourage you to spend some quiet time in prayer. Give thanks for the gift of Christ and the joy of Christmas. Pray for those travelling on our roads to be with family and friends. Say a special prayer over the coming days for the elderly, lonely and sick who may be separated from their loved ones. Christmas can be a very lonely time for people. Spare a thought for those that have lost loved ones this year and have to face Christmas without them. Let us open our hearts wide to receive Christ anew this Christmas. If you have made time for prayer during this Advent season, remember to put some paper strips in the baby's crib.

**Light a purple candle:** From the Gospel of Luke, we read: *The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will give birth to a son and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called son of the Most High".*

From Isaiah, we read: *"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light".*

God of Wisdom, bless us with Mary's "YES" as we welcome Jesus into our hearts and homes.

As the candle is lit: *Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming.*

Please remember in your prayers, Andrew and Tracey (Rosemary Kenny's Nephew and his wife) and their unborn child who has just been diagnosed with a serious heart defect. Also, Christa Buckley; Leslie Dee; Neal Evans; James Ford; Fr Frank Fletcher MSC; Robert Graham; Virginia Hayward; Kenneth Kirkham; Loretta Laird; Ray Lee; Barry Leeder; Lorraine McKelvie; John Mackrell, Irene Peacock; Cy Schreiber; Gerard Simms; Martin Steddings and Roma Ziolkowski.

**Immanuel**

Composer: Michael Card  
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Immanuel, our God is with us,  
 And if God is with us,  
 who could stand against us?  
 Our God is with us, Immanuel.

**Advent Chant**

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

**O Purest of Creatures**

(Traditional)

O purest of creatures!  
 Sweet mother, sweet maid;  
 the one spotless womb  
 wherein Jesus was laid.  
 Dark night hath come down  
 on us, Mother, and we  
 look out for thy shining,  
 sweet Star of the Sea.

**Ave, Ave, Ave Maria,  
 Ave, Ave, Ave Maria.**

Deep night hath come down  
 on this rough-spoken world.  
 And the banners of darkness  
 are boldly unfurled;  
 and the tempest-tossed Church,  
 all her eyes are on Thee.  
 They look to Thy shining,  
 sweet Star of the Sea.

He gazed on Thy soul,  
 it was spotless and fair;  
 for the empire of sin,  
 it had never been there;  
 none ever had owned Thee,  
 dear Mother, but he,  
 and he blessed Thy clear  
 shining, sweet Star of the Sea.

**In The Lord, I'll Be Ever thankful**

Text: Taize Community/Tune: Jacques Berthier  
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In The Lord, I'll be ever thankful.  
 In The Lord, I will rejoice.  
 Look to God, do not be afraid,  
*lift up your voices; The Lord is near. (x2)*