

TODAY

Baruch 5:1-9 *God's desire*
Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11 *Paul's prayer*
Luke 3:1-6 *Salvation dawns*

Psalm Response:
We are filled with joy
for the Lord has done great things for us.

Gospel Acclamation:
Change your lives, he's coming.
The one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.
Change your lives, he's coming.
The Lord is coming soon. Alleluia, Alleluia!
The Lord is coming soon.

Servers

9 Dec Diane Stewart
16 Dec Pat Wicks

Readers

9 Dec 1st Reading Ian Maguire
Intercessions Marilyn Rowe
2nd Reading Claire Maguire
16 Dec 1st Reading Frances Huckstepp
Intercessions Carla Endean
2nd Reading Ron Davis

Ministers of the Eucharist

9 Dec Bill Grieves and Margaret Davis
16 Dec David and Christa Buckley

Children's Liturgy

9 Dec TBA
16 Dec TBA

Counters

9 Dec Carla and Neil
16 Dec Monica

Morning Tea

9 Dec Michelle Funnell
16 Dec Margaret Davis

Church Care

14 Dec Angie and Michelle Leman
21 Dec Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons

In memoriam: † Travis Kingston ~ 13th December
† Rosalie Sandor ~ 13th December; † Maria Naraj ~ 14th December

Feast Days of the Week: Sunday 9th to Saturday 15th December 2012

Sun 9th St Peter Fourier (1565-1640) Founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame
Mon 10th St Gregory III, (690-741), Pope (731-741)
Tue 11th St Damasus I, Pope (d384), optional
Wed 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe
Thu 13th St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (d304), memorial
Fri 14th St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor (1542-1591), Memorial
Sat 15th St Mary Di Rosa, Virgin (1813-1855)



**Second Sunday
of Advent Year C**
9th December 2012

How are we to
'prepare a way for
the Lord' this Advent?
John the Baptist
proclaimed
repentance for the
forgiveness of sins.
Isaiah spoke of
straightening paths
and smoothing roads
for the Lord's approach.
What do we need to do
in our world today as
individuals and as
a community?
What sins do we
need forgiven?
What works of
repentance do we
need to make?

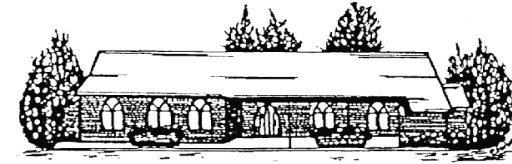


Next Week

**What must
we do?**

Zephaniah
3:14-18;
Psalm
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians
4:4-7;
Luke 3:10-18

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>

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	Saturdays	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 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

CHRIST AND CHRISTMAS: As we enter the final few weeks leading to Christmas, as Catholics, it is a good time to reflect on all that Christmas means to us and for us - a time for us to get our perspectives sorted out both in relation to CHRIST-MAS and the wider festive season surrounding this event. The 25th December, Christmas Day, is that day when "in memoriam" (where we take time out of the equation) we celebrate the actual event of Christ's birth. Christ is God in human form while still retaining his Divine nature. He is the "Word" who came to teach us and show us, by the life he lived, our way home to our Creator Father. He is our Saviour, both physical and spiritual. We owe him all that we are and have. That cost him his human life, so freely given by him in the most extraordinary and diabolical way. Christmas Day is when we celebrate his arrival among us to eventually carry out his life-saving work - to save us from the forces of evil and ourselves. It is a day of great celebration, of homage paid to him by us, of gratitude and thanks for his life-saving actions to come, and of our responsive love for our God, through Jesus, for making this possible because of his (God's) infinite love for each of us. That is what Christmas Day is for us!

Ironically, the 25th December in pagan times was the feast of the sun god - called "Birthday of the Sun". We Christians 'took' it over about the middle of the fourth century and now here we are in great danger of once more returning this extraordinary and unique Christian Feast Day of CHRIST-MAS to the 'pagans' for their Godless festive purposes. Be aware! Be careful that our motivations do not lead us away from the real meaning and purpose of Christmas.

DIOCESAN WORK FUNDS: Many thanks to all parishioners who contributed to the recent DWF collections held over two Sundays. Our commitment on this occasion was \$1502 set by the Parramatta Diocese; we raised \$970 which is well above average for us and for which we are extremely grateful. As always, these funds are directed to those works carried out in the Diocese for the overall benefit of parishes both collectively and individually. This is a great Christmas present for those most in need within our Diocese.

BLACKHEATH CHURCH LIGHTING: Have you noticed recently the improvement to lighting within our Church? We need to thank John O'Connor (Colette Lillis' father) who recently replaced all fluorescent tubes and starters with new ones. The result is about double the lighting intensity which we had before. Many thanks John on behalf of all for your generous, freely donated, effort.

2002 BLACKHEATH CHURCH CENTENARY CELEBRATION: I've just been given specially produced copies of the history of Blackheath Catholic Church and, separately, a transcript of the Centenary Mass held on 26th January 2002. We are indebted to Sue and Mike Dooley, who are part of Ann Dooley's family, for producing these very rare publications. Many thanks Sue and Mike for this early great Christmas present given to our parishioners.

COFFEE CAPERS: A great finish to the year when 12 parishioners met at the Weber's Cafe for a delightful lunch and chatter. Looking forward to more Coffee Capers in 2013. Thanks Diane for organising.

Blessings, Fr Bob!

Vinnie's Christmas Cards are available for **\$6.00 per pack** and also for sale are **Columban calendars for \$9.00 each**. Please see Laurie after mass today.

Advent Chant

Composer: Phil Porter
Used with permission,
Word of Life International Licence No. 2201E

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

In The Lord, I'll Be Ever thankful

Text: Taize Community/Tune: Jacques Berthier
Used with permission,
Word of Life International Licence No. 2201E

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.
Lift up your voices; The Lord is near.

ADVENT WREATH: Second Sunday of Advent (Theme: Proclamation)

Advent is rich in symbols. The scriptures are filled with images of light, darkness, silence, waiting, fulfilment. The colour of the season is purple reflecting the penitential and reflective nature of the church season. This week, try to make time to reflect on the scriptures we had at mass today or take a scripture passage and reflect on it and make time in the busyness of your days to remember the great gift Jesus is for us. If you make time for prayer, remember to put some paper strips in the baby's crib.

Week 2: Light a purple candle

John the Baptist proclaims the coming of the Messiah.

How can I help prepare the way of the Lord?

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

*God of Salvation, help us give voice to the voiceless
as we cry out in the name of your son, Jesus.*

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



As Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus, we again have the stable, without figures, to symbolise that waiting.



Calling all Angels, Shepherds and Kings to dress up for our Christmas Eve Children's Mass. Any visiting children are most welcome to join in. Please let Norma or Julie know if you would like to participate.

GARAGE SALE: The Parish Garage Sale is to be held on the weekend of **2nd & 3rd February**. Please leave your items for donation at the Parish Hall (during open hours, if possible). All items MUST be able to be resold. This event is one of our Parish's important fundraising events. The holidays are a good time to weed out those items you just do not need anymore - we can certainly use them!



CHRISTMAS STALL
Christmas goodies will be for sale after Mass on **Sunday, 16 December** (another fund raising event).



Happy Birthday
Julie Hodgkinson for 9th December
Jan Roberts for 10th December
George Commens for 13th December

Please remember in your prayers:
Christa Buckley, Leslie Dee;
Neal Evans; James Ford;
Fr Frank Fletcher MSC; Virginia Hayward; Kenneth Kirkham; Loretta Laird; Ray Lee; Barry Leeder; Lorraine McKelvie; John Mackrell; Irene Peacock; Cy Schreiber, Gerard Simms; Martin Steddings & Roma Ziolkowski.