

TODAY

*Isaiah 2:1-5 The days to come
Romans 13:11-14 Wake up now
Matthew 24:37-44 Stay awake*

Psalm Response

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

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

1 Dec Bill Grieves
8 Dec Ray Wood

Readers

1 Dec 1st Reading Monica Bright
Intercessions Patricia Dee
2nd Reading Brian Bright
8 Dec 1st Reading Ron Davis
Intercessions Michelle Davis
2nd Reading Barbara Grieves

Ministers of the Eucharist

1 Dec Pat Wicks and David Buckley
8 Dec Diane Stewart and Margaret Davis

Counters

1 Dec Monica
8 Dec Julie and Lance

Morning Tea

1 Dec Carroll Family
8 Dec Carla Endean

Church Care

6 Dec Julie Hodgkinson
13 Dec Angie and Michelle Leman



**1st Sunday of Advent
Year A
1st December 2013**

Isaiah invites us to climb the mountain of the Lord so that we may walk in the ways of peace and justice.

This call to a change of life challenges us to let go of the things that hinder our response to God's love in our lives. Then we will be refreshed in spirit, and so be alert and ready to meet Christ when he comes, even unexpectedly.

Please remember in your prayers: Leslie Dee; Neal Evans; Pauline Fallance; Fr Frank Fletcher MSC; James Ford; Virginia Hayward; Judy Harris; Kenneth Kirkham; Ray Lee; Barry Leeder; John and Jenny Mackrell; Lorraine McKelvie and Irene Peacock.

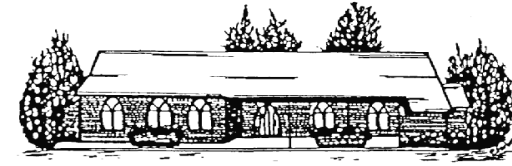
Feast Days of the Week: Sunday 1st to Saturday 7th December

1st Dec St Eligius, Bishop (590-660)
2nd Dec Bl. Maria Angela Astorch, Abbess, Capuchin Poor Clare (1592-1665)
3rd Dec St Francis Xavier, Priest - (1506-1552) - Memorial
4th Dec St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor (676-749AD), Optional
5th Dec Bl. Mary Frances Schervier, Founder (1819-76)
6th Dec St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (270-343AD)
7th Dec St Ambrose (c.340-397AD)



Next Week
Prepare for his coming
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 71
Romans 15:4-9
Matt 3:1-12

SACRED HEART PARISH



**Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley**

We respectfully acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of the Blue Mountains' 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 **Office hours: Wed:** 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Parish House: 4787 8811 **Thu:** 9.00am - 12.00pm
Parish Mobile: 0428 878810 (Emergency only) **Fri:** 3.00pm - 4.00pm
Parish Office: 4787 8540 **Fax:** 4787 6143 All enquiries regarding Baptisms, Marriages and sick calls - 4787 8811.
e-mail: shbheath2@bigpond.com

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

ADVENT – FIRST SUNDAY (Theme – “Expectation”): In the midst of the pre-Christmas frenzy of buying gifts and other shopping, it is easy to lose sight of the profound spiritual importance of the Advent Season. There are so many extra demands placed on our time right now. Pre-Christmas preparations can be fun, but it is important to balance the spiritual aspect of Advent with the preparation of things physical for Christmas Day. This busy week, try to allow a little time for quiet reflection and prayer, and experience the joy and peace the Babe at Bethlehem brings at Christmas. Today is the first of four Sundays of Advent. The Advent Wreath will be used for the first time this year led, at the beginning of each Mass, by parish families who will introduce each week’s prayer for us to share as the candle is lit with our response: **“Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming.”** The first week’s Advent Prayer is: **“O Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, come and dwell with us. Desire of all nations; Gift to every generation, come, make your home with us. All nations, everybody, is waiting for you, all races here and throughout the World are waiting for you. Jesus, come to us.”**

THE ADVENT WREATH: The circle of the wreath and the evergreens that make it up both signify God’s endless mercy and undying love. Three purple candles and one rose-coloured (pink) candle are evenly spaced around the wreath. There is one larger white candle in the centre of the wreath. Each week, an additional candle is lit. As the light grows brighter with each week, we are reminded that the Light of the World will soon arrive in glory. The central white candle is larger than the other four in the wreath. This relatively recent addition to the Advent wreath signifies the Light of Christ and is first lit on Christmas Eve then re-lit on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR MASSES: Following last week’s tabling of our Christmas/New Year Mass programme, I have been approached by a number of parents with young families to bring forward the Christmas Eve Children’s Mass by a half hour with carols to begin at 6.45pm and the Mass at 7.00pm, rather than the advertised 7.30pm Mass start. So, 7.00pm it is! Sorry for this late change. Be it on my head because I obviously did not consult widely enough before setting this time. The adjusted Mass schedule is as follows...

SACRED HEART ~ BLACKHEATH
Tuesday 24th December
 (Christmas Vigil Children’s Mass)
 Carols from 6.45pm. Mass 7.00pm

Wednesday 25th December
 (Christmas Day) Mass 9.30am

Wednesday 1st January 2014
 (New Year’s Day) Mass 9.00am

ST PAUL’S ~ MOUNT VICTORIA
Wednesday 25th December
 (Christmas Day) Mass 7.00am

~ Notes ~


- * There will be **no Christmas Day Mass at St Joseph’s in Megalong Valley.**
- * There will be a special **Second Rite of Reconciliation at Blackheath on Wednesday, 18th Dec, at 7.30pm.**
- * **Normal Mass times will apply on Saturday 21st Dec (Blackheath 9.00am; Mt Victoria 6.00pm) and Sunday, 22nd Dec, at Blackheath 9.30am.**
- * **There will be no Masses celebrated on 26th, 27th, 28th and 31st December.**
- * **Normal Masses will apply from 2nd January 2014.**

God bless! Father Bob

Updating the Parish Website:
 Pat Drummond, our webmeister, requests all parish groups / committees / ministries / and social groups, email him a short report of one page or less detailing the function of their particular group and also the contact person’s information. Photos would also be welcomed. email: patdrum@lisp.com.au

Afternoon Capers will be held on **Wednesday 4th December, at 12.15pm** at Pat McAuley’s home in Little Hartley. Cost: \$10pp. *We will all meet at The Lolly Shop, Little Hartley at 12pm then travel on from there. If you need a lift or more information, phone Norma 4787 5906 or Diane 4787 1357.*


~ MUSIC MINISTRY ~
 Have you thought about being part of the Music Ministry?
 If you can read music, play an instrument, and/or sing with heart, we would very much like to speak with you. Come, join us!



Diary Date: The next **Just Because Dinner** at the Piedmont Blackheath is on **Tuesday, 17th December.**

Handel’s Messiah - The Concert
 Radio Community Chest presents its 70th Year **Concert of Combined church choirs, Grand organ & orchestra at Sydney Town Hall**
 on **SATURDAY 18 December 5:00PM**
SUNDAY 19 December 2.15PM
 Cost \$32.50 Adults / \$27.50 Concession
 For further information and Tickets:
 City Recital Hall Angel Place 8256 2222
www.cityrecitalhall.com

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.

Advent Litany
 Composer: Bernadette Farrell
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Word of justice, Alleluia,
 come to dwell here, Maranatha!
 Word of mercy, Alleluia,
 live among us, Maranatha!
 Word of power, Alleluia,
 live within us, Maranatha!
 Word of freedom, Alleluia,
 save your people, Maranatha!

Word of healing, Alleluia,
 heal our sorrow, Maranatha!
 Word of comfort, Alleluia,
 bring us hope now, Maranatha!
 Word of gladness, Alleluia,
 fill our hearts now, Maranatha!
 Word of wisdom, Alleluia,
 Come renew us, Maranatha!

Word we long for, Alleluia!
 Word we thirst for, Maranatha!
 Key of David, Alleluia!
 Son of Mary, Maranatha!
 Promised Saviour, Alleluia!
 True Messiah, Maranatha!
 Cry of prophets, Alleluia!
 Hope of ages, Maranatha!

Light of nations, Alleluia!
 Light in darkness, Maranatha!
 Risen Saviour, Alleluia!
 Lord of glory, Maranatha!
 You we long for, Alleluia!
 You we thirst for, Maranatha!
 Here among us, Alleluia!
 Living in us, Maranatha!