

**TODAY**

*Isaiah 11:1-10 Justice and peace  
Romans 15:4-9 Be tolerant and friendly  
Matthew 3:1-12 Prepare for his coming*

**Psalm Response**

In his days, justice shall flourish  
and peace 'till the moon fails.

**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**

8 Dec Ray Wood  
15 Dec Pat Wicks

**Readers**

8 Dec 1st Reading Ron Davis  
Intercessions Michelle Davis  
2nd Reading Barbara Grieves  
15 Dec 1st Reading Anthony Gilchrist  
Intercessions Marilyn Rowe  
2nd Reading Claire Maguire

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

8 Dec Diane Stewart and Margaret Davis  
15 Dec Elizabeth Doolan and Jonathon Gilchrist

**Counters**

8 Dec Julie and Lance  
15 Dec Robyn and Adrian

**Morning Tea**

8 Dec Carla Endean  
15 Dec Michelle Funnell

**Church Care**

13 Dec Angie and Michelle Leman  
20 Dec Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons



**2nd Sunday of Advent  
Year A  
8th December 2013**

John the Baptist exhorts us to make ourselves ready for the coming of Christ by preparing our hearts and minds to receive him. We are asked to reconsider our values. Do we act with justice and integrity? Deep in our hearts we know when we do not live up to these ideals. Advent is an opportunity to reassess our lives, turn to the Lord, and prepare for his coming.

*Please remember in your prayers: Leslie Dee; Sue Doyle; 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 8th to Saturday 14th December**

Sun 8th Second Sunday of Advent  
Mon 9th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th Dec)  
St Peter Fourier (1565-1640) Founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame  
Tue 10th St Gregory III, (690-741), Pope (731-741)  
Wed 11th St Damasus I, Pope (d384), optional  
Thu 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Fri 13th St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (d304), memorial  
Sat 14th St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor (1542-1591), memorial

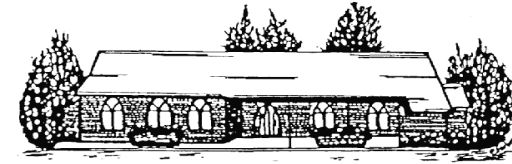


**Next Week**

**Persevere in faith**

*Is 35:1-6,10  
Ps 145  
James  
5:7-10;  
Matt 11:2-11*

# 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, e-mail: shbheath2@bigpond.com 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)

**TIME OUT FOR A BIRTHDAY:** My deceased mother's younger sister who lives in her own unit at Caboolture Queensland, is to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of next week. I need to be there! So, I have arranged to take the last of my Annual Leave so as to share this unique event with her and quite a number of relatives as well. Hence, I will be on leave from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December. Fr Paul Slyney is to celebrate our 9.30am Mass this Sunday, while Fr Paul Hanna will celebrate Mass on the following Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> December). Unfortunately, there will be no weekday or Saturday Vigil Masses (Mt Victoria; Megalong Valley) until I return. I apologise for that, particularly at this time of year when so much is happening so close to Christmas. Emergencies, please phone 0428 878 810.

**TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS:** The **Solemnity Feast of the Immaculate Conception**, normally held on 8<sup>th</sup> December, this year is to be celebrated on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, because the 8<sup>th</sup> December is a Sunday, and Advent Sundays take precedence. The 9<sup>th</sup> December also is the date for our Catholic Church to appear before the **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**. Let's pray that this horror that has so afflicted our Church and so many children/families will be fully addressed and, finally, be eliminated from our lives. Through the Truth, Justice and Healing Council of the Catholic Church in Australia, a Commitment Statement has been issued that details action already taken, and being taken by our Church in this matter. Copies of that Commitment Statement are available at all three entrances to our Sacred Heart Blackheath Church.

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR MASSES:** Following the tabling of our Christmas/New Year Mass programme, I was 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*

**Prayer for the Lighting of the Candles on the Advent Wreath**

*Parent: O Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, come and save your people.  
 Joy of every heart, strength of those who are poor,  
 Come quickly to help us.*

*Child: Prince of Peace, teach the lion and the little lamb,  
 teach the cat and the mouse,  
 teach the hawk and the tiny bird,  
 teach everyone who doesn't get along to live in peace.*

*All: Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming.*



**Christmas Liturgies**

Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Helpers are needed for the Christmas Liturgies. Lists are up on the noticeboard to add your name for the various roles for the Christmas Liturgies.

Please note: **Wednesday, 11th December, the Parish Office will be open from 9.30am to 1.30pm** instead of 1pm to 4pm.

*Happy Birthday*  
**Julie Hodgkinson ~ 9 December**  
**Jan Roberts ~ 10 December**  
**George Commens ~ 13 December**

**Christmas Hamper Raffle**

Parishioners are asked to donate items to the Christmas raffle "basket of goodies". Parishioners and their friends are invited to purchase raffle tickets after Mass each Sunday. This is a major fundraiser for the Parish.

Copies of the **Cleaning Roster** are available in the porch area at the rear of the Church.

~ In Memoriam ~

†  
**Travis Kingston ~ 13th December**  
**Rosalie Sandor ~ 13th December**  
**Maria Naraj ~ 14th December**

**'Just Because' Christmas Dinner**  
 The Parish Pastoral Council invites all parishioners to join together for a Christmas Dinner get-together on **Tuesday, 17 December, from 6pm at the Gardner's Inn, Blackheath.**  
**Everyone is welcome.**  
*This is an opportunity to give thanks for the past year and enjoy each other's company in preparation for Christmas.*



**Blackheath Community Carols Today - Sunday 8th December**

Come along for a family afternoon beginning at 4.30pm with activities in the gardens for children and a Lions' Club sausage sizzle. The carols concert, from 6.30pm to 8pm, will feature guest artists as well as local school choirs and dance group performances. **FREE Entry. Blackheath Community Hall & Park.**

**Mark your diary for ST FINBAR'S ANNUAL SPECTACULAR CHRISTMAS CONCERT** with massed choir, Penrith Symphony Brass, harp, handbells, children's choir and solo artists. Join in congregational carols and experience the thrill of singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus with organ, choir, brass and timpani on this night of Christmas joy.

**Sunday 15th December at 7.30pm**  
**St Finbar's Church, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook.**  
 There will be a leaving collection – suggested donation: families \$25, individuals \$10.  
 Inquiries: Phone 02 4754 1780