TODAY

Isaiah 35:1-6,10 Rejoice in God's coming
James 5:7-10 Wait patiently
Matthew 11:2-11 Persevere in faith

Psalm Response
My soul rejoices in the Lord and magnifies his name.

Gospel Acclamation
Change your lives, he's coming.
The one who is the light
of the world is coming.
Change your lives, he's coming.
The reign of God is near!
Alleluia, alleluia!
The reign of God is near!

Third Sunday of Advent ~ Year B

14th December 2014

John is baptising and proclaiming the imminent coming of the Messiah. He declares emphatically that he is not the Christ; he is a light showing the way. John is led by the Spirit to prepare the minds and hearts of the people, so that they will recognise Christ when he comes. This Advent may we have open hearts and open minds to see Christ and give him welcome.

Next Week: **You will bear a son**
2Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16; Psalm 88
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

ROSTERS

Servers

14 Dec	Pat Wicks
21 Dec	Jan Roberts

Readers

14 Dec	1st Reading	Robert Forbes
	Intercessions	Marilyn Rowe
	2nd Reading	Claire Maguire
21 Dec	1st Reading	Lillis Family
	Intercessions	Patricia Dee
	2nd Reading	Ron Davis

Ministers of the Eucharist

14 Dec	Ray Wood and David Buckley
21 Dec	Diana Landsberg and Elizabeth Doolan

Counters

14 Dec	Julie and Lance
21 Dec	Robyn and Adrian

Morning Tea

14 Dec	Margaret Davis
21 Dec	Claire Maguire

Church Care

19 Dec	Julie Hodgkinson

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill and also their carers:
Siobhan Atkin; **Marjorie** Cullen; **Leslie** Dee; **Neal** Evans; **Anne** Farindon;
James Ford; **Anthony** Gilchrist; **Kenneth** Kirkham; **Jenny** Mackrell;
Lorraine McKelvie; **Junko** Odawa, **Frances** Slater, **Betty** Zeman & **Roma** Ziolkowski.
(Please let us know if any name needs to be removed from this list.)

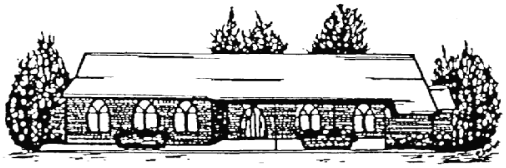
Feast Days of the Week
Sunday 14th to Saturday 20th December

14th	St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor (1542-91), memorial
15th	St Mary Di Rosa, Virgin (1813-1855)
16th	St Adelaide of Burgundy, Queen (931-999)
17th	St John of Matha, Priest (1155-1213)
18th	St Gatian, Bishop of Tours (3rd Century)
19th	St Anastasius, Pope (d404) Blessed Urban V, Pope (1310-70)
20th	Sts Abraham, Isaac & Jacob (OT Fathers)

A VOCATION VIEW
There was a man _____sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe.

Is your name in the Gospel today?

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**
Parish House: 4787 8811
Parish Mobile: 0428 878810 (Emergency only)
Parish Office: 4787 8540 **Fax:** 4787 6143
e-mail: shbheath2@bigpond.com

Office hours: **Wed:** 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Thu: 9.00am - 12.00pm
Fri: 3.00pm - 4.00pm

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	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 Diana Landsberg (Chair); David Buckley (Deputy Chair) or Colette Lillis (Secretary).

Sacred Heart Care Group: 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 WREATH: Third Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Celebration")
Today, during our candle lighting liturgy, the purple candles previously lit over the past two weeks will again be lit plus the pink candle set down for lighting this day. We need to understand the meaning of these different candles. The candles are traditionally lit in the following order: purple, purple, pink, purple, white.

The first is called the **"Candle of Hope"**. It symbolizes faith in God keeping his promises to humanity. The second is called the **"Candle of Preparation"**, reminding Christians to get ready to receive God. The third pink candle is the **"Candle of Joy"**. It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. The fourth candle, the **"Candle of Love"**, reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth. The "Christ Candle," the white candle in the centre, stands for Jesus Christ himself and is lit for the Christmas celebrations.

Today is also **Gaudete Sunday**. "Gaudete" is from the Latin and means **"rejoice"**. For those who have Advent Wreaths, this is the day where the pink candle is lit to emphasise the change in direction which now takes place in our preparation for Christmas. From this Sunday we focus more on Mary, soon to be Jesus' mother, as may be seen from our scripture readings.

Week 3: Lighting of the two purple candles and the pink candle: From Isaiah we read, ***"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." God of Blessings, we celebrate your good gifts and rejoice in the gift of your Son, Jesus."*** As the candle is lit, we all say: ***Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming and in him we rejoice.***

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION: Next Wednesday evening (17 December) commencing at 7.30pm, the Second Rite of Reconciliation will be available to all parishioners at Blackheath's Sacred Heart Parish. Fr Paul and I will share the conduct of this Sacrament. We expect to take less than one hour of your time. This is a special opportunity for you to prepare yourself for the imminent Feast of Jesus' Birth.

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND (DWF): Final figures are not yet available for the collections taken over the past two weeks. Hopefully, we will have them verbally available at this Mass! ***God Bless! Father Bob***

~ Working Bee ~
Christmas is approaching!
We need your help with mowing and general clean-up of the church grounds on 18th or 19th December.
Enquiries to Lindsay Inman on 0433 011 944.

The Brandenburg Choir and Australian Brandenburg Orchestra
will perform this annual concert in St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.
Noël! Noël! features Gregorian chant, medieval carols, French and German hymns, English Christmas songs and many favourites such as Christmas Night, Stille Nacht, O Come All Ye Faithful and Once in Royal David's City.
Thursday 18th December, starts 7.30pm
at St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.
Tickets: Adults $72, Concession $52, Under 30 $45, Student $42, Child $25. Transaction fees apply.
Bookings http://www.brandenburg.com.au/

Christmas and New Year Masses

SACRED HEART ~ BLACKHEATH
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Vigil (Children's Mass)
Carols from 5.30pm / Mass 6.00pm

Thursday 25th December ~ Christmas Day Mass 9.30am

ST PAUL'S ~ MT VICTORIA
Thursday 25th December ~ Christmas Day Mass 7.00am

SACRED HEART ~ BLACKHEATH
Thursday 1st January 2015 ~ New Year's Day Mass 9.00am

- *Please note that there will be **no Christmas Day Mass** at **St Joseph's** in the Megalong Valley.*
- *Also note that normal Mass times will apply on Saturday 20th December (Vigil Mass Mount Victoria) and Sunday 21st December (9.30am Blackheath).*

- ***There will be no Masses** celebrated on **26th, 27th, 29th, 30th and 31st December.***
- *Normal scheduled Masses will be celebrated at Blackheath on Sunday 28th December and at Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Joseph's from 1st January 2015.*

Christmas Vigil in the Forest: This year we are planning our Christmas Vigil with a difference … the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass will be celebrated down in the Forest - below Father Bob's house. Seating will be provided for those who really need it - everyone else is encouraged to bring a picnic blanket. As already advertised, our Vigil will commence with Christmas Carols at 5.30pm and Mass at 6.00pm. Lighting is being installed, but it should still be fairly light come time to go home. Parishioners with young children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or friends who would like to dress-up and take part in the Christmas Pageant, please see Norma Longmuir. *Of course, all is dependent on the weather - Plan B will be to retreat to the Church if it looks like rain. Any queries/suggestions, please contact David Buckley, Brian Bright or Dennis Doherty.*

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Small books of tickets are available today ($1 each).
Also, on the notice board, there is a list of suitable hamper items needed.
Fund Raising Committee

Vinnie's Christmas Cards
Packs of 10 for only $6.00
plus Columban Calendars $8.50 each
(Calendars make great gifts!)
"Keep Christ in Christmas."
See Laurie after Mass at his card table.

Happy Birthday
Robert Forbes ~ 20 December
Charles Hodgkinson ~ 20 December

Father Mac's Heavenly Puddings
(Helping local and overseas charities)
Puddings available in 800gm or Family Size 1.6kg as well as **Gluten Free 800g puddings**.
Ph: 9349 3066 / Mob: 0419 243 285.
Order now. Delivery arranged.
http://fathermac.org.au
Australian owned. Made by many volunteers.