

TODAY

Acts 6:1-7 **Deacons elected**
1Peter 2:4-9 **Chosen by God**
John 14:1-12 **The Father's house**

Psalm Response

Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place out trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
I am the way, the truth, and the life,
says the Lord; no one comes to the Father,
except through me.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Servers

18 May Pat Wicks
25 May Michelle Davis

Readers

18 May 1st Reading Monica Bright
Intercessions Anthony Simpson
2nd Reading Brian Bright
25 May 1st Reading Christine Helby
Intercessions Patricia Dee
2nd Reading Barbara Grieves

Ministers of the Eucharist

18 May Christa and David Buckley
25 May Pat Wicks and Margaret Davis

Counters

18 May Marilyn
25 May Laurie

Morning Tea

18 May Monica Van Horen
25 May Pamela Scott / Elizabeth

Church Care

23 May Sue Gracey and Barbara Grieves



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Year A

18th May 2014

Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid, to trust in him, to believe in him. Our lives can be so scattered that we forget these consoling words he spoke for us. Jesus is our Way, our Truth and our Life. He will prepare a place for us so that we will be with him for ever. May we be ready to meet him when the time comes.

Please remember in your prayers:

Michael Cooper; Leslie Dee; Sue Doyle; Neal Evans; James Ford; Karen Gializzo; Fr Kevin Hay; Virginia Hayward; Kenneth Kirkham; Ray Lee; Barry Leeder; Jenny Mackrell; Lorraine McKelvie; Irene Peacock and Roma Ziolkowski.

Feast Days of the Week: Sunday 18th May to Saturday 24th May

18 May St John 1, Pope, Martyr (d526), optional feast
19 May St Celestine V, Pope (1215-1296)
20 May St Bernadine of Siena, Priest (1380-1444), optional feast
21 May St Constantine, Emperor (d313)
22 May St Rita of Cascia, Widow & Nun (1381-1457), optional feast
23 May Bl. Girolamo Savanarola, Religious & Martyr (1452-1498)
24 May Mary, Help of Christians, Solemnity

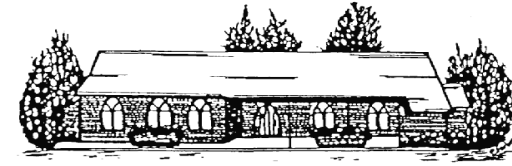


Next Week

With you forever

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17;
Psalm 65
1Peter 3:15-18;
John 14:15-21

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:** 1.00pm - 4.00pm
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 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

BLACKHEATH PARISH PROFILE: The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference Pastoral Research Office (I didn't know there was one!) has sent us a copy of a publication that presents us with a social profile of all who live in our Parish, based on the 2011 Census for this area with comparisons to the 2006 Census where deemed necessary. Similar profiles have been produced for every Catholic Parish within Australia. Chairman of the Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research, Archbishop Julian Porteous (Archbishop of Hobart), sees this material to be a valuable tool for our parish's pastoral planning and, in that, I am in total agreement. Below are some excerpts from that publication:

- Total parish population - 6,874 (5,690 in 2006) +20.8%
- (Catholics 1,122 - 16.3%; was 1,013 persons in 2006 Census).
- Average age of Catholics - 48 years. Catholic Families - 455 (152 live alone)
- Overseas born - 211; Those needing assistance with basic activities - 53.
- Males to Female population ratio - 86.1:100. Youth unemployment - 12.1%.
- Catholic one parent families - 11.0%.
- Average Annual Family Income - \$68,411
- Parramatta Diocese: total population - 1,050,870 (Catholics: 332,120 - 31.6%)
- Australia's Population: 21,507,719 (Catholics: 5,439,267 - 25.3%)
- There were 8,182,600 households in Australia in 2011. At least one Catholic person lived in 2,594,200 households, or 32% of all households.

Mass Attendance: In 2011, average Sunday Mass attendance Australia-wide was 662,000 or 12.2% of the Catholic population. About 85% of those people attend Mass every week. Almost one third of Mass attendees are aged between 60 and 74 years. Attendees on the whole are ageing. Females account for over 60% of Mass attendees. Mass attendances have been more or less in a steady decline since the 1950's. The net average fall is over 13,000 people per year.

Parramatta Diocese: Average weekly attendance: 50,613 (2011) - 51,684 (2006)

Catholic Population: 331,970 (2011) - 319,228 (2006). The parish has been the bedrock of the Catholic Church in Australia but its survival in many parts of the country is no longer assured. While there are numerous examples of strong, vital communities, in other places the viability of parishes is threatened by declining attendances. Urgent action is required to save the treasure that is the Australian Catholic parish. Here at Sacred Heart, Blackheath, we have been in the ascendant for at least two and a half years. Our results speak for themselves. This does not happen by accident! We work together as a parish 'family' to help one another as well as those who reside in our wider community. I trust that this information is of interest to you!

CATHOLIC MISSION: On behalf of Catholic Mission Australia, we thank all who have so generously contributed to this most worthy cause. For those who have so far not given, but desire to do so, envelopes are on each pew. When used, please place them on the second collection.

Finally, let's keep in our thoughts and prayers **Michael Cooper** who is recuperating at Minchinbury Community Hospital after surgery.

God Bless! Fr Bob

RIP KEN AUSTIN

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ken's Family at this very sad time. Ken passed away on Thursday morning, 15th May, after being involved in a serious accident on the highway in Blackheath the previous week. *May the Good Shepherd guide Ken safely home to eternal happiness and bring peace, grace and healing for his family and friends.*

St Vincent de Paul Society's Compeer Program

Compeer is the Society's friendship program that links volunteers in a one-to-one friendship with people who are living with mental health problems. It has been operating in Australia since 1996. The volunteer role is simple - to be a friend to someone who is isolated due to the symptoms of their illness and/or the stigma of mental illness in our community, and enjoy mutually agreed social activities together. Such a simple thing can have a huge impact on the self-esteem and quality of life of someone who is lonely, so it is an extremely rewarding role as well as being flexible and enjoyable. Currently, the program needs more volunteers. Each volunteer is normally required to meet their friend (4 hours per month/1 hour per week) for at least 12 months to provide continuity. More information about the Compeer program can be obtained after Mass today from Society's members, Julie O'Keeffe and Albert Bonanno, outside the church.

Diocesan Works Funds (DWF): Please support this collection as the DWF helps many different organisations within the Diocese. Our collection will be held on **Sunday, 25th May**, and all donations are tax deductible.

**Happy 60th Birthday
Anthony Gilchrist for 23rd May**

Historical Context - It is for the best...

At the time of this gospel's writing, some 70 years after the events it describes, amazing things have taken place in the early Christian community. Rather than everything falling apart with the death of Jesus, the message of Jesus has spread further than he himself could ever have accomplished. It is the departure of Jesus from their midst and the sending of the Spirit that really prompts the disciples to act on what they had experienced while Jesus lived among them. The gospel writer has Jesus saying that he has to go away so that the disciples can reach their potential. - Liturgyhelp

'Do not let your hearts be troubled.'

It's all very well for you to talk like that, Lord, but my heart is troubled. It is troubled about the state of war among nations, the enormous destruction that seems moments away from us. It is troubled by anxiety about my own family. It is troubled wondering about my future and where I am going. Lord, these are times when I need hope, when all seems to be so uncertain. And yet these are times in which hope has its meaning. 'Trust in God', you say. I try, Lord. If only I could feel closer to you, it would be easier. I need your presence, calling me to be with you. I know that in dark times you too continued to hope, to trust in the Father's love and will. Lord, now is the age for hope: help me to bring the good news of the Father's promise and abiding love into the darkness of despair. - Daily Prayer online