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2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16 **God's promise**
Romans 16:25-27 **Glory to God**
Luke 1:26-38 **You will bear a son**

Psalm Response
I will sing
for ever
of the
goodness
of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
By the power of the Spirit,
Mary will give birth to a son
called Jesus. By the power of
the Spirit, Emmanuel is near.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Emmanuel is near.



Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Year B

21st December 2014

King David wishes to build a house for the Lord, but God's way is different. In God's time, Mary is chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah who will be given the throne of his ancestor David. We, too, can be part of God's kingdom if we say with Mary, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be as you have said.'

Next: **Our Saviour born**
Is 9:1-7; Ps 95 Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Servers

21 Dec Jan Roberts
28 Dec Michelle Davis

Readers

21 Dec 1st Reading Lillis Family
Intercessions Patricia Dee
2nd Reading Ron Davis
28 Dec 1st Reading Monica Bright
Intercessions Pat Wicks
2nd Reading Brian Bright

Ministers of the Eucharist

21 Dec Diana Landsberg and Elizabeth Doolan
28 Dec Christa and David Buckley

Counters

21 Dec Robyn and Adrian
25 Dec Barbara and Bill
28 Dec Marilyn

Morning Tea

21 Dec Claire Maguire
28 Dec Carla Endean

Church Care

2 Jan To be advised

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill and also their carers:
Siobhan Atkin; Leslie Dee; Neal Evans; Anne Farindon; James Ford; Anthony Gilchrist; Kenneth Kirkham; Jenny Mackrell; Lorraine McKelvie; Junko Odawa, Frances Slater, Betty Zeman and Roma Ziolkowski.

In memoriam: **Josip Basic** ~ 26th December

This week's Feast Days: Sunday 21st-Saturday 27th December

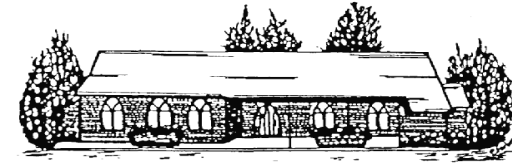
21st St Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor (1521-97), optional
22nd St Zeno, martyr, (d303)
23rd St John of Kanty, Priest (1390-1473), optional
24th Christmas Eve, Sts Adam and Eve
Progenitors of human race
25th Christmas Day (Birth of Jesus) Solemnity with Octave
26th St Stephen - Protomartyr, Feast
27th St John, Apostle & Evangelist, Feast



Happy Birthday

Dominic Burke
for today
David Buckley
for 24 December
Sean Lillis
for 27 December
Fred Pateman
for 27 December

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,
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>

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

CHRISTMAS DAY 2014: *Through this Christmas edition of the Bulletin, I offer you and those near and dear to you, all the compliments of this Season. On behalf of our parishioners, we welcome all visitors, and pray that they also will enjoy a safe, healthy, happy and Holy Christmas. In this joyful time, our hearts and minds are filled with memories of families and friends. We remember, too, that it is in the name of Jesus that we gather because it is as part of His family that we are able to experience the full impact of this Holy Season. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God is to be most found in the ordinary events of life. Our God is not hidden from us, but is revealed to us in the innocence and vulnerability of a child. It is because God loves us so much that He makes himself so accessible to us. His promise to us is to be with us, to help us face life and all its challenges through His unlimited love for us. At Christmas, we celebrate the eternal truth that His love never ends.*

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: *I also sincerely thank, on behalf of all parishioners, our Parish Councillors, Finance Committee members, Musicians, Special Ministers, Plate Collectors, Counters, Office Staff, Carers, Catechists, Morning Tea Hosts, and all those 'behind-the-scenes' people who look after church cleaning, flower displays, garden/ground maintenance, keeper of the 'loos' and sundry other voluntary workers who each contributes to our collective parish welfare. We also thank everyone involved in the conduct of our many fund-raising ventures throughout the year, including our famous Garage Sale, and just recently, the very successful 'Fashion in the Pews.' Should I have forgotten anyone, I apologise! I salute everyone for making this our own unique Blackheath Sacred Heart Catholic 'family'. Lastly, I extend to each of you God's richest blessings, His truest joys and His most tender guidance at Christmas and always.*

ADVENT WREATH: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Fulfillment")
Today, during our candle lighting liturgy, the previously lit two purple candles and the pink candle will again be lit. Also, the fourth candle (purple) set down for lighting this day will also be lit. This fourth candle, the "Candle of Love", reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth. After today, one candle remains to be lit, the "Christ Candle", the white candle that stands for Jesus Christ himself and is lit on Christmas.

There are only a few days now before Christmas. Over these next few days, I encourage you to spend some quiet time in prayer. Give thanks for the gift of Christ and the joy of Christmas. Pray for those travelling on our roads to be with family and friends. Say a special prayer over the next few days for the elderly, lonely and sick who may be separated from loved ones. Christmas can be a very lonely time for some people. Spare a thought for those who have lost loved ones this year and have to face Christmas without them. Please, let us open our hearts wide to receive Christ anew this Christmas.

Week 4: Lighting of the three 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.*

Christmas Blessings! Father Bob

More from Father Bob ...

CHRISTMAS ROSTERS: Should you be available to assist with Christmas Liturgies, please add your name to the list on the notice board, for as of now there is a shortfall in the number of volunteers needed. Many thanks!

PARISH OFFICE: Re-opens on Wednesday, 21st January 2015. I will be available for emergencies between Christmas Day afternoon and New Year's Eve on 0428 878 810. Thereafter, normal contact should be made through the Presbytery on 4787 8811. The office phone (4787 8540) will be re-routed to 4787 8811.

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION REVIEW: Congratulations to Fr Paul Hanna and Michelle Davis for once more organising and hosting last Wednesday's 2nd Rite of Reconciliation and, as well, to those twenty or so who attended.

FAREWELL TO SCHOOL: Look out Mums and Dads - the Christmas school holidays are now with us until Tuesday, 27th January 2015. May you and your children enjoy this wonderful opportunity to come together as family during this celebratory period.

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND: Despite its close proximity to Christmas and all those other demands being made of us, we managed to raise for the DWF an amount of \$815.50. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Finally, it is with great sadness I record the passing of an original Blackheath stalwart, **Marjorie Caroline CULLEN** (Julie Hodgkinson's mother) whose funeral and burial at Blackheath took place last Thursday. Such a tragic loss for someone so highly valued and regarded within our community.

May you rest in peace in God's eternal loving embrace, Marj.



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES

SACRED HEART ~ BLACKHEATH

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Vigil (Children's Mass)

Carols from 5.30pm / Mass 6.00pm

Seating will be provided for those who really need it - everyone else is encouraged to bring a picnic blanket. 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.*

SACRED HEART ~ Thursday 25th December ~ Christmas Day Mass 9.30am

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

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

- Please note that there will be **no Christmas Day Mass** at **St Joseph's** in the Megalong Valley.
- **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.

The next **Garage Sale** has been set for the weekend of **14th /15th February.**