FAITH IN OUR FUTURE PROGRAMME: Today marks the launch of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan, *Faith in Our Future,* for which we have waited so long. It represents the culmination of one of the largest consultation processes ever conducted in our Diocese, contains announcements about future directions, and provides a vision and practical ideas to assist in the renewal of our Catholic life personally and in our communities. To launch the Pastoral Plan Bishop Anthony has written a Pastoral Message to share with us in this Parish, and all other 48 Parishes in our Diocese. In place of today's homily, a DVD containing Bishop Anthony's Pastoral Message will be screened for you. This will be supported with an 8-page summary of the Pastoral Plan available to each of you at this Mass for you to keep. Please note that additional copies of this Summary will be contained in the March issue of Catholic Outlook. Please note, too, that the video of the Pastoral Letter will also be posted on the new Pastoral Planning website at: www.faithinourfuture.org.au. This is an important website for us as it will contain regular updates on how parishes, chaplaincies and agencies are responding to the Pastoral Plan. Prayer cards are also freely available today to support our growth and the sharing of our faith in the years ahead. *Faith in Our Future* is the centrepiece of the programme of renewal for our Diocese, and therefore is deserving of our close attention and action. The contents of this five-year programme will be analysed more fully in the weeks ahead.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Tuesday last (18/2) seven young candidates made their first confession at Sacred Heart, Blackheath. Their names are: **Elliarne and Thomas Clarke, Jeremy Lillis, Sophia Mallasant and Angus, Oscar and Ruby Shiels.** Congratulations to each on completing another Sacramental step along the way to their full initiation into the family of God. Congratulations also to our Sacramental Co-ordinator **Colette Lillis** for guiding these children to this wonderful highlight in their spiritual lives, and to their respective parents for their active involvement, too. A wonderful achievement, everyone!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year the World Day of Prayer is to be hosted by Blackheath's Uniting Church in Govett's Leap Road, Friday 7th March commencing at 1.30pm. Everyone is invited to attend! Light refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the service. Please contact **Norma Longmuir** for more information on **47 87 5906.** Next year will be our turn to host this worldwide day of prayer, so please support those who have organised this year's event!

PANCAKE SUNDAY: Next Sunday, 2nd March, we will have an opportunity to enjoy pancakes galore! Brought forward from Shrove Tuesday (as we always do!), an abundance of pancakes will be available after Mass during our social get-together. The cost? $1.00 per pancake. All funds raised will benefit Caritas, our major charity.

GARAGE SALE (Postscript): In last week's Bulletin, we declared record sales of $5400 for this year's sale. I was wrong! During a thorough search of the office, we found another $379.15, making the new total a whopping **$5,779.15.** WOW!

OTHER 'DOINGS': Baptism: Yesterday at Blackheath, little **Emily Addison STEWART-RILEY** was baptised. Daughter of **Lydia** and **Luke,** we congratulate these proud parents for bringing Emily into the wonderful family of God.

Happy Birthday Janet Lamerton 23rd February – Happy 6th Anniversary Philia & Frank Portelli 1st March

Wedding: Also yesterday at Blackheath, **Jessica LLOYD** married **Ryan KEENAN.** Both are resident at Cambridge Park and have been under instruction from me for about one year prior to this most important of all days for them. Sincere congratulations from all of us to them on taking this giant step together for life! ***God Bless! Fr. Bob***

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - **Friday 7th March** at 1.30pm at the **Uniting Church**, Govett's Leap Road, **Blackheath**. Members and friends from the churches of Blackheath will gather this year to pray with our ecumenical brothers and sisters from Egypt who have prepared the World Day of Prayer service. There will also be a guest speaker. Afterwards, there will be a very friendly gathering with afternoon tea.

St Patrick's 'Trivia Night'

Our famous Trivia Night will be held on **Saturday, 15th March**, from 7pm. Cost will be $5 per person OR $10 per family. BYO nibbles. Cake/Tea/Coffee will be provided, and if our chefs extraordinaire are able to bring along a cake, that would be wonderful! There will be tables of 8, and a list is on the board for your RSVP and table reservation. Get in early, this is one of the events of our social calendar.

LENTEN GROUPS 2014

Please call Mon or Brian Bright on 4757 3943 if you would like to join either of the night-time groups below. If you would like to host a group at your place or in the parish hall during the day, please also call us to discuss this.

Tuesday 4th March commencing 7.30pm	Home Host: Carmen Beard 9 Waragil Street, **Blackheath**
Thursday, 6th March Commencing 7.30pm	Home Hosts: Brian and Monica Bright, 26 Asquith Ave. **Wentworth Falls**

REFLECTION MORNING:

The first Reflection Morning for 2014 will take place on **Saturday 15th March** in the parish hall ~ 10am-1pm. All very welcome, morning tea provided, no need to book and entry by donation. This is a joint venture of Catalyst for Renewal and the Aquinas Academy. **Dominic Arcamone** will lead the reflection: ***An Imaginary Conversation between Saint Therese of Lisieux and Friedrich Nietzsche.*** Dominic works for Catholic Healthcare in a Mission and Pastoral Care Management role. Enquiries: Carmel on 4787 8706. Flyers for the year's program will be available at Mass next week.

The **Parish Dinner** will be held on **Saturday 5th July**. We have booked a spit roast with all the trimmings and sweets. Entertainment will be provided by our own Pat Drummond. Mark your diary, more information will follow.