

**Zephaniah 3:14-18** Rejoice, exult!  
**Philippians 4:4-7** The Lord is near  
**Luke 3:10-18** What must we do?

**Psalm Response**

Truly God is my salvation; I trust, I shall not fear.

**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 C**

**13th December**

Rejoice! This is our theme this Sunday, as a feeling of expectancy grows among us. We have sorrows and anxieties in our lives but God promises to renew us by his love. John the Baptist announces the Good News: the Christ is coming. We have to change our ways, let go of fear and worry, share with others, be happy and pray for what we need.



Next Week: **Mary visits Elizabeth**  
*Micah 5:1-4; Psalm 79*  
*Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44*

**Servers**

13 Dec Ray Wood  
 20 Dec Peter Gale

**Readers**

13 Dec 1st Reading David Buckley  
 2nd Reading Christa Buckley  
 Intercessions Patricia Dee  
 20 Dec 1st Reading Brian Bright  
 2nd Reading Monica Bright  
 Intercessions Robert Forbes

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

13 Dec Grahame Adams and Diana Landsberg  
 20 Dec Elizabeth Doolan and Pat Wicks

**Counters**

13 Dec Laurie  
 20 Dec Carla and Neil

**Morning Tea**

13 Dec Rasa Blansjaar  
 20 Dec Christine O'Grady

**Church Care**

18 Dec Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons

**St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**Collections - Week ending 6 Dec:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$192.00 / 2<sup>nd</sup> \$795.80 Thank you!

**Feast Days for this week! 13th to 19th December**

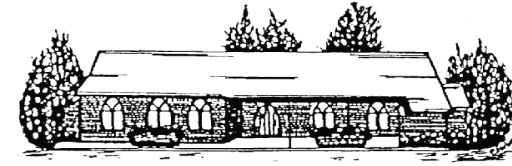
13th St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (d304), memorial  
 14th St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor (1542-91), Memorial  
 15th St Mary Di Rosa, Virgin (1813-1855)  
 16th St Adelaide of Burgundy, Queen (931-999)  
 17th St John of Matha, Priest (1155-1213)  
 19th St Anastasius, Pope (d404)  
 Blessed Urban V, Pope (1310-1370)



The Parish Office will close for the Christmas/ New Year break next Friday, **18th December** and reopen on Wednesday, **20th January**.

In memoriam  
 †  
**Marjorie Cullen**  
 13th December  
**Travis Kingston**  
 13th December  
**Rosalie Sandor**  
 13th 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:** 9.00am - 12.00pm  
**Parish Office:** 4787 8540 **Fax:** 4787 6143 All enquiries regarding Baptisms, Marriages and sick calls - 4787 8811.  
**e-mail:** shbheath2@bigpond.com

**Parish House:** 18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath. NSW 2785

**Sacred Heart Church:** 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath.

**Website:** <http://www.keepersoftheflame.net/SacredHeartParish/index.html>

<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, 3rd and 5th 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 Diana Landsberg (Chair); David Buckley (Deputy Chair) or Dennis Doherty (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](mailto: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.

**GAUDETE SUNDAY:** Today is Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is from the Latin and means "rejoice". For those who have Advent Wreaths, this is the day when the pink candle is lit to emphasise the change in direction that 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:** Timed to commence next Wednesday, 16th December at 7.30pm here at Blackheath, I am sorry to advise that Fr Paul Hanna who had earlier committed to be present for this Sacrament, told me late Wednesday that he is now not able to be attend. Unless something extraordinary occurs to enable another priest to join us at virtually no notice, that leaves me alone to conduct this Second Rite of Reconciliation. I don't mind if you don't mind. I will be seeking your advice at the end of today's Mass as to whether we proceed or not! Sorry for this state of affairs. I might add that these are tough times for Fr Paul. He regrets this situation as much as the rest of us. More at today's Mass!

**"Christmas Vigil in the Forest"** This year we are better equipped to celebrate the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass (the children/family Mass) down in the forest area below Father Bob's house and garage. Limited seating will be provided for those who really need it, however, for the rest who attend, your own picnic rugs and/or fold-up chairs would be the answer. Lighting into the area where Mass is to be celebrated is already in situ, supported by a new special battery-operated PA system to magnify both the spoken voice and our choir. The Mass should be concluded before full darkness descends upon us so as to accommodate the needs of families with younger children. All we need is fine weather for that day and evening to enable this Mass to proceed. However, should the weather be inclement (bad), we will adjourn to the church as has been the case in past years. Here's hoping!

**PAPAL BLESSING:** Tuesday week past (1st December) I not only attended the special Carrington Hotel's ICAC gathering, but also a meeting of Diocesan priests held at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa attended by Australia's new Apostolic Nuncio. Towards the end of that seminar, three priests were presented with Papal Blessing Certificates by the Nuncio. Surprisingly, I was one of those recipients. Normally, these are given after a minimum 25 years of priestly service. I had just managed 11 years. Perhaps someone thought I might not make the 25 years. .../continued

**WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW ... a Christmas concert for one world**  
 \*Blue Mountains City Band  
 \*The Heathens Choir  
 \*Katoomba Public School Band  
 with all Three Groups together in Concert  
**TODAY at 2.30pm**  
 St Hilda's Church, Katoomba  
 Cost: Entry is by Gold Coin Donation

**Diary Note**  
**The annual FAMOUS Garage Sale is set for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February.**  
*Set up will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, so please set some time aside to assist. More information to follow in the New Year.*

Can't imagine why not as God willing, I would then be a youthful 96 years, with every one of them prayerfully spent right here in this great parish!!! I will have the framed certificate with me at Mass today! Thank you, everyone, for making this award possible through your support of me.

**BLACKHEATH COMMUNITY CAROLS:** To be held this evening from 5.30-7pm in the Blackheath Community Hall, with family activities in the park from 3.30pm. Sausage sizzle and children's activities.  
**God bless! Father Bob**

**~ CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR MASSES ~**

**SACRED HEART ~ BLACKHEATH**  
**Thursday 24th December**  
**Christmas Vigil - Family Mass**  
 (in the forest, weather permitting)  
 Carols from 6.30pm / Mass 7.00pm

**Sunday 27th December**  
**Sacred Heart Blackheath ~ Mass 9.30am**  
**28th, 29th & 30th December**  
*No weekday Masses at Sacred Heart Blackheath*

**Friday 25th December**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Sacred Heart ~ Mass 9.30am**  
**St Paul's Mt Victoria ~ Mass 7.00am**


**Thursday 31st December**  
 Sacred Heart Blackheath ~ Mass 9.00am  
**Friday 1st January 2016**  
 Sacred Heart Blackheath ~ Mass 9.30am

**Saturday 26th December (Sunday Vigil)**  
 St Joseph's Megalong Valley ~ 6.00pm

**Saturday 2nd January 2016**  
 St Paul's Mt Victoria ~ 6.00pm (Sunday Vigil)  
**Sunday 3rd January 2016**  
 Sacred Heart Blackheath ~ Mass 9.30am

**\*Christmas Hamper Raffle books are available after Mass, so please take some and sell tickets to EVERYONE you know. Our hamper is the talk of Blackheath!\***

Please pray for our parishioners who are ill and also those who care for them.

 **Today - members of the Blackheath St Vincent de Paul conference** will be fundraising from 10am-2pm in Govett's Leap Road outside the supermarket. Information about the work of the Society will be available.

**Change in the Church**  
 In Florence, Italy, last month, Pope Francis addressed the Italian church and gave a bracing, 50-minute exhortation on how integral change is to a healthy life of the church. At one point, he said, "Christian doctrine is not a closed system incapable of generating questions, doubts, interrogatives -- but is alive, knows being unsettled, enlivened. It has a face that is not rigid, it has a body that moves and grows, it has a soft flesh: It is called Jesus Christ."

**Vinnies Christmas Appeal 13 & 20 December**  
**"Your donation will restore hope."**  
*Envelopes will be available today and next Sunday for the annual Vinnie's Christmas Appeal. Your donation is greatly appreciated. Envelopes will be available on the church pews.*

**Happy Birthday George Commons for 13th December**

*New Rosters for Liturgical Ministers are available at the back of the church.*