

Micah 5:1-4 Awaiting his birth  
 Hebrews 10:5-10 I am coming  
 Luke 1:39-44 Mary visits Elizabeth

**Psalm Response**  
 Lord make us turn to You, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

**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 C**

**20th December**

It is open ears and open hearts that hear the word of God. Mary has been told by the angel Gabriel that her cousin Elizabeth is expecting a child. Mary's immediate response is to visit Elizabeth, and in doing so, she receives confirmation of the greatness of her own child, the Lord and Christ. Both women are models of faith for us as we await the Lord's coming.

**Servers**

20 Dec Peter Gale  
 27 Dec Diane Stewart

**Readers**

20 Dec 1st Reading Brian Bright  
 2nd Reading Monica Bright  
 Intercessions Robert Forbes  
 27 Dec 1st Reading David Buckley  
 2nd Reading Christa Buckley  
 Intercessions Michelle Davis

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

20 Dec Elizabeth Doolan and Pat Wicks  
 27 Dec Ray Wood and Diana Landsberg

**Counters**

20 Dec Carla and Neil  
 25 Dec Julie and Lance (Christmas)  
 27 Dec Pamela and John

**Morning Tea**

20 Dec Christine O'Grady  
 27 Dec Carroll Family

**Church Care**

8 Jan Sue Gracey and Barbara Grieves  
 22 Jan Michelle Funnell and Tony Perriam

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**Feast Days for this week! 20th to 27th December**

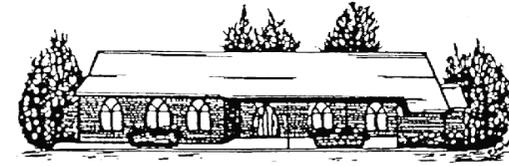
20th Sts Abraham, Isaac & Jacob (OT Fathers)  
 21st St Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor (1521-1597), optional  
 22nd Blessed Jacopone da Todi, d1306, writer of hymn Stabat Mater  
 23rd St John of Kanty, Priest (1390-1473), optional  
 24th Christmas Eve;  
 Sts Adam & Eve Progenitors of human race  
 25th Christmas Day (Birth of Jesus) Solemnity with Octave  
 26th St Stephen - Protomartyr, Feast  
 27th Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus



**Collections**

Week ending 13 Dec  
**First** \$146.80  
**Second** \$666.65  
 Thank you!  
 ☺

# 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)

**CHRISTMAS 2015:** Through this Christmas edition of the Bulletin, I seek for you and those near and dear to you, all the wonders of this Season. On behalf of our parish "family" we welcome all visitors and pray that they, too, will enjoy the same safe, healthy, happy and Holy Christmas that we seek for ourselves. In this joyful time, our hearts and minds are filled with memories of, and association with family and friends. As well, we recall it is in the name of Jesus that we gather because it is as part of His adopted family we are able to experience the full impact - the full benefit - of this Holy Season. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God is to be most found in the ordinary events of our life. Our God is not hidden from us, but is revealed to us in the innocence and vulnerability of a baby. Because God loves us so much, He makes Himself totally accessible to us. He promises to be with us to help us face life and its challenges through His limitless love for each of us. At Christmas, we celebrate the Eternal Truth that God's love never ends, and that He will always be with us, especially in our times of great need!

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:** I also take this opportunity to sincerely thank on behalf of all parishioners, our Parish Councillors, Finance Committee Members, Musicians, Special Ministers, Liturgy Guides, Plate Collectors, Money Counters, Office Staff, Carers, Catechists, A/V Operators, Morning Tea Hosts, and all those 'behind-the-scenes' who are normally unseen but who look after the cleaning of our churches, produce those wonderful floral displays and, of course, attend to our never-ending garden and ground maintenance. Those of our 'family' who involve themselves in the multitude of other sundry tasks that include, for example, the maintenance of our 'loos', also receive our sincere thanks for their contribution to our common welfare. Thanks, too, to all who organize and conduct our many fundraising events throughout the year, including our hugely successful annual garage sale. Should I have forgotten anyone and the work they do, I apologise most sincerely. Seemingly, though, most parishioners do find some way to support in a practical way the successful wellbeing of our beloved Sacred Heart Parish.

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR MASSES:** Days and times for this year are to be found elsewhere in this Bulletin. However, I draw your attention to the fact that the Christmas Vigil Family Mass will only be held in the forest IF the weather is kind to us. Second, there will be NO Saturday (Boxing Day) morning Mass (26/12) - only the Saturday Vigil Mass to be held at St Joseph's in Megalong Valley. Additionally, following the Blackheath 9.30am Sunday Masses on 27/12/15 and 3/1/16, there will be one baptism on each day. Come New Year's Eve, a young couple - **Lauren WADE and Scott FILMER** - are to be married at Blackheath. Finally, there will be NO Masses celebrated on the 28th, 29th and 30th December. That's about the programme for the next two weeks or so!

**ADVENT WREATH:** Fourth Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Fulfillment")  

 Today, during our candle lighting ceremony, all three purple candles plus the pink candle will be lighted. The fourth (purple) candle, the "Candle of Love", reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send His only Son to earth. After today, only the white (Christ) candle remains to be lit come Christmas.

**Week 4:** Lighting of the 3 purple candles and 1 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 say: **LET THIS CANDLE REMIND US THAT JESUS IS COMING AND IN HIM WE REJOICE.**  
*Christmas Blessings upon you! Father Bob*

**GARAGE SALE**

**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.

As the office is closed until 20th January, items may be left with Patricia or Marilyn after Mass any Sunday. Of course, AFTER 20th January, goods can be left at the office. Time to clear out your unwanted items, as this event is the main fundraiser for the Parish. Thank you.



~ 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

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

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

**Sunday 27th December**  
**Sacred Heart Blackheath ~ Mass 9.30am**  
**28th, 29th & 30th December**  
*No weekday Masses at Sacred Heart Blackheath*  
**Thursday 31st December**  
 Sacred Heart Blackheath ~ Mass 9.00am  
**Friday 1st January 2016**  
 Sacred Heart Blackheath ~ Mass 9.30am  
**Saturday 2nd January 2016**  
 St Paul's Mt Victoria ~ 6.00pm (Sunday Vigil)  
**Sunday 3rd January 2016**  
 Sacred Heart Blackheath ~ Mass 9.30am



A reminder that the annual **Vinnie's Christmas Appeal** will take place today. Your donation is greatly appreciated. Envelopes are available on the church pew or at the church doors after Mass. **Your donation will restore hope.**

**Happy 47th Anniversary**  
**Christa & David Buckley**  
 for 28th December

**Happy Birthday**  
**Robert Forbes**  
 for 20th December  
**Charles Hodgkinson**  
 for 20th December  
**Dominic Burkz**  
 for 21st December  
**David Buckley**  
 70 on 24th December  
**Sean Lillis**  
 for 27th December  
**Fred Patzman**  
 for 27th December

**Mercy before Judgement - Year of Mercy**  
 The church must put mercy before judgement, Pope Francis said before officially inaugurating the Jubilee year which he stressed continues the legacy of the Second Vatican Council. **"How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgement before we speak of them being forgiven by his mercy,"** the Pope said during a homily at a Mass before opening the Holy Door of St Peter's. **"But that is the truth. We have to put mercy before judgement, and in any event God's judgement will always be in the light of his mercy."**

Please pray for those who are ill and also their carers: **Michael Cooper; Nancy Edcell; Anne Farindon; David Finch James Ford; Virginia Hayward; Ken Kirkham; Frank Mackrell; Lorraine McKelvie; Cathy Salier; Amber Simmons and Frances Slater.**

**Kinship at Christmas ~ Free Christmas Lunch**  
**For the community by the community!**  
 You're invited! Come and enjoy a great meal with good company at Blackheath Community Centre at the cnr of GW H'way & Gardiners Cres. No strings attached, no preaching and no cost. **Doors open at 10.30am on Christmas Day.**  
 Free transport to the Christmas Day lunch is provided to Blue Mountains residents. Please ring 0449 517 027 or 0451 462 966 to reserve your trip to and from the lunch. [kinshipatchristmas.com.au](http://kinshipatchristmas.com.au)

