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Acts 13:14.43-52 *Rejection is opportunity*
Rv 7:9.14-17 *The Lamb their shepherd*
John 10:27-30 *Mine forever*

Psalm Response:

We are God's people, the sheep of his flock.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! (x2)

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia ...

Servers

17 Apr Grahame Adams
24 Apr Pat Wicks

Readers

17 Apr 1st Reading Christine Helby
2nd Reading Claire Maguire
Intercessions Marilyn Rowe
24 Apr 1st Reading John Woodward
2nd Reading Robert Forbes
Intercessions Dominic Burke Family

Ministers of the Eucharist

17 Apr Ray Wood and Diana Landsberg
24 Apr Peter Gale and David Buckley

Counters

17 Apr Barbara and Bill
24 Apr Marilyn

Morning Tea

17 Apr Rasa Blansjaar
24 Apr Michelle Funnell

Church Care

29 Apr Julie Hodgkinson

Next week: **Love one another** Acts 14:21-27; Psalm 144
Apocalypse 21:1-5; John 13:31-35

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

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

In memoriam: **Daisy Lillian Perriam** ~ 17th April

Feast Days of the Week (Sunday 17th to Saturday 23rd April)

17th St Stephen Harding, Abbot (d1134)
18th St Apollonius, Martyr (d186)
19th St Leo IX Pope (1022-54);
20th St Agnes of Montepulciano, Virgin (c1268-1317)
21st St Anselm Bishop & Doctor (1033-1109), optional Feast
22nd St Caius, Pope (d296); St Opportuna, Virgin & Abbess (d770)
23rd St George, Martyr (d 4th Century) - Patron of England

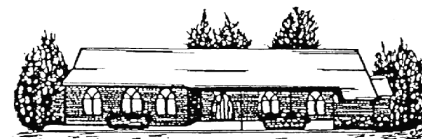
*The sheep that
belong to me
listen to my voice;
I know them and
they follow me.
I give them
eternal life; they
will never be lost.
(John 10:27-28)*



**4th Sunday of Easter
Year C
17th April 2016**

Today's readings show Christ the Good Shepherd drawing to himself people from every nation, race, tribe and language. Those who belong to him are always attentive to his voice speaking in their hearts. Jesus assures us that even though his followers experience difficulties and suffering in life, these troubles will not separate us from him. Rather, he gives us eternal life in union with him and his Father.

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 land of the Blue Mountains.

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: 02 4787 8811 Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm
Parish Mobile: 04 2887 8810 Fri 9.00am - 12.00pm
(Emergency only) For Baptisms, Marriages, & sick calls
Parish Office: 02 4787 8540 contact Parish House.
Facsimile: 02 4787 6143 **e-mail:** shbheath2@bigpond.com

Parish House: 18 Inconstant St, Blackheath.
Sacred Heart Church: 167 Wentworth St, Blackheath.

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

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, 3rd and 5th Saturdays	6.00pm
Megalong Valley - Vigil Mass	2nd and 4th Saturdays	6.00pm

Parish Pastoral Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month. If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to Fr Bob or David Buckley (Chair); Adrienne Kitching (Deputy Chair) or Carmen Beard (Secretary).

Sacred Heart Care Group: Monica Bright 4757 3943

BULLETIN ITEMS: Please contact the Parish Office on Wednesday or Thursday during office hours on 4787 8540 or email shbheath2@bigpond.com

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GOOD SHEPHERD/VOCATIONS SUNDAY: The fourth Sunday of Easter (today) is celebrated as Good Shepherd Sunday and the 53rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As mentioned in last week's Bulletin, the need for all vocations incorporating both religious and secular lifestyles is always of an extremely high order in our Christian society. While all vocations are valid, the Church forever has a great and particular need for more priests and religious. So, we the faithful on this day each year are encouraged to pray for more men and women to enter into consecrated life - a life of dedicated service to God, Church and people under the guidance of the Most Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis has this year provided for us a comprehensive message on this subject, from which I quote below some excerpts for our consideration: ***"It is my great hope that, during the course of this Extraordinary Year of Mercy, all the baptized may experience the joy of belonging to the Church and rediscover that the Christian vocation, just like every particular vocation, is born from within the People of God, and is a gift of divine mercy. The Church is the house of mercy, and it is the "soil" where vocations take root, mature and bear fruit."*** The fourth Sunday of Easter (also) offers us the figure of the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep: he calls them, he feeds them and he guides them. So, in the words of Pope Francis we pray: ***"Father of Mercy, who gave your Son for our salvation and who strengthens us always with the gifts of your Spirit, grant us Christian communities which are alive, fervent and joyous, which are fonts of fraternal life, and which nurture in the young the desire to consecrate themselves to you and to the work of evangelisation. Sustain these communities in their commitment to offer appropriate vocational catechesis and ways of proceeding towards each one's particular consecration. Grant the wisdom needed for vocational discernment, so that in all things the greatness of your merciful love may shine forth. May Mary, Mother and guide of Jesus, intercede for each Christian community, so that, made fruitful by the Holy Spirit, it may be a source of true vocations for the service of the holy People of God."*** Amen.

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND: As mentioned in last week's Bulletin, today we have the second round of DWF Appeal collections specifically for those people who were absent last week, or did not have with them the wherewithal to make any extra donation last week. We are certainly most grateful to those who have already contributed and, in advance, extend huge thanks to everyone who gives today. There are plenty of envelopes on the pews in front of you, and we ask you to place your envelope on the second collection. I also take this opportunity to remind all parishioners that these funds are exclusively used for particular charitable works undertaken within the Parramatta Diocese. A few of these ministries involve priests and religious training, family support, youth activities and a whole range of Catholic social/welfare programmes.

ANZAC DAY: On Monday week (April 25) we will be commemorating ANZAC Day. There will be a special Mass at 9.00am, allowing plenty of time for those who want to participate in the major memorial service at the highway War Memorial, Blackheath commencing at 10.45am. Wreaths will also be laid during that ceremony, including one from our parish. ***Lest we forget!***

God Bless! Father Bob

SACRED HEART PARISH DINNER

Friday 27th May

Enjoy a spit roast with trimmings, sweets, tea and coffee in our Parish Hall and be entertained by our very own Pat Drummond.

Cost will be \$35pp. We are now taking bookings (see notice board). Monies will be collected closer to the date.

Always a great night. Come along! Everyone welcome!

PARISH RENEWAL – SATURDAY 30 APRIL TO WEDNESDAY 4 MAY

The countdown is on - it is now only 2 weeks until the Preaching Team arrives and the commencement of our Parish Renewal - ***"Renewal of Mind and Heart - Scriptural Spirituality Today"***.

The Renewal Program was included with last week's Bulletin and hopefully some or indeed all of the Liturgies and Preaching Sessions have been slotted into your diaries.

The Program includes a ***Welcome Lunch*** on Sunday 1 May and a ***Farewell Supper*** following the last Preaching Session on Wednesday evening, 4 May. For each function we shall need an indication of numbers attending. And each will be a ***'Bring a Plate'*** affair.

So we are going to need to know if you are coming and if you can bring a plate ... please?

Carla Endean and Julie Hodgkinson have kindly taken on the task of coordinating both of these functions. Please telephone Carla (0421 735 709) or Julie (4787 8096) if you are able to help with the catering.

Social Justice Workshop

Sincere thanks to the 14 parishioners who attended last Sunday's Workshop facilitated by Sr Louise McKeogh - to have a conversation in relation to establishing a Social Justice Group within our Parish.

A key outcome of our discussions was a listing of the many Social Justice activities that already occur in our Parish (Vinnies, Care Group, Project Compassion, Laudate Si', etc.), as well as, an increased awareness of the many Social Justice activities within our wider Community (Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group, Soul Kitchen, East Timor, Vale Street ... just to list a few).

We came away with the resolution to form a Group that would come together 3-4 times each year with the aim of setting a program for the ensuing 3-4 months - promoting a wider Social Justice awareness and involvement - both within our Parish and within the wider Blue Mountains Community. We plan to meet in the weeks following the upcoming Parish Renewal.

Happy Birthday
Noleen Cliff
19th April

A big THANK YOU to Lance Hodgkinson
(with help from Julie)
for repairing the fence in the parking area for us.



Vinnies Food Drive

As winter approaches we know many people in Blackheath and the upper Blue Mountains will be doing it tough. Vinnies supports the Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre in providing food to members of our community. There is a basket at the back of the church for donations.

As the basket is filled, Vinnies will deliver it to BANC for distribution. BANC has asked for donations of tins of baby food, baked beans, lentils, long-life milk, pasta, rice, salmon, soup, spaghetti, stews and tuna. When you shop if you can buy an extra item or two we know your donation will be gratefully received. Thank you.

Pamela Nash, President, St Vincent de Paul, Blackheath.

Please pray for the sick and their carers: **Sharon Booth; Stan Dochniak; Frank Farsaci; Mary Forster; Frank Mackrell; Kevin Madden and Jack Solomons.**