

ADVENT

Isaiah 7:10-14 **Maiden will give birth**
 Rom 1:1-7 **You belong to Christ**
 Matt 1:18-24 **Joseph's faithful obedience**

Ps response:
 Let the Lord enter; He is the King of glory.

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.

Servers

18 Dec Jan Roberts
 24 Dec
 25 Dec Michelle Davis

Readers

18 Dec	1st Reading	Monica Bright
	2nd Reading	Brian Bright
	Intercessions	Marilyn Rowe
24 Dec	1st Reading	John Forbes
	2nd Reading	Marilyn Rowe
	Intercessions	Patricia Dee
25 Dec	1st Reading	
	2nd Reading	
	Intercessions	

Communion

18 Dec Elizabeth Doolan and Michelle Davis
 24 Dec Robert Forbes
 25 Dec

Counters

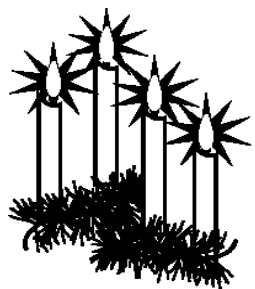
18 Dec Barbara and Bill
 25 Dec Marilyn

Morning Tea

18 Dec Michelle Funnell
 25 Dec No Morning tea

Church Care

23 Dec Julie Hodgkinson



**Fourth Sunday of
 Advent - Year A**

18 December 2016

God manifestly enters human history in the conception of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of God. God enters into our human condition with its bewildering implications for Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Jesus is to save his people from their sins. Mary as a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son. Joseph accepts in faith to welcome God-with-us, the one who will understand and share our fear and uncertainty.

**Feast Days of the Week
 Sunday 18th to Saturday 24th December**

18th	St Gatian, Bishop of Tours (3rd Century)
19th	St Anastasius, Pope (d404), Blessed Urban V, Pope (1310-70)
20th	Sts Abraham, Isaac & Jacob (OT Fathers)
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 & Eve, Progenitors of human race

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

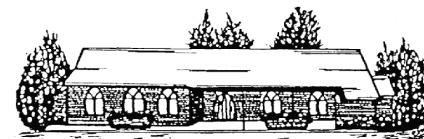
Entrance Antiphon:

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.

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

CHRISTMAS DAY 2016: Through this edition of the "Bulletin", I offer 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 a safe, healthy, happy and holy Christmas. In this joyful time, our hearts and minds are filled with memories of, and association with, families and friends. We remember, also, that it is in the name of Jesus 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. It is because God loves us so much that He makes himself so 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 thank on behalf of all parishioners, our Parish Councillors, Finance Committee Members, Special Ministers, Musicians, Plate Collectors, Counters, Office Staff, Carers, Catechists, A/V Operators, Morning Tea Hosts, and all those 'behind-the-scenes' people who look after church cleaning, flower displays, garden/ground maintenance, cleaner of the 'loos, and a whole host of other (sundry) volunteers who also contribute so much to our collective parish wellbeing. Thanks, too, to all who organise and conduct the many fund-raising events throughout the year, including our hugely successful Garage Sale. Should I have forgotten anyone and the work they do, I most humbly apologise! Lastly, I extend to each of you God's richest blessings, His truest joys and His most tender guidance at Christmas and always.

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 (childrens') Mass will be held in the church and not the forest. Second, there will be NO Saturday Christmas Eve 9.00am morning Mass at Blackheath. Finally, there will be no weekday Masses celebrated from Monday (26/12) to and including Saturday (31/12) morning Mass. Please note that change!!!

ADVENT WREATH: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Fulfillment")
Today, during our candle lighting ceremony, all three purple candles plus the pink candle will be lit. 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.**

EPIPHANY WALKERS: Once again, I remind you that this long 103kms walk from Emu Plains to Bell will see them staying here overnight on Saturday, 7th January 2017 before trekking the final 16kms to Bell the next day, Sunday. I refer you to their poster on our notice board. Should you be interested, contact names and numbers are on the poster. Best of luck! **God Bless! Fr Bob**

Quality Clothing and Accessories Pop Up Shop and Miss Pretty's Tearoom

In May we plan to hold another fundraiser in the form of a pop up shop. We are asking for donations of quality clothing to sell for this event. We are hoping to finalise details in the New Year. Just don't throw away any clothing.

Your Social Team—Marilyn, Patricia, Sue & Diane.

Working Bee Amendment: The Working Bee is amended to **Wednesday, 21st December, start time from 8am.** Also, as there may be new starters (a couple of ladies have responded to the call), please bring garden gloves and hat. Morning tea of Christmas cake and scones will be available on the day for all the hard working volunteers. Please assist our team to make it easier for the few that have been keeping our parish grounds looking so good all year!

Last chance to purchase tickets for the Christmas Hamper. The raffle will be drawn after Mass **today.** This year we have an extra prize of a \$150 hamper which was donated. Don't miss out on having the chance to win these wonderful prizes.
Only \$2 per ticket.

Happy 9th Birthday William Egan
for 17 December
Happy Birthday
George Commens ~ 18th December
Robert Forbes ~ 60 on 20th December
Sr Lynn Eastmure ~ 70 on 20th December
Charles Hodgkinson ~ 20th December
Dominic Burke ~ 21st December
David Bucklzy ~ 24th December

SOCIAL CLUB NEWS: Our annual **Garage Sale** is fast approaching. Dates for this fundraiser are as follows:
Setting up & sorting: Thursday **9 Feb** 1.30-3.30 / Friday **10th Feb** 9.30-3.30
Garage Sale: Saturday **11th Feb** 7.30-4.00 / Sunday **12th Feb** 9.00-12.00
We are asking all parishioners & friends to get busy cleaning out unwanted items to donate. These can be left at the parish hall from January. If you have larger items that you would like picked up, please call Marilyn 0414 536 601 to arrange a time suitable.

Please remember in your prayers, **Stan Dochniak** who died in recent days and all those who mourn his passing. *Rest in peace, Stan.*

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE
The Office will be closed *from Friday 23/12/16 and will reopen on Wednesday 18/1/2017.*

Free e-book (with church imprimatur) for your computer or e-reader/ tablet/iPhone: *Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-1*
This e-book, which may be downloaded free of charge to a computer or e-reader/ tablet/ iPhone, offers the Gospel for every day of this Liturgical Year A-1 (Sundays Year A, weekdays Year 1), together with a reflection of some 750 words on each daily Gospel. It may be passed on to friends or acquaintances as desired. It carries the Imprimatur of Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, given to this publication when he was Bishop of Parramatta. *Son of God: The Daily Gospel Year A-1* may be accessed at the following URL address — www.catholic-thoughts.info/ebook/

"What good does it do if Christ is born in Bethlehem but is not born in our hearts?"
Meister Eckhart, 13th Century Theologian

Prayers for the sick and their carers:
Barry Bowden; Madge Boylan; Margaret Clancy; John Crowley; Paul Kalmar; Kevin Madden and John Scott.