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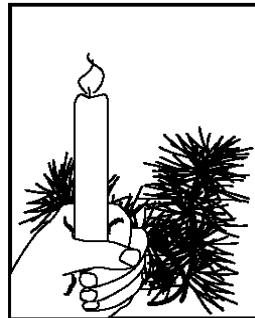
*Isaiah 2:1-5 The days to come
Romans 13:11-14 Wake up now
Matthew 24:37-44 Stay awake*

Ps response

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Stay awake, be ready. You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming. Stay awake, be ready. The Lord is coming soon. Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord is coming soon.



**First Sunday of Advent
Year A
27th November 2016**

Isaiah invites us to climb the mountain of the Lord so that we may walk in the ways of peace and justice. This call to a change of life challenges us to let go of the things that hinder our response to God's love in our lives. Then we will be refreshed in spirit, and so be alert and ready to meet Christ when he comes, even unexpectedly.

Next Week: **Prepare a way**
*Is 40:1-5.9-11; Ps 84
2Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8*

Servers

27 Nov Diane Stewart
4 Dec Grahame Adams

Readers

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|--------|---------------|----------------------|
| 27 Nov | 1st Reading | Pat Wicks |
| | 2nd Reading | Christa Buckley |
| | Intercessions | Robert Forbes |
| 4 Dec | 1st Reading | Christine Helby |
| | 2nd Reading | Claire Maguire |
| | Intercessions | Dominic Burke family |

Communion

27 Nov Jan Roberts & Grahame Adams
4 Dec Ray Wood & Jan Roberts

Counters

27 Nov Julie & Lance
4 Dec Pamela & John

Church Care

9 Dec Noeleen Cliff & Jennifer Milani

Morning Tea

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|--------|---------------|--------|------------------|
| 27 Nov | Dave Harris | 23 Dec | Julie Hodgkinson |
| 4 Dec | Monica Bright | | |

Prayers for the sick and their carers: **Madge Boylan;**
Margaret Clancy; John Crowley; Stan Dochniak;
Kevin Madden; John Scott & Jack Solomons.

**St Paul's Mt Victoria &
St Joseph's Megalong Valley
Entrance Antiphon:**

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

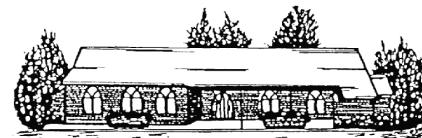
**Feast Days of the Week
Sunday 27th Nov to Saturday 3rd Dec**

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| 27th | St Maximus, Bishop (d460) |
| 28th | St James of the March, Priest (1391-1476) |
| 29th | St Saturninus, Bishop & Martyr (d257) |
| 30th | St Andrew - Apostle - Feast |
| 1st | St Eligius, Bishop (590-660) |
| 2nd | Bl. Maria Angela Astorch, Abbess, Capuchin Poor Clare (1592-1665) |
| 3rd | St Francis Xavier, Priest (1506-52) Memorial |

Advent Chant (Phil Porter) Used with permission, WOL Int'l Lic No. 2201E

Twilight then darkness, night falls and candles glow, gently surrounding us - a new birth of hope. Watching, waiting, awakening a new birth of hope.

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.

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| 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 |

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

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

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| 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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (theme - “Expectation!”): We begin the Season of Advent today, a four week period in preparation for Christmas. For most people it will be a time of shopping and parties as normal - as in the days before the Flood - “people were eating, drinking, taking wives...then the flood came and swept all away.” It is so easy to become consumed in the day-to-day, in pleasures, in the immediate concerns of living. One year leads to another year and another and another...it can all become a bit meaningless. For Christians, though, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. God has come to us, lived with us, taught us how to live and then died for us. In Advent, we remember that one day Christ will return. So we prepare for that also.

Christians are engaged in the shopping and partying, but it is all for a purpose. We are spiritual, not just material, and are constantly on a journey of spiritual growth. We look for Christ in our daily lives and seek to follow him. So may this be a blessed season for us all as we journey towards the Kingdom of God. This week, see if you can devote a little more time for reflection and prayer, and experience the joy and peace the Babe of Bethlehem brings at Christmas. Today, the Advent Wreath will be used for the first time this year, led at the beginning of each Mass by parish families who will introduce each week's prayer for us to share.

Week 1 — Lighting of the first purple candle: From Isaiah we read, “The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.” God of compassion, be with us as we prepare and wait for the birth of your Son, Jesus. As the candle is lit we say: **Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming.**

THE ADVENT WREATH: The circle of the wreath and the evergreens that make it up both signify God's endless mercy and undying love. Three purple candles and one rose-coloured (pink) candle are evenly spaced around the wreath. There is one larger white candle in the centre of the wreath. Each week, an additional candle is lit. As the light grows brighter each week, we are reminded that the Light of the World will soon arrive in glory. The central white candle is a recent addition to the Advent Wreath. It signifies the Light of Christ and is first lit on Christmas Eve, and then re-lit on Christmas Day.

PARISH COUNCIL AGM: Congratulations to David Buckley, chairperson, and to each councillor for the very successful year we have enjoyed in this Sacred Heart Parish! Congratulations, too, to the five recipients of our parish meritorious certificate award - Marilyn & Paul Rowe, Diane & Murray Stewart, Norma Carlon. Long overdue! This has been a good year for us and, as David said in his report to the meeting, everyone is to be congratulated for their support of, and contribution to, this remarkable result. So, let us now address the challenges facing us in 2017! **God Bless! Father Bob**

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.

~ An idea for Advent ~
Begin your own Advent Box and collect an item a day (canned food, Christmas treats, toiletries and toys) for donation to Katoomba Vinnies or the Blackheath Community Op Shop at Unit 4, 134 Station St, Blackheath.

AGM 2016: Sincere thanks to the 24 parishioners who attended the Parish Annual General meeting last Sunday. For those who have not yet obtained a copy of the **very informative ANNUAL REPORT**, copies are now available in each of our Mass Centres.

The most important feature at the meeting was the announcement of our Parish Awards for 2016 - a simple Certificate of Appreciation for just a few of our MANY wonderful volunteers. This year, special recognition has been given to **Norma Carlon** for many years of outstanding service to our Megalong Community, **Diane and Murray Stewart**, for similar great achievements at Mount Victoria and here at Blackheath, **Paul and Marilyn Rowe** - again for their contributions. Of course, there are many more - but it is not possible to single out everyone each year. Undoubtedly, next year there will be more! For now ... sincere thanks from all of us to Norma, Diane, Murray, Paul and Marilyn!

At the meeting, Brian Bright presented an overview of key goals in our Parish Pastoral Plan for 2017. The meeting resolved that the Parish Council further explore the notion of employing a Pastoral Associate to work within the Parish - assisting Fr Bob and all our volunteers to fulfil the many Ministries that exist. And **Thank You** to those who provided the delicious morning tea!

Laudato Si' Discussion Group
Come and join us at the next **Laudato Si' Discussion Group meeting on Wednesday, 7 December** in the Parish meeting room 7.15pm-8.30pm. Last meeting. Come and look more closely at Pope Francis' encyclical. **All Welcome!**

VINNIES “RIGHT TO HOME” CAMPAIGN
VINNIES is calling on the Commonwealth and State Governments to legislate that at least 15% of all new residential developments be for affordable housing. 28,000 people in NSW are homeless. 75% of low-income households are experiencing rental stress. Nurses, teachers, childcare professionals and other workers in essential services struggle to find a home close to their work. We need 10,000 signatures to compel the NSW Parliament to discuss this issue. Please sign our Petition available outside the church.

Also note that the Vinnies Christmas Appeal will be held on Sundays 4th and 11th December. Thank you!
Pamela Nash, President, Blackheath Conference.

Note your diary for 21st December!
Our wonderful maintenance team is once again calling for helpers for our Christmas working bee. This year they are asking for some female assistance as well. Come on girls, can you spare a couple of hours on Wed, 21 December to assist? 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!

AFTERNOON CAPERS will be held at The Old Exchange Restaurant, 83 Main St, Lithgow (next to Barratt and Smith Pathology) at 12.30pm on Wednesday, 7th December. If you need a lift, please phone Diane on 4787 1357.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period from Friday 23/12/16 and will reopen on Wednesday 18/1/2017.