

TODAY

Genesis 2:7-9;3:1-7 Root of sin
Romans 5:12-19 God's free gift
Matthew 4:1-11 Where we stand

Psalm response

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
Praise and honour, Lord Jesus Christ.*

*No one lives on bread alone, but on every word
that comes from the mouth of God. Praise...*



**First Sunday of Lent
Year A**

5th March 2017

Lent is a season for us to examine our choices in life. Today's readings put before us the reality of temptation and sin, illustrating its universal experience throughout human history from Adam and Eve to Christ. Jesus too was tempted to seek the spectacular and abandon the limitations of our human condition. He replied, 'Be off, Satan!' His obedience to his Father will win redemption for us all.

Servers

5 Mar Grahame Adams
12 Mar Jan Roberts

Readers

5 Mar 1st Reading David Buckley
2nd Reading Christa Buckley
Intercessions Patricia Dee
12 Mar 1st Reading Brian Bright
2nd Reading Monica Bright
Intercessions Marilyn Rowe

Communion

5 Mar Jan Roberts and Elizabeth Doolan
12 Mar Elizabeth Doolan and Ray Wood

Counters

5 Mar Pamela and John
12 Mar Julie and Lance

Morning Tea

5 Mar Mary Batty
12 Mar Christine Burke

Church Care

17 Mar Julie Hodgkinson

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

Entrance Antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Communion Antiphon:

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Next Week The Transfiguration Gn 12:1-4 Ps 32:4-5,18-20. 22. Tm 1:8-10 Mt 17:1-9

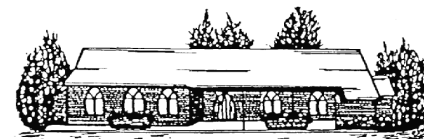
Feast Days : Sunday 5th to Saturday 11th March 2017

5th St John of the Cross, Priest (1651-1734)
6th St Colette, Virgin (1381-1447)
7th Sts Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs (d203), optional
8th St John of God, Religious & Founder (1495-1550)
9th St Frances of Rome, Religious (1384-1440), optional
10th St John Ogilvie, Priest & Martyr (1579-1615)
11th St Eulogius, Martyr (d859)

A VOCATION VIEW

Lent is a season of renewal, of spiritual growth. These forty penitential days invite us to strive for our true calling.

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 Karen Hayward (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

TWO SAD FAREWELLS: Isn't it extraordinary that almost literally one minute we may be enjoying the valued friendship of a parish "family" member, only to find in the next instant that they have left us, never to be seen again in this life? This occurred twice to me last weekend! Just imagine the horrific effect this had on their families.

First the Saturday afternoon urgent call to **Margaret (Rita) Jenner** in Katoomba Hospital. We enjoyed a conversation together during which Rita was anointed and received Holy Communion. Saw her next day after Mass with no speech shared. Was advised that evening of Rita's departure from life. I was dumbfounded!

Second: I visited **Ken Kirkham** in his Penrith nursing home on the Sunday afternoon - a regular event. He was asleep so I imparted a blessing, and left! He died the next (Monday) afternoon as he was being taken to Nepean Hospital. Unbelievable!

Both are to be farewelled this coming week via funeral Masses - **Rita's to begin at midday, Tuesday at Blackheath**, with the burial to take place in the local cemetery.

Ken's will be held on Thursday, also at Blackheath commencing at 12.00 noon, with cremation to follow at Leura Memorial Gardens.

May they each now enjoy the fullness of God's love and peace for all eternity! So, **Rest in Peace RITA and KEN**. You will forever remain in our thoughts and prayers as will your families.

LENT: It's not often that we celebrate a change of two Seasons on the one day - 1st March - climatically, the move from Summer to Autumn on the same day as we move spiritually from Ordinary Time to Lent. However, in any case, by now we should be progressing in our Lenten endeavours in what is for most of us our major penitential effort for this year. Over the next 36 days we will have many opportunities to join Lenten activities that will help us form an ever-closer relationship with God and each other - a time when we seek to revise, renew and reset our priorities in this life. Lent is that special time of the year when our liturgies are especially framed to support us as we carefully self-analyse where we are at, where we want to be, and how best to reach that goal. Yes! Lent is a time for action!

A reminder, too, that all Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence from meat, except Good Friday which is both a day of fast and abstinence for those to whom it applies.

On another tack, I also remind you that every Catholic is obliged to receive the Sacraments of both Reconciliation and Holy Communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday that this year falls on 11th June.

Finally, during Lent the "Alleluia" is omitted in Mass, even when celebrating Solemnities and Feasts. The "Gloria" is not said during this period - its next use being Holy Thursday, 13th April.

WEDDING BELLS: Saturday week past (25/2), **Samantha SWEENY** (raised in Blackheath) married **Nicholas MONTELEONE** (from Canberra) in Leura's Saint Bonaventure's Church with myself as celebrant. As the Sweeny family still live in Blackheath, perhaps some of our parishioners may be acquainted with Samantha.

DIOCESAN VISITORS: Friday afternoon just passed, we will have played host to our Parramatta Diocese's **Chief of Operations and Finance, Geoff Officer** and the newly appointed **Director of Infrastructure and Structures, Martin Lugard**. I presume they want to look at our properties. Will let you know if it's anything else.
God Bless! Father Bob

*Judy Harris ~ 8th March 2014
Remembering your "Goodbye Day".
We love and miss you so much.
Lyn, Greg, David & Family.*

HANDEL's MESSIAH Blackheath Phoenix Choir

An enlarged Phoenix Blue Mountains Choir together with a chorus of guest singers and professional soloists, supported by a chamber orchestra with both harpsichord and organ, will perform Handel's Messiah.

**Included in the Choir are our very own
Pat and Phil Wicks, Joe Blansjaar,
Sigi Cerveny, Elizabeth Giddey
and David Buckley.**

*The core of the work deals with the events of
Lent, Easter and Pentecost - so very timely.
Some of the most poignant moments
surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection
contrast with the joyful Christmas music
and the Hallelujah.*

*Our Musical Director, Rowen Fox, has
researched the modern understanding of the
original work. A Palm Sunday performance
restores the work to its original place in the
calendar echoing its first performance at the
Great Music Hall in Dublin in April 1742.*

**When: Palm Sunday 9th April 2pm
Where: Blue Mountains Theatre
& Community Hub, Springwood.
Tickets: \$28; Concession \$23.**

**If you are interested in joining a Parish
Group, please contact Joe (4788 1136)
or David (4787 5105).**

To add someone's name to the list for 'Prayers for the sick', please email the Parish Office: shbheath2@bigpond.com



**First Sunday
of Lent**

Like many of her neighbours in her rural village in the Philippines, Dinia struggled to feed and educate her children and the struggle worsened after her husband's untimely death. With the help of Caritas, she now has the skills to earn a better income for her children and help her neighbours.



**Please donate
to Project
Compassion 2017
and help people in rural areas of
the Philippines build better
futures for their families and
their neighbours.**

*You can donate through Parish
boxes and envelopes, by visiting
www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
or phoning 1800 024 413.*

**Happy Birthday
Joe Blansjaar for 10th March**

**Happy Golden Anniversary
Jenny & Lindsay Inman ~ 11 March**

Please pray for the sick
and their carers:
**Barry Bowden; Madge Boylan;
Margaret Clancy; Matthew Cook;
John & Marion Crowley; Paul Kalmar;
Kevin Madden & Philia Portelli.**