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2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16 **God's promise**
Romans 16:25-27 **Glory to God**
Luke 1:26-38 **You will bear a son**

Response to the Psalm:

I will sing for ever of the goodness of the Lord.

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

21 Dec Diane Stewart
28 Dec Pat Wicks

Readers

21 Dec 1st Reading Terry Beaver
Ps/Intercessions Catherine Beaver
2nd Reading Elizabeth Giddey
28 Dec 1st Reading Anthony Gilchrist
Ps/Intercessions Jane Nolan
2nd Reading Carol Drummond

Ministers of the Eucharist

21 Dec Heather Carroll and Diana Landsberg
28 Dec Julie Hodgkinson and Wayne Evans

Children's Liturgy

21 Dec Moira McNair
28 Dec To be advised.

Counters

21 Dec Barbara and Bill
28 Dec Christa and David

Morning Tea

21 Dec Carroll Family
28 Dec Jan Roberts

Church Care

26 Dec Pat and Phil Weeks
2 Jan The Gatt Family



4th Sunday of Advent
21 December 2008

King David wishes to build a house for the Lord, but God's way is different.

In God's time, Mary is chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the Messiah who will be given the throne of his ancestor David. We, too, can be part of God's kingdom if we say with Mary, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be as you have said.'

Communion Service

on New Year's Day at 9.00am will replace Communion Service on Wednesday, 31 Dec.

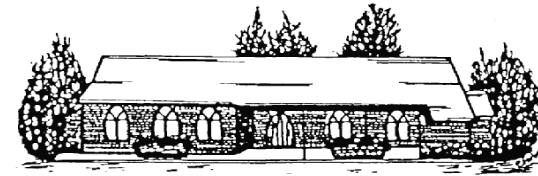


Our Lady's reverence

God showed me something of Our Lady's spiritual wisdom and honesty, and I understood her profound reverence when she saw her God and Maker; how reverently she marvelled that he should be born of his own creature, and of one so simple. This wisdom and honesty, which recognised the greatness of her Creator and the smallness of her created self, moved her to say to Gabriel in her utter humility, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord!' By this I knew for certain that in worth and grace she is above all that God made, save the blessed humanity of Christ.

Julian of Norwich (c.1342-1416)

SACRED HEART PARISH



Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

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.

All enquiries regarding Baptisms, Marriage and sick calls to the Parish House.

~ Pastoral Director ~ Sister Lyn Eastmure O.P. ~

Parish House 4787 8811 Fax: 4787 6143
Parish Office 4787 8540 email: shbheath2@bigpond.com

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

Blackheath - Mass	Sunday	9.30 am
Liturgy of the Word		
and Communion Service	Wednesday	9.00 am
Praying the Gospel	Wednesday	9.30 am
Praying the Rosary	Thursday	2.00 pm
Prayer of the Church	Friday	9.00 am
Meditative Prayer Service (one hour)		
using Scripture and Taizé music	4th Saturday of month	2.00 pm
Mount Victoria - Mass	1st Friday of month	7.00 pm

Care Group: Carmel Vanny (4787 8706) Michelle Funnell (4757 2638)

Parish Pastoral Council meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month. If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Sr Lyn, Monica Bright or Chris Le Gras.

Bulletin Items: please contact Kate by 7.00pm Thursday - phone 4787 8520 or email sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

In the final days leading up to Christmas, the Liturgy contains the beautiful "O Antiphons". The one for this Sunday evening is: O Come, Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice; shine on those lost in the darkness of death! "... But the dawn will not come for most people of the world unless we ourselves become the kind of people whose lives bring light to the poorest of the poor wherever we go, in whatever we do." *Sparks of Advent Light* p.30 J. Chittister 2008

"Let God's Dream Be Born"

Blessings, Lyn.

Parish Pastoral Leadership for Next Year

Over the past few weeks, I have been in discussion with Fr Bob McGuckin regarding the Pastoral Leadership of our parish when I leave. As there is no one available for the moment, the position will be re-advertised, although, there is the possibility of someone being available in a few months' time. I have been informed that Fr Bob Sheridan will come to cover this period. He will move into the Parish House on 6th or 7th January.

Michelle Davis sends Christmas Greetings to all parishioners. You may like to read her letter which is on the notice board.

Position Available: If you are interested in a position for four hours a week in the parish office, would you please email or contact Sr Lyn in the coming week.

Mass of the Holy Innocents: On Monday, 29 December, Bishop Anthony Fisher OP will celebrate Mass for the Reparation of the Sin of Abortion and Sanctity of Human Life at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Diana Ave, Kellyville. Mass at 11am followed by Rosary procession to the Shrine for the Unborn, Mount St Francis, 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville.

Position vacant: The Diocese of Broken Bay is seeking to recruit a **Senior Parish Support Officer** to be based the Northern Deanery Office of the Parish Support Unit at the Caroline Chisholm Centre in Pennant Hills. Details: under "Employment" at www.parra.catholic.org.au or contact Mrs Ann Maree Whenman tel 9847 0482, annmaree.whenman@dbb.org.au

From the Parish Pastoral Council

~ YOU ARE INVITED ~

Come and join us after Mass this Sunday, 21 December, down in the hall to officially farewell Sr Lyn. We thank her for her six years of loving service in our Sacred Heart Community. Then, join us for a picnic in Blackheath Park where you can catch up with Sr Lyn.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your generous response for Sr Lyn's gifts.

Australian Red Cross

When someone asks what you want for Christmas, ask for something special. Ask them to give blood - it's the greatest gift of all. Do something special. Call the Red Cross Blood Service on 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, 24 December

Carols at 7.00pm

with Mass at 7.30pm

We encourage children to come to Christmas Eve and take part in the Gospel Story. They may like to dress as a shepherd or an angel.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, 25 December

Carols at 9.10am with Mass at 9.30am

Please pray for those who are ill:
Barbara Hunt; Roger Johnstone; Travis Kingston; Chelsey Laird; Cec O'Brien; Irene Peacock and David Ridoutt.

May the vital, loving strength of this community help them on their journey to good health.

Happy Birthday

Dominic Burke for today

David Buckley for 24th December

Sean Lillis for 27th December

In memoriam

Josip Basic ~ 26th December

Let us remember **Betty Dowdell** and pray especially for comfort and peace for her family in their time of shock and sorrow.

Music and Readings for Christmas

Sunday, 21 December, at 7.30pm in St Finbar's Church, 46 Levy St, Glenbrook.

Program includes: massed choirs, Penrith Symphony Brass, harp, organ. Donation: individuals \$10, families \$25.

At each of the church doors, you will find copies of the book "Mary MacKillop East Timor 1994 - 2006. This is free for the taking.

Origin of the Crib

In 1223, St Francis of Assisi celebrated Christmas in the small town of Greccio in Italy. On that occasion, St Francis had people come to Midnight Mass in a cave where there was an ox and an ass and a manger filled with straw. And the story went around that the Christ child appeared in the straw and Francis held the Babe of Bethlehem in his arms.



"Francis would smile at our nice varnished cribs, though he would bless any home that has one. Probably he would prefer those set up outdoors with live animals. And if he were to stand by one and preach today, he might say something like this: "Look deeper than this pleasant scene. See your God become your food for eternity in a feeding place for animals. See the simple bands wound around the helpless baby, not the embroidered dress. See a man and woman wearing the clothes of the poor. See and smell the animals. Feel the cold and dirt of the cave, lighted only by a little fire. And adore your God, who took a human heart that could know the greatest love and the sharpest pain, arms that could embrace the sinners, the neurotics, the lepers, and hands that could touch cheeks running with tears, and be pierced with nails. Adore your poor and humble God."

Leonard Foley O.F.M. (December 1989 issue of St. Anthony Messenger.)