

FOCUS

2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 **Infidelity and mercy**
Ephesians 2:4-10 **God's love and mercy**
John 3:14-21 **Son sent to save**

Response to the Psalm:

Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.

God loved the world so much,

He gave us his only Son, that all who believe in Him might have eternal life.

Glory to you, O Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ.

Servers

22 Mar Bill Grieves
29 Mar Ray Wood

Readers

22 Mar 1st Reading Julie Hodgkinson
Ps/Intercessions Ian Maguire
2nd Reading Claire Maguire
29 Mar 1st Reading Mary Duggan
Ps/Intercessions Steve Gauci
2nd Reading Ron Davis

Ministers of the Eucharist

22 Mar Carla Edean and Pat Wicks
29 Mar Diana Landsberg and Elizabeth Giddey

Children's Liturgy

22 Mar Anne Broomfield
29 Mar Julie Hodgkinson

Counters

22 Mar Barbara and Charles
29 Mar Monica Van Horen

Morning Tea

22 Mar Bettina LeGras
29 Mar Sue Holz

Church Care

27 Mar Judy Harris and Monica Van Horen
3 Apr Julie Hodgkinson



4th Sunday of Lent
Year B

God's love is constantly being given to us, even when we are not being attentive to it.

Major catastrophes and exciting happenings all have the potential to draw us to God.

We often need to be reminded that God has come into our world precisely to enliven our faith and enkindle our love. On the cross, Jesus will be the ultimate sign that God loves us.

Next Week: The hour has come
Jeremiah 31:31-34;
Psalm 50 Hebrews 5:7-9;
John 12:20-30

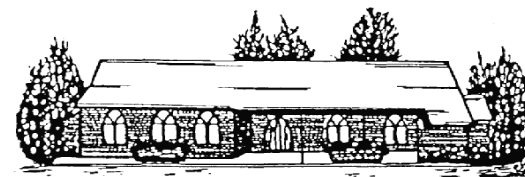
Please remember in your prayers, Karen Hayward's son, **Duncan**, who was deployed to Afghanistan with the Army on 17 February for six months.

Mass of Compassion (David Haas)

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus Christ, until you come, until you come in glory.

Great Amen: We sing Amen! We sing Amen!
All glory and praise be yours, O God.
We sing Amen! We sing Amen!
With faith and hope and love, we sing Amen!

SACRED HEART PARISH



Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath

Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria

Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

We wish to acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the original custodians of this land.

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.
~ Parish Administrator ~ Fr Bob Sheridan ~

Parish House: 4787 8811 Fax: 4787 6143
Parish Office: 4787 8540 email: shbheath2@bigpond.com
Office hours: Wednesday 1.00 - 5.00pm and Thursday 10.30am - 2.30pm

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

Blackheath - Mass
Sunday 9.30am
Evening Mass Tuesday 6.30pm
Morning Mass Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9.00am
Thursday 8.00am
Praying the Rosary Thursday 2.00pm
Reconciliation Saturday 9.30am to 10.00am
Mount Victoria - Mass 1st Friday of month 7.00pm
Megalong Valley - Vigil Mass 2nd Saturday of month 6.00pm

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

Parish Pastoral Council meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Fr Bob, Monica Bright (Chair), Adrian Carroll (Deputy Chair) or Chris Le Gras (Secretary).

Bulletin Items: Please contact Kate Forbes by 7.00pm Thursday.
Phone 4787 8520 or email sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com

CATECHISTS:

Two weeks ago I raised the issue of becoming actively involved with our children's religious education in the three local public schools. If you remember, to enable that to occur we had to change our Thursday Mass time to 8.00am from the previous 9.00am start. This now enables me to better support our volunteer catechists of whom there are at least 12 parishioners and, of course, all of our Catholic children attending school at Blackheath, Mount Victoria and Megalong Valley.

Today at the 9.30am Mass, we are to witness the 2009 commissioning of our catechists as they continue to bring the message of God, love and family into the lives of our precious children. We thank Our Lord for them, and for the time and effort they devote to this invaluable work.

Certainly, our catechists are trained in a scaled, co-ordinated program of learning to equip them for the work they do. The teaching program is pre-determined by others in the Parramatta Diocese and presented in an easy-to-teach system well supported via print and other visual aids. Our catechists need to know that as a parish community, we are most grateful to each of them for their on-going commitment. Sincere thanks from us all and congratulations on your commissioning!

So, to our plight! Simply put, WE NEED MORE CATECHISTS! We particularly seek volunteers to assist in the classroom where you would be guided by a catechist in relation to class activities. Absolutely no training whatever is required of you for this work. Zilch! Zero! Zot! So, what about it? Are you concerned about the spiritual welfare of our local Catholic children? Have you got an hour to spare of a Thursday morning from, say, 9.00am? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', then why not give it a try. Otherwise, you will never know just how rewarding and satisfying this vocation can be. Find out more from our local co-ordinator, Noeleen Cliff (ph. 4787 8172) or see me after Mass this morning.

On behalf of the Blackheath parish, we also thank the Regional Co-ordinator, Veronica Sultana, for her presence and involvement in today's commissioning of our catechists. Many thanks, Veronica!

God Bless! (Fr.) Bob



God loves us so much

Too often people are brought up with a wrong concept of God and their reaction to Him is one of fear or apprehension. This can take many years to break down. The simple thought that God loves me, and the words used to describe human love, such as warmth, intensity, strong, unreserved, all have a meaning in describing God's love. It is quite literally true that no one can, or will ever, love me more than God does.

Cardinal Basil Hume (1923-1999)

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A special thanks goes to our Hospitality Group who co-ordinated our Festival of the Potato for St Patrick's Day. Special thanks to Mary Duggan for her wonderful creativity and gathering of our finest chefs to provide such a wonderful meal. The proceeds of this, of course, going to Project Compassion. I also wish to acknowledge the wonderful service and creativity provided by Alfrida and Michelle. Thank you to all who provided such fun for our families and, of course, the great company enjoyed by us all. Orb, our 90 year old neighbour over the back fence, enjoyed reminiscing about Old Sydney with our own Kevin. It appears they worked in buildings next to each other. The world is a small place!!

Special thanks to David Buckley for arranging our Caritas Speaker, Evan Ellis. His commitment to social justice is truly inspiring. His statistics were truly alarming and, of course, calls for work that empowers our brothers and sisters. Such is the action of Caritas. He also thanked the community for our lived commitment and generosity to helping those who struggle for their own dignity and survival in many countries. May we continue" to act justly, love tenderly and walk humbly with our God." (Micah)

THANK YOU CELEBRATION

In May we hope to have our community of priests join us to celebrate with Fr Bob and to say thank you for their wonderful contribution to our spirituality at Sacred Heart.

They have been a special part of our story and have celebrated Eucharist with us on a regular basis. Their friendship and wisdom has meant much to all of our community and has been a source of great inspiration to us all.

Peace and blessings, Monica.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Oliver Burke
3 on 23rd March
Maria Cora
for 26th March
Ray Wood
for 28th March

Happy 53rd Anniversary
Ken and Shcilagh Kirkham
for 24th March

Easter Sunday Cake Stall

All donations of cakes, jams, biscuits, pickles and items suitable for the cake and craft stall will be very welcome.

Food items are to have a list of ingredients attached.
It would be appreciated if all items are wrapped and priced ready for sale.

Please pray
for those who are ill:
Alma Birrell; Russell Ellis;
Judy Frazer; Barbara Hunt;
Roger Johnstone; Travis
Kingston; Irene Peacock;
Cec O'Brien, David Ridoutt
and **Hugo Riggs.**



Parish Working Bee Saturday 28 March

Diary Date ~ Men's Breakfast
Saturday, 18 April
Speakers

Robert Forbes and
Peter Ticehurst

As always,
great food and friendship.
Please note that the Breakfast
originally scheduled for
28th March has been cancelled
because of the clash with
the Working Bee.