

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

**Responsorial Psalm:** 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**

23 Dec Michelle Davis  
30 Dec Diane Stewart

**Readers**

23 Dec	1st Reading	Christa Buckley
	Ps/Intercessions	David Buckley
	2nd Reading	Sr Lyn
30 Dec	1st Reading	Steve Gauci
	Ps/Intercessions	Frances Huckstepp
	2nd Reading	Mary Duggan

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

23 Dec Pat Leeder and Jan Roberts  
30 Dec Monica and Brian Bright

**Children's Liturgy**

23 Dec Moira McNair  
30 Dec No Children's Liturgy during the holidays.

**Counters**

23 Dec Louise and Laurie  
30 Dec Michael Cooper

**Morning Tea**

23 Dec Fiona Evans and Jo Gauci  
30 Dec Barbara Grieves

**Church Care**

28 Dec Judy Harris and Monica Van Horen  
4 Jan Julie Hodgkinson



**Fourth Sunday of  
Advent Year A**

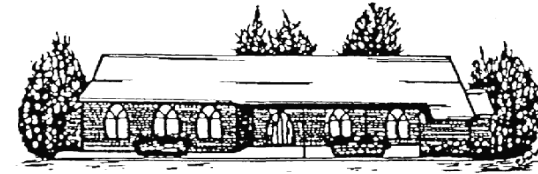
The Lord will be born  
very soon. Do we try  
God's patience by not  
listening or believing his  
promises? God implores  
us to listen and put our  
trust in him. Jesus will be  
called Emmanuel,  
'God-is-with-us'.

Does our last-minute  
rush in preparation for  
Christmas obliterate  
the true meaning and  
celebration of the day  
when Christ was born?  
May our hearts be ready  
to recognise Jesus when  
he comes to us.

**Joseph took his wife to his home.** We are all aware of Mary's great 'Yes' to God's plan, but do we really acknowledge Joseph's 'Yes'. His acceptance is also part of this and is often passed over. We hear no words from Joseph (often called Joseph the Silent), but by his actions he filled the role he was given. He was the one who organised the trip to Bethlehem; he found a place for Jesus to be born; he took his family into Egypt; he was the bread-winner in an alien land; and, returning to Nazareth, he set up as a carpenter, teaching this useful skill to his son. Did Joseph listen to his heart and was this the part of him the angel spoke to? Did the course of action he'd chosen weigh heavily? Surely it was with great relief he took Mary home. **Lord, like Joseph, may I pay attention to the many ways you communicate with me.**

*from Daily Prayer online*

# 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>

<b>Blackheath - Mass</b>	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
Christian Meditation (one hour)	Tuesday (4787 7098)	7.00 pm
Meditative Prayer Service (one hour) using Scripture and Taizé music	4th Saturday of month	2.00 pm
<b>Mount Victoria - Mass</b>	1st Friday of month	7.00 pm

**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, David Buckley (Chair), Monica Bright (Deputy Chair) or Chris le Gras (Secretary).

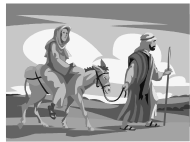
**Bulletin Items:** please contact Kate by 7.00pm Thursday - phone 4787 8520  
or email [sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:sacred.heart.bulletin@gmail.com)

Dear Friends,

With birthdays and Christmas about me I found this worth reflecting upon: *In any birthday celebration, we pause to celebrate the life of the person as it has unfolded so far. It is not so much the baby we remember but the person now, in whatever stage of life they are and with memories of all the richness of their life – both its joys and sorrows. So at Christmas... we celebrate a birth, whatever day it may have happened, but more importantly, we celebrate a life given for us. We celebrate that God has joined our human story in the person of Jesus and lives on with us in the Spirit. A Saviour has been born!* Mary Coloe PBVM Sundays under the Southern Cross. P12 Blessings, Lyn.

**“What good does it do if Christ is born in Bethlehem but is not born in our hearts?”**

Meister Eckhart,  
13th Century  
Theologian



*May each of you enjoy the wonderful blessings of this Christmas Season – a time to be with family and friends, a time of joy, peace and thanksgiving. I thank all who have contributed to the enrichment of the parish over the past year, no matter how small it may have seemed to you. I especially thank all those who put so much passion and effort into our liturgies, especially our Christmas, so that we can enter into the real spirit of what Christmas is all about. Sr Lyn.*

**WOMAN OF GOD** Ameena, an illiterate Muslim woman and I shared a 3-bed-room in hospital. She was born in Kurdistan and grew up in Lebanon. She never went to school because girls weren't allowed to in her village. To this day she cannot even write her own name. She used to come, holding her appointment card upside down, for me to tell her where she was supposed to go. She was sixteen when she was married off by her father to a youth who was only one year older. A few years later he took her to Germany where she bore him six children. It was an unhappy marriage. She never learnt proper German because her husband did not allow her to attend classes, but she made sure that all her daughters got a good education in Germany. The two of us got on quite well. She kept calling me 'woman of God' because I am a nun, and she was proud to tell me that she knows Isa and Mariam (Jesus and Mary). She just loved it when I put on my habit and veil. We used to pray together, seated on the floor, and she would ask me which direction Mecca was before starting to mumble her prayers. Whenever she was very distressed, and there was no way of comforting her, I would say 'Ameena, Allahu aqbar wa-rahman' (God is great and merciful – the only Arabic phrase I knew), and He knows. When we said farewell to each other, she said, 'You, woman of God, you pray for me!' I thought it was quite remarkable for a Muslim to ask a Christian to pray for her. I often think of her. (Elisabeth) from **peoplespeak**

## Christmas Roster

### Christmas Eve

Server Jan Roberts  
Communion Servers Monica & Brian Bright, Wayne Evans,  
Julie Hodgkinson and Pat Wicks  
1st Reader Bettina / Chris Le Gras  
Psalm Sung  
2nd Reader Terry Beaver  
Intercessions Le Gras

### Christmas Day

Server Ray Wood  
Communion Servers Adrian Carroll and volunteers\*\*  
1st Reader Kevin Burns  
Psalm Sung  
2nd Reader Robyn Burns  
Intercessions Sr Lyn

\*\*If you are available and can assist, please speak to Sr Lyn after mass today.

Today is your last chance to buy raffle tickets for the Christmas Hamper and 'Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake.' Raffles will be drawn after mass today.

## Christmas Timetable

### 24 December, Monday:

6.30pm Carols  
7.00pm Christmas Vigil  
Children's Mass

### 25 December, Tuesday:

9.00am Carols  
9.30am Mass

*Happy 39th Anniversary  
Christa and David Buckley  
for 28th December*

In memoriam  
✠ **Josip Basic** ~ 26 December

See noticeboard:  
**CIS Catholic Institute for  
theology and ministry:**  
January Summer School Program  
Living As Joy: New Year's Eve  
Workshop - Mulgoa

## Happy Birthday

**David Buckley** for 24th December  
**Sean Lillis** for 27th December  
**Meg Huckstepp** for 28th December  
**Brent Tokoli** for 29th December

## FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Katoomba Christmas Lunch is held each year by the Kinship at Christmas Foundation - a community group that provides a meal and some company on Christmas Day.

~There is NO CHARGE~  
~There is NO PREACHING~  
~There are NO STRINGS~

Just a friendly get-together for Christmas.  
**Lunch will be served from 11.30am on  
Christmas Day at the Katoomba Civic Centre,  
Katoomba St, Katoomba.**

Doors open at 10am for tea and coffee.  
Transport is available for those who have mobility problems. If you need more information, ph 4576 0720.  
The Foundation relies on the generosity of community members and sponsors  
~ donations are appreciated.