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*Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Listen to God's prophet
1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Undivided attention
Mark 1:21-28 Authoritative teaching*

Responsorial Psalm: **If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Gospel Acclamation: (sung) **Alleluia!**

Servers

29 Jan Bill Grieves
3 Feb Diane Stewart (Mt Victoria)
5 Feb Michelle Davis

Readers

29 Jan 1st Reading Frances Huckstepp
Ps/Intercessions Gerard Nolan
2nd Reading Pat Waters
3 Feb 1st Reader Therese Gatt
2nd Reader Pat Leeder
5 Feb 1st Reading David Buckley
Ps/Intercessions Carol Drummond
2nd Reading Christa Buckley

Ministers of the Eucharist

29 Jan Ray Wood and Norma Longmuir
5 Feb Heather Carroll and Pat Leeder

Children's Liturgy

29 Jan No Children's Liturgy during holidays.
5 Feb Sr Lyn

Counters

29 Jan Irene Peacock
5 Feb Barbara and Charles Hodgkinson

Morning Tea

29 Jan Robyn Burns
5 Feb Dulcie Davis

Church Cleaning

3 Feb Robyn and Kevin Burns
10 Feb Betty Zeman and Jan Barnier



**Fourth Sunday
Year B**

29 January 2006

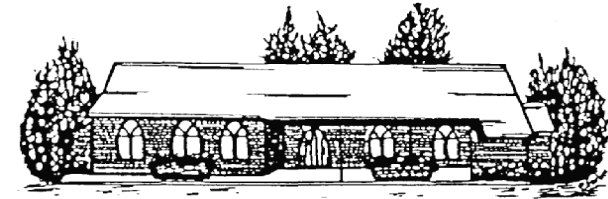
The people in the synagogue at Capernaum were struck with the great difference between the teaching of Jesus and that of the scribes. Jesus taught with authority. He also acted with authority: with a simple word of command he expelled the unclean spirit. What is the source of Jesus' authority? Surely, it is his union with his Father, whose will he sought in silent prayer.



Teachers of the love of God: Saints and mystics are the great teachers of the loving kindness and fascination of God. Watching them, we become aware of that mysterious give and take between His Spirit and us by which human personality is transformed and changed; and of the fundamental fact that, in all such give and take, the Divine action comes first... God's impact on the soul always seems to them to involve, first, a gift, next a demand, and last the response, gradual growth, and ultimate transfiguration of that soul. Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941)

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.

Sister Lyn Eastmure O.P. - Pastoral Director

Parish House 4787 8811
Parish Office 4787 8540
Fax 4787 6143
e-mail shbheath@hermes.net.au

Blackheath

Mass	Sunday	9.30 am
Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service	Wednesday	9.00 am
Praying the Gospel	Wednesday	9.30 am
Prayer of the Church	Friday	9.00 am

Mount Victoria

Christian Meditation for 1 hour	Every Wednesday	7.00 am
Mass	First Friday of month	7.00 pm

Megalong Valley

Liturgy of the Word	Last Friday of month	9.00 am
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Parish Pastoral Council meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month. If you have an issue you would like discussed please submit it in writing to either Sr Lyn, David Buckley (Chair), Monica Bright (Deputy Chair) or Chris le Gras (Secretary).

Dear Friends,

“If we stop to be kind, you must often swerve from your path’, Mary Webb wrote. The truth is that most kindness interrupts our personal agendas. Kindness is what we do when we should be doing something else. Kindness is a type of love. ... kindness is doing what we don’t need to do for someone who has no right and no intention to demand it. Then community happens automatically.” *Joan Chittister, Living Well. Page 27*

Let us all continue to make ‘community happen’! **Blessings, Lyn.**

We remember those who have died recently: **Kirsty Hume, Arthur Fineran** (Monica Bright’s uncle) and **Helen Commens** (the mother of George and Lachlan). May they delight in God’s loving embrace. We pray also for peace and consolation for their families.

Mass at Mount Victoria this Friday, 3 Feb at 7pm. All welcome.

Happy Birthday

*Chris Le Gras
for 2nd February
Megan Carroll
for 3rd February
Laura Carroll
for 4th February*

SVP - Blackheath Conference will meet on Tuesday, 31st January at 3.30pm in the Meeting Room.

Centacare Parramatta provides individual, couple and family counselling for any type of relationship problem. Sliding fee scale/low cost counselling available for those in need. Call 9630-7788 for an appointment.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS:

Norma Longmuir has decided to stand down from leadership of our Parish Social Committee and we thank her for her years of wonderful service.

There will be an almost completely new committee with Anne-Marie Bland co-ordinating the group. With all this vibrant energy we are looking for fresh ideas from the parishioners. Please come along and share your ideas and thoughts. You will be made very welcome and there is no obligation to join any committee. Date: Tuesday, 31st January, 2pm at Anne-Marie's home, 85 Godson Ave, Blackheath. RSVP to Anne-Marie on 4787 6325 before noon Tuesday.

Sometimes, Lord, we hear your voice asking us for something that will upset us by pulling us out of our ‘comfort zones’ and we harden our hearts. It is easy to think that we have imagined your call and to tell ourselves that you really didn’t ask us to help that unattractive person. We are too busy, too inept or too old to cross the road as the Good Samaritan did, so someone else can do it for once. Each time this happens the selfish crust hardens around our hearts. *Please, dear Lord, help us to soften our hearts by joyful gratitude to you for all your wonderful gifts so that, like the psalmist, we will come before you giving thanks with songs in our softened hearts.* from *Daily Prayer online*

RCIA: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults can be traced back to the beginning of the Church’s tradition. In the first three centuries there were three essential elements for the time of preparation:

1. Faith in Christ and Conversion of Lifestyle – the pre-requisites of acceptance;
2. The whole community took responsibility for evangelising and catechizing the candidates;
3. Sacramental initiation took place over a period of time and in celebrations where the community’s participation was essential.

Today’s Rite of Acceptance is an important stage of the spiritual journey. Assembling publicly for the first time the candidates declare their intention to the Church and we, the community, are asked to carry out our Apostolic mission by accepting the candidates into the community. In this Rite, **“God showers grace upon the candidates since the celebration manifests their desire publicly and marks their first consecration by the Church”** para 41

Today’s invitation is to follow Christ. This is the wish of the candidates and they ask this community’s help by our prayer, example and support.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Picture a weekend away, just you and your spouse – away from the pressures and distractions of everyday living. Take time out to recharge your relationship batteries and rediscover each other’s loving quality again.

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend offers a different kind of ‘weekend getaway’ an opportunity to refocus on each other and fall in love all over again! Next weekend date: **17-19 March at Bowral**. For bookings/details contact: **Maureen & Jim Willson tel. 9345 5402 or email jandmwillson@optusnet.com.au website: www.wwme.org.au**

Upcoming courses at the Institute for Mission

(See notice board for further information)

***Ministers of the Word & Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

Presenter: Sr. Judy Foster SGS
Monday - February 13, 20, 27, March 6,

***Journey of Faith (in conjunction with CCD)**

Presenter: Sr Bridie O’Connell RSJ
Monday - March 20, 27 April 3, 10

***Gospel of Mark (in conjunction with CCD)**

Monday - February 6, 13, 20, 27 March 6, 13

***Sacramental Theology**

Wednesday - Feb 22
Wednesday - March 1, 8, 22, 29, April 5

***Who do you say I am? Face to Face with Jesus. Jesus the Jew the Historical Jesus**

Presenter: Fr. Joe Sobb SJ, Time: 7pm – 9pm
Wednesday - Feb 15. Cost: Donation.

**MEN’S BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, 11 FEBRUARY
AT 8AM IN THE HALL.**

Support Groups for widowed, separated and divorced people meet 7.30pm once a month as follows:

Parish Houses

Greystanes	1 st Friday
Penrith	2 nd Friday
Castle Hill	3 rd Friday
Springwood	4 th Friday

(commencing 27th January)

Social gatherings are organised by group members as required. All welcome – for further information please phone Ministry to Solo Parents and Families on 9890 2968.