



Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6,12-14 **Honour your parents**
 Colossians 3:12-21 **Bear with one another**
 Matthew 2:13-15,19-23 **Refugee family**

Responsorial Psalm: Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! (x2)
 May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.
 Alleluia, Alleluia! (x2)

Servers

30 Dec Diane Stewart
 4 Jan Diane Stewart *Mt Victoria*
 6 Jan Ray Wood

Readers

30 Dec 1st Reading Steve Gauci
 Ps/Intercessions Frances Huckstepp
 2nd Reading Mary Duggan
 4 Jan 1st Reader Therese Gatt
 2nd Reader Pat Leeder
 6 Jan 1st Reading Kevin Burns
 Ps/Intercessions Pat Wicks
 2nd Reading Robyn Burns

Ministers of the Eucharist

30 Dec Monica and Brian Bright
 6 Jan Heather Carroll and Diana Landsberg

Children's Liturgy will resume at the end of January.

Counters

30 Dec Michael
 6 Jan Barbara and Charles

Morning Tea

30 Dec Barbara Grieves
 6 Jan Michelle Funnell

Church Care

4 Jan Julie Hodgkinson
 11 Jan Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons

Happy Birthday **Erinna Colton** for 2 January

Virginia Keith and Christopher McDougall will be married here at Sacred Heart Church, next Saturday, January 5th at 4.00pm.

The celebrant will be Fr Garry McKeown from Mudgee. We pray that Virginia and Christopher will be blessed with much happiness and may their love deepen in the years ahead.



**HOLY FAMILY
 YEAR A**

Jesus is part of a family, and he is nurtured and loved by Mary and Joseph.

Joseph is warned in a dream to flee to Egypt because the life of Jesus is in danger, and so they live as refugees in a foreign land.

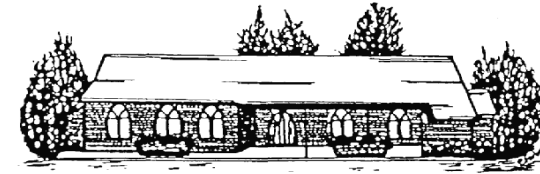
Even in hardship, love can blossom when we take Saint Paul's advice and treat each other with kindness, gentleness, compassion and forgiveness.

NEXT WEEK: Come to worship
 Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71
 Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Children's Liturgy will resume towards the end of January.

Sacramental Preparation for children will begin early in February. If you think your child is ready to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession), Confirmation and Eucharist (Holy Communion) in 2008, please contact Sr Lyn.

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
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
Mount Victoria - Mass	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

Dear Friends,

Although a little long, I thought the following extract by Fr Richard Leonard SJ from *LiturgyHelp.com* is worth reflecting upon, especially as we may be thinking about New Year resolutions! May the coming year be one of many blessings for each of you and your families. Lyn.

"... Today's feast tells that Jesus, Mary and Joseph had a career in holiness. I suspect there are not many of us who would write Saviour or Saints on the people in our family trees! But there is every reason to believe that holiness is handed down from one generation to the next.

The problem with holiness is that we often equate it with perfection. To be a holy person does not mean one is perfect. Perfection rests only in God. Jesus enjoyed perfection in his humanity, but we must allow Mary and Joseph to be less than perfect, else we make them truly divine as well. As a family, they were not perfect, they were holy. They struggled together to understand the best way they could bring God's reign to bear in our world. Their destinies were vastly different, but intimately connected. They needed each other.

And so to us. If we allow the Holy Family to be too removed from our experience, they have little to say to the fights, misunderstandings and problems that can sometimes characterise our families. If, on the other hand, we concede that Jesus, Mary and Joseph, as a family, were not perfect, they can be a model of the very thing we want in our own homes: love, justice, fidelity and kindness that reveal a life of holiness. They can show us a mutual respect that allows each family member to find his or her own path to revealing God's creative and saving love for our world. And they can provide us with the assurance of knowing that as a result of their holiness we have all been welcomed into the family of God.

... any of us ... can rightly and proudly put Jesus, Mary and Joseph at the top of our tree and mark them as Saviour and first among the Saints."

Our Christmas celebrations were wonderful as usual. Again, I thank all who put so much into making the liturgy so meaningful and joyous - the spectacular flowers, banners, crib, decorations and the jobs behind the scenes - grounds and furniture moving ... it was all appreciated ... Thank you.

Thanks also to Sue and Judy for again organising the Christmas raffle and all who contributed to the hampers and bought tickets - and to Sheilagh for the Christmas cake competition.

Blessings, Lyn.

*Fundraising Committee
Winners of Christmas Raffle*

1st Prize - Billy Harris, Lithgow

2nd Prize - Ken Austin

**3rd Prize - Gabrielle Adams,
Megalong Valley**

*Thank you for your wonderful
support again this year resulting
in a record amount of \$1264.*

*Guess the weight of the
Christmas Cake*

Won by J. Inman.

*Weight was 4.48kg (remember this
to help you next year).*

Thank you very much to Sheilagh.

Bishop's Message for World Peace Day 2008

At this time of year, we Christians are graced with two great feasts: Christmas, the birth of Christ, and Epiphany, in a way, the feast of inclusion. Nobody is excluded from the love of Christ, and Christians must not exclude anyone, for God made men and women in His own image and likeness, and Christ told us to love one another as He has loved us.

As we think about peace in the world, we are grateful for what has been accomplished by men and women of goodwill, and that gives us hope for the future. Who would have thought that the conflict in Northern Ireland would have ended with sworn enemies now partners in government!

In such situations, peace comes about because of a desire for peace among ordinary people, and because political and military leaders come to a point where they are willing to give peace a chance. These are the first steps which create the conditions for the development of true peace.

True peace is based on our common humanity: we are one human family. Varieties of language, colour, race, abilities, age, are not criteria for membership of the human family. There is one criterion: humanity.

Within the human family, there are those who believe in one God and in love for one another: Christians, Jews, Muslims. Our holy books teach us to respect all human beings, to esteem fellow-believers, and to work for peace.

In Camden, the Quranic Society is attempting to build a school. There is opposition to it on planning grounds, and that may be legitimate. That aspect of the matter is for the relevant civil authority to decide. However, some people used a compliant and undiscerning television medium to show that their opposition was not confined to planning matters.

Catholics of my age remember too well what it was like to bear the brunt of sectarianism, when "Catholics need not apply" notices appeared in windows of firms advertising positions. For Catholics, discrimination was not a word on a page: it was something we felt, daily.

Let us remember our own experience, and learn from it, but, above all, let us be the first to uphold the right of any law abiding group to have a school, whether it be faith based or not.

I ask you to remember the peacemakers of the world: men and women, unknown to us, who risk everything, even life itself, in order that their families, their neighbourhoods, and their countries may live in peace, and not at each other's throats.