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Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11 **Our God comes**
2 Peter 3:8-14 **Change your ways**
Mark 1:1-8 **Prepare a way**

Response to the Psalm:
Lord let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:
Change your lives, he's coming.
The one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.
Change your lives, he's coming.
The Lord is coming soon. Alleluia, Alleluia!
The Lord is coming soon.

Servers

7 Dec Wayne Kelly
14 Dec Ray Wood

Readers

7 Dec 1st Reading Christa Buckley
Ps/Intercessions David Buckley
2nd Reading Ron Davis
14 Dec 1st Reading Frances Huckstepp
Ps/Intercessions Kevin Burns
2nd Reading Robyn Burns

Ministers of the Eucharist

7 Dec Ray Wood and Julie Hodgkinson
14 Dec Sr Lyn and Anthony Gilchrist

Children's Liturgy

7 Dec Children remain in the church.
14 Dec Carroll Family

Counters

7 Dec Julie and Lance
14 Dec Robyn and Adrian

Morning Tea

7 Dec Sue Holz
14 Dec Elizabeth Giddey

Church Care

12 Dec Sue Gracey and Barbara Grieves
19 Dec Peter and Jennifer Ticehurst

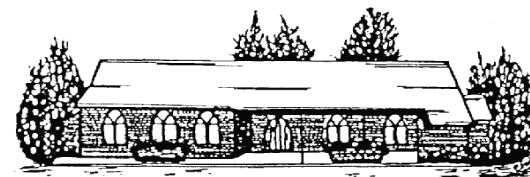


2nd Sunday of Advent
7 December 2008

'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. God consoles his people, assuring us that if we turn back to him our sins will be forgiven. John the Baptist echoes the message of the prophet Isaiah; the voice in the wilderness who exhorts the people to look within themselves and return to the Lord their God, who is merciful, tender, loving and forgiving.

Next Week: A witness speaks
Isaiah 61:1-2.10-11;
Psalm Luke 1
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8.19-28

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

A VOCATION VIEW: The cry of the people: "Lord, let us see your kindness".
Who will prepare the way of the Lord coming to us today?

Please pray for those who are ill: **Barbara Hunt**; and Monica Bright's mother, **Madge Carey**.
We also pray for **Roger Johnstone**; **Travis Kingston**; **Chelsey Laird**; **Cec O'Brien**;
Irene Peacock, **David Ridoutt** and **Thelma Samuel**.

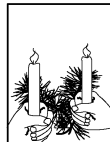
Dear Friends,

"The abiding spirit with which Mark begins his gospel is that the coming of Jesus Christ has represented great news for human beings. The whole idea of "good news" became the catch cry of the earliest Christians and their lifestyle was so impressive that in a short time others could see that the followers of Jesus not only spread good news but they were themselves good news. It is well that we ask ourselves: "Are we good news people?" After all, living in the community that is the body of Christ we have every reason to be optimistic about life and to live in joy." Laurie Woods (*I couldn't have said it better!*) and so we, as did those early Christians - "Let God's Dream Be Born."

Blessings, Lyn.

ADVENT WREATH

The focus, as we light the Advent Candle each week, is sound the theme:



"Let God's Dream Be Born."

This Sunday we will pause to recall how our ancestors of New Testament time, with open hearts and minds, allowed God's Dream to be born in their midst.

Next week we come closer to home with those who have walked before us ... through history, our country, our family and former parishioners ... if you would like to share some names, please ring me at the Office on 4787 8540 or leave the names on the answering machine or send an email.

Advent Festival Morning: Sisters Therese and Jacinta invite you and your friends to attend the Advent Festival Morning at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls on **Friday, 19th December**, 10am-12 noon. This is a very special preparation for Christmas with proclamation, ritual of lighting the Advent candle, Advent readings, hymns and prayers, communal responses and time for silent reflection in the garden, a directed discussion, and a Scriptural reflection on the gospel by Sr. Therese, followed by a special morning tea. Enquiries Tel. 4757 2290.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday
24 December at 7.00pm
We encourage children to come to Christmas Eve and take part in the Gospel Story.

CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday
25 December at 9.30am

Position available: Youth Minister - St Bernadette's, Castle Hill is looking for a suitably qualified person to fill the Youth Minister full-time role in the parish. As the Youth Minister you would implement and manage the youth and young adult programs for the parish. St Bernadette's runs numerous youth programs and activities and its Life Teen youth ministry is well supported by the parish community of over 15,000. A key aim of this role is to bring young people to a deeper faith in Christ within the parish and school environment. The applicant must be a practising Catholic. If you would like further information, you can download the job description and selection criteria from <http://www.stbernadette.org.au> **Applications close on Monday 15 December at 5pm.** Rev John Boyle, PP, St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill, NSW, 2154. Fax: (02) 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au

Important Date for your Diary SR LYN'S OFFICIAL FAREWELL SUNDAY, 21 DECEMBER, 2008

You are invited to say Thank You to Sr Lyn for her wonderful years of loving service after our Eucharist here at our Sacred Heart Community followed by a presentation and speeches in the hall.

You are asked to bring along a special plate of goodies to share in hospitality. Following this morning tea you are invited to join us in a parish picnic in the park at Blackheath so you can personally but informally connect with Lyn. This was her special wish.

We will have a SPECIAL COLLECTION after Mass at each of the doors TODAY and SUNDAY, 14 DECEMBER. We thank you in anticipation for your usual generosity.

Important Date:
**OUR AGM WILL BE IN THE HALL ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14.**

We look forward to your presence with our community.

Thank you to all those who contributed to our November DWF Appeal.

~ **Blackheath Community Carols** ~
Come along and sing along with our church group outside the Community Hall from 6pm to 6.15pm next Sunday, 14 December. Please be there by 5.50pm and wear something red or green.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Julie Hodgkinson for 9th December
Lachlan Gilchrist for 10th December
Jan Roberts for 10th December
George Commens for 13th December
Reece Crawford for 13th December

Today, we welcome to the Waters of Baptism, **Angela Kate Collins**. We pray for her and for her parents, Melissa and John, and brother, Nicholas, that the blessings God bestows upon them this day will deepen in the years ahead.

Next Sunday, after our Eucharist, **Byron Bjorn Kneppers** will be reborn in the life-giving waters of Baptism. We pray for his parents, Gerardus and Melanie, and sister, Emily, as they prepare for this special time.

The Parish Library

is now open for borrowing thanks to Barbara Smith who has offered to take on this service for our parish. Do check out some of the books - new and old - you may even find a treasure! There is also a Christmas section for Children! *The library is situated in the alcove at the back of the Church.*

All the books that were ordered during the Parish Retreat have arrived. If you have been waiting for your order, please see Carmen Beard or Sr Lyn, after Mass. You might also finalize any money still outstanding. Thank you.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

A list of suitable items for the Hamper is on the noticeboard and small books of tickets are available. \$1.00 per ticket.

Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake?

\$1.00 a guess. Give it a go - you just might know!

