



# PARISH RENEWAL 2016

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!

To **SR JOAN BUKREY**, **FR MIKE CHAMPLIN**, **FR NICK PUNCH** on behalf of the Catholic Communities of Sacred Heart Blackheath, St Paul's Mt Victoria, St Joseph's Megalong Valley and the wider Sacred Heart Blackheath Parish for joining us, and sharing yourselves with us over these five days to further help us enhance our relationships with God, with each other and with the broader secular world in which we live in these spectacular Upper Blue Mountains. You are, indeed, most welcome! Now it is up to each of us to best use your services, your knowledge, your experiences, your teaching relative to God and His ways and our part in this process during this all-too-short special holy time. Copies of the Programme have already been distributed. However, additional copies are also to be found at each of our three venues. So! Please take one should you have not already done so.

**MAY - THE MONTH OF "MARY", THE MOTHER OF GOD:** This is the month dedicated to Marian devotion, a popular tradition dating back to the sixteenth century. Although May is a form of "Mary", the name of the month actually comes from the Latin for "the month of Maia," the Roman Goddess of grain. Hence the people of ancient Rome celebrated the first day of May by honouring Flora, the goddess of flowers. Dances around a flower-bedecked maypole were common, especially on the first day of May. Often a May queen was chosen as part of the festivities. St Philip Neri (1515-95) initiated devotion to Our Lady on the first day of May. He also began the custom of decorating the statue of the Virgin with spring flowers. Thus was another pre-Christian custom/festival given a Christian dimension. Today, in many parts of the world, floral tributes, processions and crowning of Our Lady's statue take place. Too, on many occasions - as with us during this month - a flower-decorated statue of Mary will be specially presented as a Marian shrine. Rosary time!

**BAPTISM:** We congratulate the **Clemmett** family on the Baptism last Saturday of tiny **Logan Alejandro Benjamin** at Blackheath in front of numerous numbers of family, relatives and friends. As five-month old Logan lives locally, we welcome him into our Parish "family" as the latest member of this caring community. May Logan live a long, healthy, fruitful and loving life with and for God. **Welcome, Logan!**

**ANZAC DAY REVIEW:** A fine day greeted last Monday's ANZAC commemoration, they tell me the first rain-free day for thirteen years. As a result, attending numbers for all activities were way above the norm. Joe Blansjaar placed a wreath at the Blackheath Memorial on behalf of our Parish, thanks to Patricia Dee's wonderful effort in making that wreath on our behalf. Many thanks to you both!

**MARY FORSTER POSTSCRIPT:** Last Wednesday at Sacred Heart Church, a near full congregation bid farewell to **Mary FORSTER** about whom I spoke in last week's Bulletin. Mary's ashes are to be interred in Blackheath Cemetery in due course. Please, keep her in your prayers! May Mary Rest In Peace! Amen.

*God Bless! Father Bob*

**Driveway Closure Friday 6th May and Saturday 7th May:** Our maintenance team (under the guidance of **Lindsay Inman** and **Lance Hodgkinson**) will be repairing the Wentworth Street entrance and exit driveway on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The driveway will therefore be closed to traffic on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Access to the Church and Hall car parks on those two days will be **via Inconstant Street only**. Work starts at 8am on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer to assist, or to carry out gardening or other work that day, please contact John Tweedie on 0407 288 957.

**Afternoon Capers** will be held on **Wednesday 11th May** at The Old Post Office Hartley. We will meet at 12pm. If you need a lift, please phone Diane on 47871357.

**Parish Pastoral Council** meets the 4th Thursday of each month - 7pm to 9pm. If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to Fr Bob or David Buckley (Chair); Adrienne Kitching (Deputy Chair) or Carmen Beard (Secretary).

*Happy 38th Anniversary Monica and Brian Bright for 6th May*

**VINNIES FOOD DRIVE**  
There is a basket in the church for donations of tins of baby food, baked beans, lentils, long life milk, pasta, rice, salmon, soup, spaghetti, stews and tuna. Thank you.

The next **Benedictine Spirituality Morning** will be held at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls on **Friday 6th May** from 10am till noon. The chapter "*Integral Ecology*" in the Pope's letter *Laudato si'* will be discussed. It will also be farewell to Sr Therese. Morning prayer and a time of silence as well as morning tea will be part of the program. All welcome. Enquiries: Srs Therese and Jacinta 4757 2290

Happy Birthday **Marilyn Rowe** for 4<sup>th</sup> May and **Ken Kirkham** for 6th May.

Tickets for the **Parish Dinner** are now available and may be purchased after Mass today - \$35pp (Spit roast/dessert/coffee and tea plus wonderful entertainment from Pat Drummond.)



**Last Week's Collections**  
1st (Pastoral Revenue) support of the Bishop and Priests of the Diocese, both active and retired—\$180.00.  
2nd Collection: \$649.00 (includes direct deposits). This money is used for local parish needs.

**MAGNIFICAT CONCERT in MAY**  
*Phoenix Choir with Canon Fodder*  
**DURANTE'S 'MAGNIFICAT' and VIVALDI'S 'MAGNIFICAT'**

Canon Fodder sing the solos in these works and also perform three pieces on their own, by Palestrina, Marenzio and Pergolesi. To start the concert all join together for the majestic *Lauda Jerusalem* by Vivaldi, where they aim to capture the grandeur of the original setting for two antiphonal choirs.

**Sunday 22 May at 3pm**  
**Blackheath Baptist Church**  
**6 Bundarra Street Blackheath**  
Tickets are now available online at [www.phoenixchoir.org.au](http://www.phoenixchoir.org.au) and by selecting "tickets". Tickets will also be available at the door.

*A Feast of Italian Baroque*