

TODAY

Joshua 5:9-12 **God provides**
2 Corinthians 5:17-21 **Reconciliation**
Luke 15:1-3.11-32 **Merciful father**

Psalm Response

O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.
Praise and honour, Lord Jesus Christ.*
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven
and against you. *Praise...*

Servers

6 Mar Pat Wicks
13 Mar Jan Roberts

Readers

6 Mar 1st Reading Barbara Grieves
2nd Reading Michelle Davis
Intercessions Patricia Dee
13 Mar 1st Reading Lillis Family
2nd Reading Lillis Family
Intercessions John Woodward

Ministers of the Eucharist

6 Mar Grahame Adams and Jan Roberts
13 Mar Elizabeth Doolan and Diana Landsberg

Counters

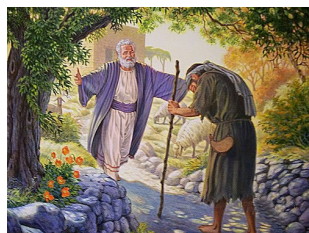
6 Mar Marilyn
13 Mar Laurie

Morning Tea

6 Mar Mary Batty
13 Mar Christine Burke

Church Care

18 Mar Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons



**Fourth Sunday of Lent
Year C**

6th March 2016

There are many people today who seem to give no heed to God.

Their lives are full of ephemeral things. The younger son in today's parable is a prime example.

Yet, after he has tasted the riches, and then the dregs of society, he comes to his senses. He returns to his father, who welcomes him home joyfully.

It is never too late to come back to God.

St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Communion Antiphon: You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

Feast Days for this week! Sunday 6th March to Saturday 12th March

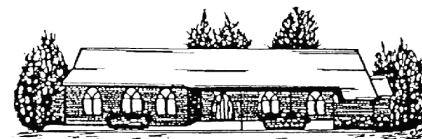
6th St Colette, Virgin (1381-1447)
7th Sts Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs (d203), optional Feast
St Teresa Redi, Virgin (1774-1770)
8th St John of God, Religious & Founder (1495-1550), optional Feast
9th St Frances of Rome, Religious (1384-1440), optional Feast
10th St John Ogilvie, Priest & martyr (1579-1615)
11th St Eulogius, Martyr (d859)
12th St Seraphina, Virgin (1238-1253)

Next week

Not condemned

Isaiah
43:16-21
Psalm 125
Philippians
3:8-14
John 8:1-11

Sacred Heart Parish



**Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley**

We respectfully acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of the land of the Blue Mountains.

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.

Parish Priest: Father Bob Sheridan **Office hours:** Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Parish House: 02 4787 8811 Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm
Parish Mobile: 04 2887 8810 Fri 9.00am - 12.00pm
(Emergency only) For Baptisms, Marriages, & sick calls
Parish Office: 02 4787 8540 contact Parish House.
Facsimile: 02 4787 6143 **e-mail:** shbheath2@bigpond.com

Parish House: 18 Inconstant St, Blackheath.
Sacred Heart Church: 167 Wentworth St, Blackheath.

Website: <http://www.keepersoftheflame.net/SacredHeartParish/index.html>

Blackheath - Mass	Sunday	9.30am
Evening Mass	Tuesday	6.30pm
Morning Mass	Wednesday, Friday and Saturday	9.00am
	Thursday	8.00am
Benediction	2nd Saturday after 9.00am Mass	
Exposition	All other Saturdays after 9.00am Mass	
Reconciliation	Saturdays	9.30am
Healing Mass	1st Saturday of the month	9.00am
Mount Victoria - Vigil Mass	1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays	6.00pm
Megalong Valley - Vigil Mass	2nd and 4th Saturdays	6.00pm

Parish Pastoral Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month. 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).

Sacred Heart Care Group: Monica Bright 4757 3943

BULLETIN ITEMS: Please contact the Parish Office on Wednesday or Thursday during office hours on 4787 8540 or email shbheath2@bigpond.com

LAETARE SUNDAY: Today, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, is one of the two occasions in the Church year when the priest is entitled to wear pink vestments. I might add that this is an optional choice which is just as well given that I don't possess vestments of that colour. The word "Laetare" is taken from the first word of today's Entrance Antiphon whose English translation from the original Latin means "Rejoice with Jerusalem!". The other Sunday for pink vestments is "Gaudete" Sunday that occurs on the Third Sunday of Advent. From this Sunday forward our attention will particularly focus on Jesus' Passion, Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection.

FORMATION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP: As foreshadowed at our last (2015) AGM, the need for, and establishment of, a Social Justice Group working within the framework of the Parish Council has reached a point where today, following the 9.30am Mass, a meeting of interested parishioners is to be held in the Parish Hall to hear Sr Louise McKeogh FMA, the Parramatta Diocese Social Justice leader.

Sr Louise is well-credentialed to both inform and guide us in the formation of a Social Justice Group in this Parish. Her wide experience in the world of Social Justice enables us to use her skills to form our own Social Justice Group. Whether directly interested or not, this is a one-off opportunity for each of us to improve our knowledge of this sad need in our society. Morning tea should be available in the hall before the meeting commences at 11.00am. Please come!

FUNERAL TIME: Popular long-time resident of Mount Victoria, **Mary Elizabeth (Nancy) ETCELL** who passed away on 16 February, will be accorded a Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath next Wednesday (9 March) commencing at 11.00am. Interment is to follow in the Kemps Creek Catholic Cemetery at 2.00pm. However, for those not wishing to travel to Kemps Creek, a "Wake" has been arranged at the Blackheath Golf Club. Well known for her membership of a number of local clubs, Nancy's sprightly face will be sorely missed within our local community. **R.I.P., Nancy!**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (postscript): Held last Friday from 10.30am, with many of our parishioners in attendance at Blackheath's Uniting Church including yours truly, a verbal report will have to be rendered at the conclusion of this Mass, given that this Bulletin copy has been penned before the event, on Wednesday evening. One of the few genuine ecumenical get-togethers available to us in this district, it certainly deserved to be a wonderful success. I sincerely hope it achieved that goal!

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND COLLECTION: Programmed for February by Parramatta Diocese, this collection has been put back (postponed) until April due to the intense level of other local events/activities undertaken in February.

God Bless! Father Bob

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found." Luke 15:31-32



Fourth Sunday of Lent



First Australian Evangeline is an Artswoker at the Djilpin Arts Ghunmarn Culture Centre where she is flourishing with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture. Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help First Australians to gain new skills and renewed passion to preserve and celebrate traditional culture.

Raffle: Tickets on sale today for your chance to win a **BRAND NEW Premium Beefmaster 4 Burner Built in BBQ** valued at \$699. The BBQ also comes with a trolley valued at \$249. All funds raised will go the parish. Tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

This year we will be having a CAKE and PLANT STALL on Easter Sunday, 27 March. We are asking our wonderful parishioners to support us and bring along a cake and/or a plant to sell. **Mark your diary!**



The **Laudato Si' Discussion and Action Group** would like to invite any interested parishioners to participate in the **Clean Up Australia** efforts at Soldiers Memorial Park near the pool on **Sunday 6 March**. Volunteers are welcome to clear weeds, remove overhanging branches, collect fallen limbs and generally tidy up as part of ParkAction Day which coincides with Clean up Australia Day.

Happy Birthday
Joë Blansjaar for 10th March

Catalyst Reflection Morning
Saturday 19th March
in the Parish Hall from 10am to 1pm.
Fr Gregory Jacobs SJ will lead the reflection on **Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home**.
Morning tea provided, entry by donation and no need to book.
All very welcome.
Enquiries to Carmel on 0417 474 850.

Please pray for the sick and their carers:
Sharon Booth; Stan Dochniak; Frank Farsaci; Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP; Kevin Madden and Jack Solomons.
To add someone's name to the list for 'Prayers for the sick', please email the Parish Office: shbheath2@bigpond.com

~ In memoriam ~
Judy Harris ~ 8th March

Have you thought? The Prodigal

Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word *prodigal* is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.