

Isaiah 35:1-6,10 *Rejoice in God's coming*  
 James 5:7-10 *Wait patiently*  
 Matthew 11:2-11 *Persevere in faith*

**Ps response:** Come, O Lord, come and save us.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Change your lives, he's coming. The one who is the light of the world is coming. Change your lives, he's coming. The reign of God is near! Alleluia, alleluia! The reign of God is near.

**Servers**

11 Dec Pat Wicks  
 18 Dec Jan Roberts

**Readers**

11 Dec	1st Reading	Christa Buckley
	2nd Reading	Barbara Grieves
	Intercessions	Patricia Dee
18 Dec	1st Reading	Monica Bright
	2nd Reading	Brian Bright
	Intercessions	Marilyn Rowe

**Communion**

11 Dec Monica & Brian Bright  
 18 Dec Elizabeth Doolan and Michelle Davis

**Counters**

11 Dec Robyn and Adrian  
 18 Dec Barbara and Bill

**Morning Tea**

11 Dec Christine O'Grady  
 18 Dec Michelle Funnell

**Church Care**

23 Dec Julie Hodgkinson

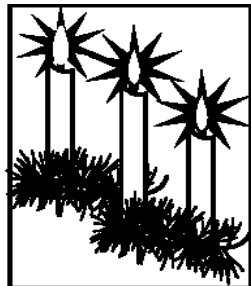
Next Week: **Joseph's faithful obedience** Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 23; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

Prayers for the sick and their carers: **Barry Bowden; Madge Boylan; Margaret Clancy; John Crowley; Stan Dochniak; Kevin Madden and John Scott.**

**St Paul's Mt Vic & St Joseph's Megalong Valley**

**Ent Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**Com Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



**Third Sunday of Advent - Year A**

**11 December 2016**

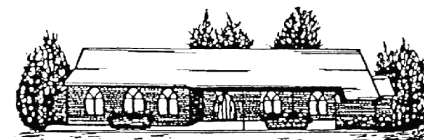
Rejoice! Have courage, hope and do not be afraid. In prison, John the Baptist hears of the wonders Jesus is doing. Can he be the Christ?

Yes! John rejoices, even though he will die for the truth. We, too, can be joyful messengers to the world, as we live out our lives in truth and integrity. By our ordinary, everyday kindness we preach the Gospel in our words and actions.

In memoriam  
**Rosalie Sandor**  
 13 December  
**Travis Kingston**  
 13 December  
**Marjorie Cullen**  
 13 December

**Feast Days of the Week — Sunday 11th to Saturday 17th Dec**  
 11th St Damasus I, Pope (d384), optional  
 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 13th St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (d304), memorial  
 14th St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor (1542-91), memorial  
 15th St Mary Di Rosa, Virgin (1813-55)  
 16th St Adelaide of Burgundy, Queen (931-999)  
 17th St John of Matha, Priest (1155-1213)

# 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>

<b>Blackheath - Mass</b>	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
<b>Mount Victoria - Vigil Mass</b>	1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays	6.00pm
<b>Megalong Valley - Vigil Mass</b>	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](mailto:shbheath2@bigpond.com)

**ADVENT WREATH: Third Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Celebration")**

Today, during our candle lighting liturgy, the purple candles previously lit over the past two weeks will again be lit - plus the pink candle set down for lighting today. These candles have different meanings and are lit in the following order: purple, purple, pink, purple, white. The first is called the "Candle of Hope". It symbolizes our faith in God keeping His promises to humanity. The second is called the "Candle of Preparation", reminding Christians to get ready to receive God. The third candle is the "Candle of Joy". It recalls the angels joyfully singing about the birth of Christ. The fourth candle, the "Candle of Love", reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to Earth. The "Christ Candle", the white candle in the centre, stands for Jesus Christ himself and is lit for the actual Christmas celebrations.

**GAUDETE SUNDAY:** Today is Gaudete Sunday. "Gaudete" is from the Latin and means "rejoice". For those who have Advent Wreaths, this is the day when the pink candle is lit to emphasise the change in direction that now takes place in our preparation for Christmas. From this Sunday, we focus more on Mary, soon to be Jesus' mother, as may be seen from our scripture readings.

**Week 3: Lighting of the two purple candles and the pink candle:**

From *Isaiah* we read, "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light."

*God of Blessings, we celebrate your good gifts and rejoice in the gift of your Son, Jesus. As the candle is lit, we all say:*

**"Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming and in Him we rejoice".**

**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:** Next Wednesday, 14th December at 7.30pm at Blackheath. Fr Paul Hanna has agreed to share this responsibility with me. All are invited to attend and will be most welcomed. See you here!

**BISHOP VINCENT:** You should know that our Bishop has conveyed to me personally, and to all other Parramatta Diocesan priests, publicly, in a gathering of all religious at Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre, Mulgoa on 30 November, that he was greatly impressed with our conduct of this year's Fathers' Day Mass and the official launch of his Social Justice Statement that day. He then topped that off by having lunch at their table with our parish secretaries (Marilyn, Patricia and Carmen) at a gathering of all Diocesan secretaries last Wednesday at the same Mt Schoenstatt Retreat Centre. Congratulations everyone! We work darned hard to achieve our parish performances, and it's nice to know that our "boss" appreciates what we do and the all-giving way we do it!!!

**MATTHEW DIMIAN:** Further to my introduction last week of Parramatta Seminarian Matthew Dimian, Matthew will be taking up residence with us next Tuesday afternoon, here to remain until after the Christmas Day Masses. Perhaps next Tuesday's 6.30pm Mass might see him present at that celebration. Welcome Matthew!

**EPIPHANY WALKERS:** As a follow-up to last Sunday's after-Mass address by Briony and Jesse, I have been requested to again mention to you that this long walk (103kms in all) from Emu Plains to Bell will see their group staying here overnight on Saturday, 7th January, 2017 before trekking the 16kms to Bell the next day, Sunday. I refer you to their poster on our notice board. Best of luck!

**God Bless! Father Bob**

**If you could give a gift this Christmas for only \$10, would you?** A \$10 gift can help improve the lives of vulnerable communities living in poverty. Logon to [Caritas.org.au/globalgifts](http://Caritas.org.au/globalgifts) and choose from the range of global gift cards representing programs that deliver clean water, education, emergency relief, and much more...

This year's **ADVENT FESTIVAL** will be held in Santa Maria Hall, LAWSON on Friday 16th December, 10am till 12.30pm. It will consist of Song, Bible Readings, Poems and Discussion. The Music and Reflection will be provided by our Good Samaritan Sisters. Please bring finger food to share for an early lunch together. Enquiries: Sister Jacinta 4757 2290

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL:**

As we prepare for Christmas with our family and friends, 28,000 people in New South Wales are homeless and hungry. Donations to Vinnies Christmas Appeal will help Vinnies support disadvantaged people to find a home and provide them with food, clothing, bill assistance and medicine. Please support Vinnies Christmas Appeal today. Thank you. *Pamela Nash*

**Note your diary ~ 21 December!**

Our wonderful maintenance team is once again calling for helpers for our Christmas **working bee**. This year they are asking for some female assistance as well. Come on girls, can you spare a couple of hours on Wed, 21 December to assist? Morning tea of Christmas cake and scones will be available on the day for all the hard working volunteers.

Please assist our team to make it easier for the few that have been keeping our parish grounds looking so good all year!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Our beautiful quilt which hangs on the back wall of the Church (recently used as part of the Mercy Cross & Relics Celebrations) was made by a wonderful team of our lady parishioners and friends.

Commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2001, it was completed on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2002 [13 days prior to our parish's centenary on 26 January 2002]. Those ladies included:

Catherine Beaver, Betty Briggs, Robyn Burns, Gabrielle Byrne, Helen Chadwick, Noeleen Cliff, Marion Crowley, Mary Duggan, Mary Forster, Anne Hartigan, Barbara Hodgkinson, Sister Colleen Holohan, Anne Hunter, Marie Johnston, Mary Kingston, Pat Leeder, Norma Longmuir, Sister Mary Maguire, Heather McInnes, Barbara Morrison, Betty Norton, Louise Noyes, Natalia Phelps, Eden Phillips, Jan Roberts, Joan Schmidt, Anne Tokoli, Darla Taylor & Betty Zeman!

For our posterity!  
*(Please let Patricia Dee know if we have misspelt or missed anyone's name.)*

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:** The Office will be closed *from Friday 23/12/16 and will reopen on Wednesday 18/1/2017.*

**~ HAPPY BIRTHDAY GEORGE COMMENS FOR 13TH DECEMBER ~**

**SOCIAL CLUB NEWS:** Our annual **Garage Sale** is fast approaching.

Dates for this fundraiser are as follows:

**Setting up & sorting:** Thursday 9 Feb 1.30-3.30 / Friday 10th Feb 9.30-3.30

**Garage Sale:** Saturday 11th Feb 7.30-4.00 / Sunday 12th Feb 9.00-12.00

**We are asking all parishioners & friends to get busy cleaning out unwanted items to donate. These can be left at the parish hall from January. If you have larger items that you would like picked up, please call Marilyn 0414 536 601 to arrange a time suitable.**