

TODAY

Genesis 12:1-4 *God's promise*
2 Timothy 1:8-10 *Called to be holy*
Matthew 17:1-9 *Glimpse of the future*

Psalm response:
Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. Praise and honour, Lord Jesus Christ.
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Praise and honour to you ...



Second Sunday of Lent
Year A

12th March 2017

As happened at his Baptism, Jesus is again proclaimed beloved Son of God at his transfiguration. Peter, James and John are stunned by this announcement and by the glory they witness. Jesus alone embodies the Law and the Prophets.

With their courage strengthened, Jesus leads them down the mountain to continue their journey, ultimately to Jerusalem where he will suffer, die and rise from the dead.

Next Week: **Living water**
Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94
Romans 5:1-2,5-8; John 4:5-42

In memoriam:
Pete Juhas ~ 14th March
Mary Potts ~ 17th March

Please pray for the sick and their carers: **Barry Bowden; Madge Boylan; Margaret Clancy; Matthew Cook; John & Marion Crowley; Paul Kalmar; Norma Longmuir Kevin Madden & Philia Portelli.**

Servers

12 Mar Jan Roberts
19 Mar Pat Wicks

Readers

12 Mar 1st Reading Brian Bright
2nd Reading Monica Bright
Intercessions Marilyn Rowe
19 Mar 1st Reading Elaine Jackson
2nd Reading Basil Jackson
Intercessions Robert Forbes

Communion

12 Mar Elizabeth Doolan and Ray Wood
19 Mar Jan Roberts and Michelle Davis

Counters

12 Mar Julie and Lance
19 Mar Robyn and Adrian

Morning Tea

12 Mar Christine Burke
19 Mar Jan Roberts

Church Care

17 Mar Julie Hodgkinson

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

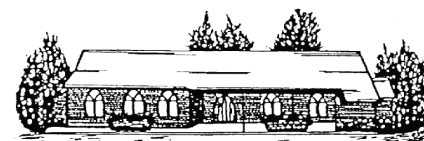
Entrance Antiphon:
Of you my heart has spoken,
Seek his face. It is your face,
O Lord, that I seek; hide not
your face from me.

Communion Antiphon:
This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am
well pleased;
listen to him.

Feast Days of the Week Sunday 12th - Saturday 18th March

13th St Roderick, Priest & Martyr (d857)
14th St Maximilian, Martyr (d295)
15th St Louise de Marillac, Daughter of Charity of St Vincent de Paul (d1660), Patroness of Social Workers
17th St Patrick, Bishop (387-461) – Patron of Ireland, Solemnity
18th St Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor (315-386), optional

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
Parish House: 02 4787 8811
Parish Mobile: 04 2887 8810
(Emergency only)
Parish Office: 02 4787 8540
Facsimile: 02 4787 6143

Office hours: Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm
Fri 9.00am - 12.00pm
For Baptisms, Marriages, & sick calls contact Parish House.
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 Karen Hayward (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

LENTEN MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS: *“Dear Brothers and Sisters, Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all, it is a time of grace. God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. We love because he has first loved us. He is not aloof from us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure...our hearts grow cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don't think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalisation of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront.”* Please note that this is but a short excerpt only of a much longer Lenten Message from the Holy Father. How right it is for us to think more of others and their needs, especially during Lent.

A COUPLE OF POSTSCRIPTS: A particular ‘thank you’ to all who contributed so much time, energy and skill to the preparation and conduct of both funerals held during the week - that of Margaret (Rita) Jenner and Kenneth (Ken) Kirkham. So well done were the floral displays, for example, that I decided to leave them ‘in situ’ until after this weekend, despite this being Lent. The music group, too, excelled themselves in their collaboration with the vastly musically talented ‘Jenner’ family at her funeral. Did you also notice, those of you who were there, that ‘someone’ had ‘spit polished’ the thurible and boat for this our last celebration of the lives of these two much loved senior parishioners who helped lay the very foundations of the parish of which we, too, are an important part? Were they able to speak, I am sure that both Rita and Ken would have expressed delight not only with this practical expression of our love for them, but also in the heartfelt way we reluctantly bade them farewell. May the Lord above welcome each of you, Rita and Ken into his eternity of love and peace. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF A PASTORAL ASSISTANT: Because of a heavy and increasing workload in our parish, caused by a significant increase in our growth and in the demands made of us by the Diocese, government instrumentalities and our own projects, I have appointed Frances Huckstepp as a Pastoral Assistant to aid me in my work. Frances reports directly to me and undertakes tasks assigned by me! As this position has never previously existed within our parish, this appointment is of an experimental nature with results to be reviewed two months hence - at the end of April. During this period, Frances will be working on a paid basis for six hours per week encompassing a wide range of tasks that would otherwise fall to me. Her first major project is to prepare this parish for all that is to take place on the lead-up to, and during Holy Week and Easter - a task with which Frances is very familiar and well equipped. I congratulate Frances on this appointment and ask for everyone’s co-operation with her as she carries out her work that is of such real benefit to all of us. My decision to move now in this matter has been my recent inability to always attend to issues that rank higher than my

HALF DAY LENTEN REFLECTION: Lent can be the most powerful time of our year to come into contact with the Love and Mercy of God. Join us for a reflection on the Holy Spirit and the Grace of Forgiveness. Presented by Mrs Beenu Xavier (Counsellor & Preacher). Admission Free (love offering). Thursday 16th March, 10.30am to 2pm in the Parish Centre, OLQP Catholic Church, 198, Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Enquiries: Desiree 9631 4917

available time to deal with them. In other words, delays sometimes occur beyond what I consider to be reasonable. This appointment should overcome most of those delays.

VINNIE’S BIN: Have you seen the new Vinnie’s blue clothing bin located to the left of the Wentworth Street entrance to the church car park. Speaking personally, I think it looks a little lonely out there all by itself. The softwood base, too, is barely adequate, in my opinion. Anyway, let’s see how the Blackheath community uses it!
God Bless! Father Bob

Happy Birthday Father Bob ‘84’ on 16th March!

Our response for 4-year old George - a person in our Blackheath community seeking asylum -

When George Winston, from Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group, heard of the generous response to our Parish appeal last Sunday - to assist little George’s attendance at local pre-school, he wrote *‘That is magnificent! Generous members of the congregation have obviously recognised the importance for this little boy of socialisation and English learning. He will certainly get that at our local pre-school and will be ready for school early next year.*

Please convey my sincere thanks! That generosity amounted to more than \$600 donated thus far - with promises of more to come! We are well on the way to meeting 50% of one year’s fees for George to attend preschool! Karen Hayward will be available after Mass today to accept further donations. Tax deductible receipts will be available from BMRS. Thank you!



2nd Sunday of Lent



In Timor-Leste, Martina was driven from her home by domestic violence. The Protection Program connected her with livelihood training opportunities, offering the chance to afford education for her eight children and a safe life in a supportive community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help empower women in Timor-Leste to recover from domestic violence, develop sustainable livelihoods, and lead a life of dignity.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting or phoning 1800 024 413.



On 13th March 2013, Pope Francis asked the people, **“Please don’t forget to pray for me. God bless you.”**

Tomorrow marks the fourth anniversary of his pontificate.

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to Your shepherd, Pope Francis, a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he, as successor to the apostle Peter and vicar of Christ, build Your church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.