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Isaiah 52:7-10 **God's saving power**  
Hebrews 1:1-6 **God speaks through his Son**  
John 1:1-18 **The Word was made flesh**

**Ps response:** All the ends of the earth  
have seen the saving power of God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
A holy day has dawned upon us.  
Come you nations and adore the Lord.  
Today a great light has come upon the earth.

**Servers**

25 Dec Michelle Davis  
1 Jan Ray Wood

**Readers**

25 Dec 1st Reading Christmas Roster  
2nd Reading Christmas Roster  
Intercessions Christmas Roster  
1 Jan 1st Reading Christine Helby  
2nd Reading Claire Maguire  
Intercessions Adrian Carroll

**Communion**

25 Dec Christmas Roster  
1 Jan Diane Stewart and Elizabeth Doolan

**Counters**

25 Dec Marilyn  
1 Jan Laurie

**Morning Tea**

25 Dec No Morning tea  
1 Jan George Commens

**Church Care**

6 Jan To be advised

**St Paul's Church ~ Mt Victoria**

**Entrance Antiphon:** A child is born for us,  
and a son is given to us; his sceptre of power  
rests upon his shoulder, and his name will  
be called Messenger of great counsel.

**Communion Antiphon:** All the ends of the  
earth have seen the salvation of our God.

**Feast Days of the Week: 25th—31st December**

25th The Nativity of the Lord, Solemnity with Octave  
26th Feast of St Stephen, First martyr  
27th St John, Apostle and Evangelist  
28th The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
29th St Thomas a Becket, Martyr (d1170)  
30th St Anyisia, Martyr (284-304)  
31st St Melania, Abbess, friend of St Jerome (d439)

**The Nativity of  
The Lord**

25th December 2016

In the beginning was the  
Word: the Word was with  
God and the Word was God.

With these words, John  
begins his gospel and in  
the verses that follow he  
summarises the ideas  
he will develop later  
in his gospel.

The contrast between this  
reading and that from Luke  
(*during the night*) which  
people know well as the  
Christmas story, could not  
be more obvious. Christmas  
invites us to celebrate the  
Lord's involvement with  
human history, with its  
most insignificant and  
poorest people.

The Lord is neither  
intimidated by the hostile  
darkness nor by the fact  
that his own people  
do not accept him.

His light is more powerful  
than all the shadows.

Entering into the hereness  
and nowness of our own  
history; nourishing our hope  
with the will to live for our  
country's poor, these are the  
unavoidable conditions to  
dwell in the tent which the  
Son pitched among us.

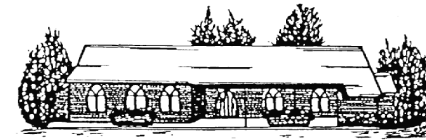
In this way, we will  
experience in our own flesh,  
in the flesh of so many  
brothers and sisters, the  
encounter with the Lord who  
announces the reign of life."

Gustavo Gutierrez ~ Sharing the Word  
through the Liturgical Year.

**Next Week: Mary, mother of God**

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 66;  
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

**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)



Welcme to our eglebration of  
The Nativity of the Lord.  
A Happy and Holy Christmas to All.

A message from the President of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference.

**Dear Friends,**

Christmas is a special time when we remember God's closeness to us and our responsibility to become peace-makers. In this season of peace and goodwill we see our God, the maker of all things visible and invisible, reduced to the most vulnerable of creatures; another little Middle Eastern boy caught up in homelessness, poverty and a cruel cycle of violence. Yes, our God gave up everything in order to become one with us. You cannot get closer than that! He comes to us, and stays with us, especially in times of difficulty and loneliness.

We might say that Christmas is the feast of "closeness". It is the time when family and friends who are separated - by geography, by hurt or anger, or simply by the distances created by time - come together again to celebrate this joyous feast and to renew their bonds with one another and, we hope, with Christ.

Christmas reunions can be wonderful. They can also open old wounds and bring back painful memories. To make Christmas joyful we must be able to forgive one another and let go of past injuries - real and imagined.

My prayer for you and for all, therefore, is that you will feel God's closeness this Christmas and become instruments of peace in the New Year ahead! Let us keep the lost and abandoned close to our hearts.

+ Denis J. Hart  
President

~ **Grace at Christmas Dinner** ~

*God of Christmas and of every day,  
giver of all good gifts,  
we thank you for the many ways  
you have blessed us.*

*We are grateful for each person  
gathered around this table.*

*Bless us, our food and  
our company today.*

*Bless those we love  
who are not with us.*

*With gratitude and love,  
we remember your humble birth  
into our lives and so pray for  
those without food or family  
or friendship at this time.*

*We remember the stable in which  
you were born and so pray  
for those with no place to live.*

*We join your angels in giving glory  
to God in the highest and in praying  
for peace and goodwill on earth.*

*Help us to see what really matters  
and to respond with faith, hope  
and love. Make of our hearts a crib  
in which to place the Christ child.*

*Keep us safe and close to you in  
the year ahead. For you are our  
Christmas Lord, now and forever.*

*Amen.*

<http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/catholicoutlook>

DEAR God

Remind me that  
the greatest gifts  
are wrapped in  
people  
not paper

Amen

Please pray for the sick and their carers: Barry Bowden; Madge Boylan; Margaret Clancy; John Crowley; Paul Kalmar; Kevin Madden and John Scott.

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

This wondrous birth brought new hope and meaning to the human race. Even with all the distractions of gift buying, the tinsel and coloured lights, there is a belief that this is a time of joy and renewal. This new life is reflected in our family gatherings and in our efforts to remember those who have no one to rejoice with. This is a time when we remember people who are less fortunate than ourselves. The year has seen civil war and famine, human lives lost as a result of natural disasters. Sometimes we feel driven to say, 'It's all too big! There's nothing I can do', but there is always something. We can open our hearts and our purses or give generously of our time. We can open our eyes to the needs of those we encounter in our daily lives and resolve to share our Christmas happiness with them. We remember him who is Wonderful-Counsellor, Prince-of-Peace.

- from Daily Prayer online

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE**

The Office will reopen on  
Wednesday 18/1/2017.

**Happy 48th Anniversary  
Christa and David Buckley**  
for 28th December

**Happy Birthday**  
Sean Lillis ~ 27th December  
Fred Patzman ~ 27th December

**New Year Mass Times**

*(Please note that there will be  
no weekday Masses celebrated  
from 26th - 30th December.)*

**Sacred Heart Blackheath**

New Year's Eve  
Saturday 31st December  
at 9.00am (not 8am)  
New Year's Day  
Sunday 1st January at 9.30am

**St Paul's Mt Victoria**

New Year's Eve  
Saturday 31st December  
at 6.00pm  
Normal scheduled Mass (Vigil)  
will be celebrated on  
Saturday 7th January at 6.00pm

**The Epiphany Pilgrimage**

**Journey of the Magi: 2-8 January 2017**

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a seven-day, 100km pilgrimage through the Blue Mountains bushland. Pilgrims stay overnight at parishes along the route, experiencing the welcoming hospitality of parishioners and spending time in prayer, adoration and fellowship.

Pilgrims include Fr Piotr Kruk OP, Assistant Priest at Kingswood Parish, and Sr Rosie Drum MGL, Assistant Director of CYP. The pilgrimage finishes on the Feast of the Epiphany at the Chapel of the Magi at Bell. There are many ways that you can participate, either as a walking pilgrim or in the evenings of prayer, adoration and fellowship. To find out more visit

**www.epiphanypilgrimage.org**  
*(Pilgrims will stay in our Parish Hall on  
7th January and join our community for  
Mass on the Feast of the Epiphany,  
Sunday 8th January, before the final  
16km trek to Bell.*

**Christmas Hamper Raffle Winners**

**\*Monica Bright \*Jarrod of Hartley  
\*J & T Abel \*Rod Hill**

Thank you to all who contributed items and purchased tickets. **\$1189.00** was raised (just \$4 shy of the 2007 record but a grand result nevertheless.)