

TODAY'S READINGS

*Is 49:14-15 Can a mother forget her child?
1 Cor 4:1-5 The Lord will reveal what is in the heart.
Mt 6:24-34 Do not worry about tomorrow.*

Psalm response:
Rest in God alone,
O my soul.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!
The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia...



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

26th February 2017

When we read in today's gospel that we are 'not to worry', the word, worry, might better be translated as 'distracted'. Jesus says to not be distracted or consumed by the pursuit of money, food and nice clothes. He says that it is the gentiles - those who do not know the love of God - who set their hearts on attaining these things. We are immersed in a culture in society that values these outward signs of success above all else. The challenge is to avoid being caught up in the distractions of our material society.
(Liturgyhelp)

Servers

26 Feb Diane Stewart
5 Mar Grahame Adams

Readers

26 Feb 1st Reading Elaine Jackson
2nd Reading Basil Jackson
Intercessions Adrian Carroll
5 Mar 1st Reading David Buckley
2nd Reading Christa Buckley
Intercessions Patricia Dee

Communion

26 Feb Monica and Brian Bright
5 Mar Jan Roberts and Elizabeth Doolan

Counters

26 Feb Carla and Neil
5 Mar Pamela and John

Morning Tea

26 Feb Monica Bright
5 Mar Mary Batty

Church Care

3 Mar Noeleen Cliff and Jennifer Milani

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

Entrance Antiphon:
The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

Communion Antiphon:
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

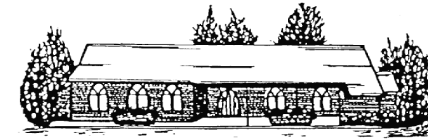
Next Week: *Jesus fasted for 40 days and nights* Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 50:3-6.12-14.17. Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

Feast Days of the Week: Sunday 26th February to Saturday 4th March 2017

26th Feb St Porphyrius, Bishop (349-420); St Nestor of Magydos, Bishop & Martyr, 3rd C
27th St Leander of Seville, Bishop (534-600); St Anne Line, Martyr (1565-1601)
28th St Hillary, Pope (d1468); Blessed Carlo Gnocchi (1902-1956)
1st Mar St David, Bishop (d672) Patron of Wales
2nd St Chad, Bishop (d672)
3rd St Camilla, Hermitess (d437); World Day of Prayer
4th St Casimir, Prince (1458-1482), Patron of Poland



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 contact Parish House.
Parish Office: 02 4787 8540 **e-mail:** shbheath2@bigpond.com
Facsimile: 02 4787 6143

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

LENT: Wednesday next, 1st March, is Ash Wednesday, that introduces the 40-day period of Lent for 2017. Easter Sunday this year will be celebrated on 16th April, that being the first full moon after the year's March Autumnal Equinox. Lent is THE annual period of repentance, in which we each review our present lives and, where necessary, revise, and at the very least renew our Christian commitment to God and our neighbour. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of both fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence (from meat) binds those who have completed their 14th year. Catholics are also obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday. We are also obliged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation within this same period. During Lent, you will note that the 'Alleluia' and 'Gloria' are omitted at Mass, even in celebration of solemnities and feasts. Ashes will be distributed during the two Masses to be held on Ash Wednesday - the times being 9.00am and 7.30pm.

PANCAKE SUNDAY: As is our normal practice, we have brought forward to today Shrove Tuesday's celebration of pancakes!!! These will be available after Mass during our social get-together at a cost of only \$1.00 per pancake. All funds raised will be given to Caritas, our major fundraising charity this Lenten-Easter period. As is also normal practice for Shrove Tuesday, all Parramatta Diocesan priests, including me, will gather at St Patrick's Cathedral for a special Mass and meal as a precursor to Lent's arrival.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year's World Day of Prayer is to be hosted by Blackheath's Anglican Church (St Aidan's), located opposite the park on the corner of the Great Western Highway and Hat Hill Road (access off Hat Hill Road). All are invited to attend this annual ecumenical service that involves every local Christian denomination. Our attention this year will be drawn prayerfully to the special needs of the women from the Philippines. This service will be held on Friday next, 3rd March commencing at 2.00pm. Light refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of prayers. Jan Roberts (4787 5252) is your contact after today's Mass. We do play an active role during this service and need at least another two ladies to undertake some of the duties that will arise therein. As well, we also need the support of as many people as possible to attend. Others support us when we host this event, so we really do need your support this time around. Thank you in advance for that support! Rev. Tim will be your host for this approximately one and a half hour prayer and social get-together!

LENTEN GROUPS: As mentioned last week, the opportunity exists for one or two Lenten family groups of about 6-8 people to jointly journey through the special scriptures that lead us through Lent to the highlight of our Christian year - Jesus' Resurrection! While so far no one has taken advantage of this opportunity to form a group for the first time in a number of years, the offer still remains open to anyone interested. Special material is supplied for this course. Interested? Then speak to Mon or Brian Bright or myself after Mass.

CATECHISTS: Advance notice of this year's annual Special Religious Education Mass for the Blue Mountains Deanery is to be held at Our Lady of The Way Church, Emu Plains commencing at 10.30am on Monday, 20th March.

CATECHISTS

(continued from previous page)

For all those affected, please make a note in your Diaries. During the course of this Mass, both qualifying and length of service certificates will be presented to a number of catechists.

God Bless! Father Bob


Afternoon Capers will be held at The Gardner's Inn Blackheath at 12pm on Wed, 1st March. All welcome. If you need a lift, please phone Diane on 4787 1357.

Happy 75th Birthday
Diana Landsberg
for 23rd February

Happy 9th Anniversary
Philia & Frank Portelli
for 1st March

Benedictine Spirituality Morning
On Friday 3rd March the Benedictine Spirituality morning will be held at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Rd, Wentworth Falls. There will be morning prayer, silent time in the garden, morning tea and a discussion on Ch. 7 "Material Things" in *Seeking God* by Esther De Waal. New participants are always welcome. Enquiries: Sr Jacinta 4757 2290

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

 **Pat Drummond** will be guest artist at the Blackheath Folk Club on Thursday 2nd March from 7pm-10pm at the Ivanhoe—in the Dining Room. Come along—always a fun night and it's free!



Today we celebrate Project Compassion Sunday and launch the 2017 Project Compassion Appeal with our annual feast of Pancakes - available after Mass for you to enjoy. The theme for this year is **'Love your Neighbour'**.

Bishop Greg O'Kelly, Caritas Australia Chairman, reminds us that **"The call of Jesus shakes us out of preoccupation with ourselves."** He continues...

"Christ asks us to acknowledge in our lives that we are all members of the one human family." Throughout the six Sundays of Lent, we will learn of compelling stories about **Dinia** from the Philippines, **Martina** from Timor-Leste, **Uncle Richard** from Australia, **Nguyet** from Vietnam, **Semiti** from Fiji and **Aloma**, also from the Philippines. These stories **"... demonstrate how love for our neighbours can transform lives. When mutual respect is fostered, communities become stronger and more resilient. This can only lead to a better future for our world, the world that Pope Francis has recently called 'our common home'."**

We are all asked to generously support this year's Project Compassion Appeal. Packs of Gifting envelopes and Project Compassion Boxes are available at each entrance to the Church and at the foot of the Altar.

In memoriam
Anthony Gilchrist ~ 28th February