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Isaiah 11:1-10 Justice and peace
Romans 15:4-9 Be tolerant and friendly
Matthew 3:1-12 Prepare for his coming

Psalm response: In his days, justice shall flourish and peace 'till the moon fails.

Gospel Acclamation: Change your lives, he's coming. The one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Change your lives, he's coming. The Lord is coming soon. Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord is coming soon.

Servers

4 Dec Grahame Adams
11 Dec Pat Wicks

Readers

4 Dec 1st Reading Christine Helby
2nd Reading Claire Maguire
Intercessions Dominic Burke family
11 Dec 1st Reading Christa Buckley
2nd Reading Barbara Grieves
Intercessions Patricia Dee

Communion

4 Dec Ray Wood & Jan Roberts
11 Dec Monica & Brian Bright

Counters

4 Dec Pamela & John
11 Dec Robyn & Adrian

Morning Tea

4 Dec Monica Bright
18 Dec Christine O'Grady

Church Care

9 Dec Noeleen Cliff & Jennifer Milani

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

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

Entrance Antiphon: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

Communion Antiphon: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



Feast Days of the Week — Sunday 4th to Saturday 10th Dec

4th St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor (676-749AD), Optional
5th Bl. Mary Frances Schervier, Founder (1819-76)
6th St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (270-343AD)
7th St Ambrose (c.340-397AD)
8th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity
9th St Peter Fourier (1565-1640),
Founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame
10th St Gregory III, (690-741), Pope (731-741)



**Second
Sunday
of
Advent**

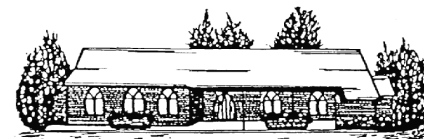
Year A

4 December 2016

John the Baptist exhorts us to make ourselves ready for the coming of Christ by preparing our hearts and minds to receive him. We are asked to reconsider our values. Do we act with justice and integrity? Deep in our hearts we know when we do not live up to these ideals. Advent is an opportunity to reassess our lives, turn to the Lord, and prepare for his coming.

Next Week: **Persevere in faith**
Is 35:1-6,10; Ps 145;
James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11

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

ADVENT WREATH: Second Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Proclamation")
Advent is rich in symbols. The scriptures are filled with images of light, darkness, silence, waiting, fulfilment. The colour of the Season is purple reflecting the penitential and reflective nature of the Church Season. This week, I invite you to try and make available a little extra time to reflect on the scriptures we had at Mass today, or perhaps another scripture passage appropriate to this Season, and reflect on the contents of that passage - and the great gift that Jesus is for us.

Week 2: Lighting of two purple candles: From Isaiah we read, "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." God of Salvation, help us to give voice to the voiceless as we cry out in the name of your Son, Jesus. As the candles are lit, we all say: **Let these candles remind us that Jesus is coming.**

THE CRIB: Many thanks to Julie and Lance Hodgkinson who, once again, have supplied and assembled our Christmas Crib this year. As Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus, the stable is presently without figures as a symbol of that waiting. Very basic in the material used and its rather primitive construction, Julie and Lance have truly captured the reality of Jesus' era, in my opinion. Spectacular!

MATTHEW DIMIAN: A couple of weeks ago, I was asked whether we would consider having one of our Parramatta seminarians reside with us during the immediate pre-Christmas period and Christmas Day. Having myself been a product of that same system over a decade ago, I said that we would consider it to be a privilege to have a seminarian join us at this time. Today, Wednesday, I received a formal invitation for us to host Seminarian Matthew DIMIAN from 13th - 25th December (Christmas Day). I accepted that invitation on behalf of all of us. I met Matthew for a few minutes only earlier today at a Diocesan retreat. He is as tall as I am short, is both young and full of energy. So, look out everyone! By the way, while here, Matthew will be living in his own self-contained unit within our presbytery.

EPIPHANY WALKERS: Today, after the final prayer in Mass, we are to be addressed by Briony and Jesse, the same walkers who earlier this year with a group that included their own priest, trekked from Emu Plains to us here at Blackheath where their journey ended with a celebratory Mass and light refreshments. This time around they are extending their journey to include Mt Victoria and Bell, where the trek will conclude at the Magi Chapel. More details are to be found on our notice board should you be interested. Incidentally, they will be staying in our hall overnight Saturday, 7th January, 2017 before they tackle the last 16 kilometres to Bell the next day (Sunday).

BLACKHEATH COMMUNITY CAROLS: You are invited to the annual community carols, this year to be held in the Blackheath Community Hall on Saturday, 10th December from 3.30pm. All welcome! **God Bless! Father Bob**

AFTERNOON CAPERS will be held at The Old Exchange Restaurant, 83 Main St, Lithgow (next to Barratt and Smith Pathology) at 12.30pm on Wednesday, 7th December. If you need a lift, please phone Diane on 4787 1357.

CALL FOR LITURGY MINISTERS: As the New Year approaches, we need to think about more parishioners becoming involved in our various Liturgical Ministries. For our Sunday Mass, we need to recruit and train more Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and Adult Servers. And Father Bob desperately needs more help in taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound! Fr Bob and the Parish Pastoral Council have invited Michelle Davis to prepare and present an Introductory Workshop aimed at providing more information in relation to these Ministries. Details appear in today's bulletin insert. Everyone is invited!

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 and next Sunday, 11th December. Thank you. *Pamela Nash*

OFFICE CLOSURE: The Parish Office will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period from Friday 23/12/16 and will reopen on Wednesday 18/1/2017.

*Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation
of God. (Lk 3:4,6)*

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!

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE: Tickets (\$2 each) will be available **today** for your chance to win fabulous prizes in our annual fundraising Christmas hamper raffle. This year, we have an extra prize of a \$150 hamper which was donated.



Come and join us at the next **Laudato Si' Discussion Group meeting** on **Wed, 7 Dec**, in the Parish meeting room 7.15pm to 8.30pm. Last meeting! Come and look more closely at Pope Francis' encyclical. **All Welcome!**

Happy Birthday
Julie Hodgkinson ~ 9 December
Jan Roberts ~ 10 December

Last Week's Collections
1st: \$158.90—Pastoral Revenue (support of the Bishop and Diocesan Priests both active & retired)
2nd: \$785.90 (includes direct deposits). This money is used for local parish needs.

Quality Clothing and Accessories Pop Up Shop and Miss Pretty's Tearoom
In May we plan to hold another fundraiser in the form of a pop up shop. We are asking for donations of quality clothing to sell for this event. We are hoping to finalise details in the New Year. Just don't throw away any clothing.
Your Social Team—Marilyn, Patricia, Sue & Diane.