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Is 58:7-10 Your light will shine like the dawn.
 1 Cor 2:1-5 Faith is a gift from God.
 Mt 5:13-16 Salt of the earth, light of the world.

Ps response:

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!
 I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life.
 Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Servers

5 Feb Jan Roberts
 12 Feb Ray Wood

Readers

5 Feb 1st Reading Christa Buckley
 2nd Reading Barbara Grieves
 Intercessions Patricia Dee
 12 Feb 1st Reading Monica Bright
 2nd Reading Brian Bright
 Intercessions Marilyn Rowe

Communion

5 Feb Monica and Brian Bright
 12 Feb Elizabeth Doolan and Michelle Davis

Counters

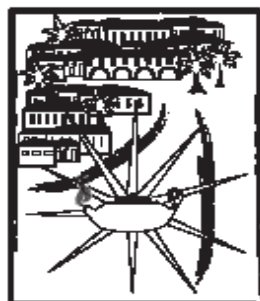
5 Feb Barbara and Bill
 12 Feb Marilyn

Morning Tea

5 Feb Christine O'Grady
 12 Feb Connie Adams

Church Care

17 Feb Sue Gracey and Barbara Grieves



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

5th February 2017

Jesus proclaims himself 'the light of the world', and also proclaims us, His disciples, as 'the light of the world.' We who are joined to him in baptism truly share in his life, in his light. If we really live this relationship with him, our lives, our attitudes, our good works and our generosity to those in need will show forth the light we share: the glory of God.

Scriptural context - Following blessings: *Today's gospel passage is one that is quite commonly quoted and relatively well known. When it is taken in isolation, it's very easy to forget that these words immediately follow the Beatitudes that we heard in last week's gospel. The imperative for justice in the images of salt and light of the world becomes even clearer when we remember that these words follow the blessings on those who are poor; who mourn; who are merciful and fight for justice. Jesus has blessed all these who are least in the world and then charges the disciples to be salt and light for them. (Liturgyhelp)*

Feast Days of the Week: 5th to 11th February 2017

5th St Agatha - Virgin & Martyr (d251), memorial
 6th Sts Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs (d1597), Memorial
 7th St Richard of Lucca, King (d722AD)
 8th St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin (1868-1947), optional
 9th St Apollonia, Virgin & Martyr (d249AD)
 10th St Scholastica, Virgin (c480-547), Memorial
 11th Our Lady of Lourdes (1858AD), optional



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

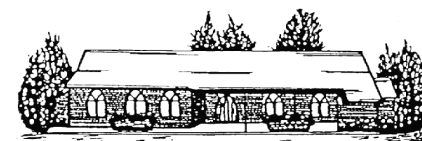
Entrance Antiphon:

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

Communion Antiphon:

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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>

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| 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

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE: Here we go again! We have stock stored in every nook and cranny, with more being added every day. However, keep them coming! We will be only too pleased to present for sale to others those items that are of little or no value to you - all to benefit this parish and all whom it serves, including yourself. More volunteers are also needed next Friday (10/2) to display the merchandise in the parish hall. As already stated, the actual sale will be held over the two days of next weekend (11/2 & 12/2). Additional help will be needed then, too. Should you be able to assist, and have not so far committed yourself to this task, kindly put your name on the list attached to the church notice board. Contact either Marilyn or Patricia for more information (4787 8540). And 'thank you' for your support!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Next Wednesday (8/2), is the Feast Day of a lesser-known great saint, Saint Josephine Bakhita, who was enslaved in her childhood, passed through a number of brutal owners over many years, was eventually freed, joined a religious order in which she lived a saintly life and died in 1947 at 79 years. Saint Josephine was canonized in 2000 by Pope Saint John Paul II. This is the third International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking undertaken by the Church. Cardinal Turkson, past president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace stated that *"...millions of people today - children, women, men of all ages - are deprived of freedom and forced to live in conditions akin to slavery."* For them, Saint Josephine Bakhita is an exemplary witness of hope and inspiration. The Holy Father considers this to be a global phenomenon beyond the competence of any community or nation to resolve. Hence this mobilization of awareness and prayer on a world scale by the Church. Our 9am Wednesday Mass will centre around this blight on our humanity.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS: This Mass is aimed at the sick, infirmed and the elderly. It is to be celebrated the next day, Thursday, (9/2). There will be two Masses that day. The first Mass is to be celebrated at Blackheath as usual at 8am. Kindly note that on the following Saturday (11/2) the normal 9am healing Mass will be conducted at Blackheath. The second Thursday (9/2) Mass is to be held at St Patrick's Church, 51 Allawah St, Blacktown commencing at 10.30am. Given the amount of sickness experienced in this community both during and subsequent to the Christmas/New Year period, the timing of this World Day of the Sick Mass is most appropriate. Two stalwarts of our parish (John & Marion Crowley) have had to be taken into permanent care at another location; another (Ken Kirkham) is also in the process making a similar move. All three moves are due to ill health. Yet a fourth parishioner of long standing, and a most dedicated toiler for the parish, has had to resign from 'active duty', again because of ill health. Added to these people are a number of other ill members of our 'family' who are doing it tough right now! All need our prayers. Be assured, for all who are able to attend next Thursday and/or the Saturday Masses to pray for the sick will be supporting them most fruitfully.

CONFIRMATION DATE: We have been advised from Parramatta Diocese that this year's Confirmations will be held at Blackheath during the 9.30am Sunday Mass on 17 September. The Very Rev. Fr. Chris de Souza VG EV will be undertaking this task. So, please pass around this knowledge to any interested families.
God Bless! Father Bob

Palms Encounters: An experience to share this Easter and beyond: A Palms Encounter is an intimate, immersive, inter-cultural experience providing insights that challenge perceptions and deepen understanding. Palms long-term volunteers guide the Encounter with our Catholic Communities in East Timor. Register now: 2-14 April Encounter and receive \$400 off a 2nd ticket. Call Roger 9560 5333 or go to www.palms.org.au/Encounters for more info. Real encounter, real people, real exchange, real life.

PATRICK — our assistance and prayers needed!

Last week we heard of the plight being faced by Patrick, our Iranian Asylum Seeker, who along with Ali, has joined our Faith Community. Patrick has had his application for a Safe Haven Protection Visa rejected by the Department of Immigration and Border Security.

In conjunction with Patrick's Immigration Lawyer, we have prepared a letter to be lodged with Patrick's appeal to the Immigration Assessment Authority—in a last ditch effort to allow him to stay in Australia.

A heartfelt *Thank You* from Patrick and Ali to the 70+ parishioners who have thus far signed an endorsement to our letter. Copies of the letter and signature sheets will be available after Mass today for those who were not here last Sunday.

Thank you!
A big thank you to Barry Roberts alias 'Cleaner of the Loos' for ensuring the Ladies and Gents are kept clean and tidy. Barry has looked after this duty for the past 8 years but has been forced to retire due to ill health.
Thanks again Barry. Well done!

A Call to our Culinary Experts

We have two important events coming up that require the culinary expertise of our many cooks:

First - we have our Garage Sale - Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 February

- * We need cooks for our Sausage Sizzle
- * Saturday 2x3-hour shifts - 8am to 11am and/or 11am to 2pm
- * Sunday 1x3-hour shift

Second is the launch of Project Compassion - Pancake Sunday, 26 February

- * We need help with preparing pancake batter, cooking and, of course, selling the always delicious pancakes.

If you are able to assist with either or both of these events, please contact David B - 4787 5105 or dbuckley45@bigpond.com

Happy 54th Anniversary
Joe & Diana Landsberg ~ 9th February

Happy Birthday
Joe Landsberg ~ 8th February
Frøya McNair ~ 8th February
Kenya Burke ~ 15 on 11th February

Last Week's Collections
1st: **\$499.70** — Pastoral Revenue (support of the Bishop and Diocesan Priests both active & retired)
2nd: **\$481.35** (includes direct deposits) . This money is used for local parish needs.
Thank You!

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 soon.
Just don't throw away any clothing!
Your Social Team
Marilyn, Patricia, Sue & Diane.

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