



2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16 **David's house**
Romans 16:25-27 **Give glory to God**
Luke 1:26-38 **You will bear a son**

Psalm Response: I will sing forever of the
goodness of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: By the power of the Spirit,
Mary will give birth to a Son called Jesus.
By the power of the Spirit, Emmanuel is near!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Emmanuel is near.

Servers

24 Dec Diane Stewart
31 Dec Pat Wicks

Readers

24 Dec	1st Reading	Monica Bright
	2nd Reading	Brian Bright
	Intercessions	Robert Forbes
24 Dec	Christmas Vigil Readings	Lillis Family
31 Dec	1st Reading	Christa Buckley
	2nd Reading	David Buckley
	Intercessions	Paul Harris

Communion

24 Dec Elizabeth Doolan and Carla Endean
31 Dec Monica and Brian Bright

Counters

24 Dec Robyn and Adrian
31 Dec Barbara and Bill

Morning Tea

24 Dec Mary Batty
31 Dec Pamela Nash

Church Care

29 Dec Sue Gracey and Pat McAuley
12 Jan Marilyn Rowe and Noeleen Cliff

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

Entrance Antiphon: Drop down dew from above,
you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

Communion Antiphon: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive
and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year B



24th December 2017

In last week's gospel,
John used 'light' as a
divine attribute; but in
Luke's Annunciation 'the
power of the Most High'
covered Mary
'with its shadow'.
It seems ironic that both
light and shadow can be
aspects of God. These
seemingly conflicting
motifs are examples of
the human urge to devise
metaphors which evoke
the divine, even though we
know that God can never
be fully expressed in
words or images.
In Luke's Annunciation,
Mary is somewhere
between the light and
the shadow. Here the
shadow has a protective,
nurturing quality.
Here too opposites are
reconciled in God
(flesh and spirit,
light and shadow)
'for nothing is
impossible to God'.

*Reflection and Artwork
by Jenny Close (Liturgyhelp)*



Feast Days of the Week: 24th to 30th December

24th	Christmas Eve ~ Saints Adam & Eve – Progenitors of human race
25th	Christmas Day ~ (Birth of Jesus) – Solemnity with Octave
26th	Octave of Christmas; St Stephen – Protomartyr, Feast
27th	Octave of Christmas; St John, Apostle & Evangelist, Feast
28th	Octave of Christmas; The Holy Innocents
29th	Octave of Christmas; St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury (1118-70)
30th	Octave of Christmas; St Anysia, Martyr (284-304); St Sabinus, Martyr (d300)



Sacred Heart Parish

Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

**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.**

*We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of this land
and pay our respects to the elders past and present, including those who may be with us today.*

Blackheath	Sunday Mass	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 Priest: Father Bob Sheridan

Parish Office: 02 4787 8540

Parish House: 02 4787 8811

Facsimile: 02 4787 6143

Parish Mobile: 04 1735 5479
(Emergency only)

Office hours: Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm

E-mail: shbheath2@bigpond.com

Fri 9.00am - 12.00pm

Parish House: 18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath. 2785

Sacred Heart Church: 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath.

St Paul's Church: 65 Great Western Highway, Mount Victoria.

St Joseph's Church: 1270 Megalong Road, Megalong Valley.

For Baptisms, Marriages and sick calls, please contact the Parish House.

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 Christine O'Grady (Secretary).

Sacred Heart Care Group (helping parishioners in times of need) call 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

Website: <https://sacredheartblackheath.org.au/>



www.facebook.com/

Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-153850768029631/

A HAPPY, HEALTHY, HOLY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

"May God's richest blessings, His truest joys and His most tender guidance be with you at Christmas and always!"

Through this edition of the 'Bulletin', I offer you and those near and dear to you all the wonders of this Season. On behalf of our parish family, we welcome all visitors and pray that they, too, will enjoy a safe, healthy, happy and holy Christmas. In this joyful time, our hearts and minds are filled with memories of, and association with, families and friends.

We remember also that it is in the name of Jesus we gather here, because it is as part of His adopted family we are able to experience the full impact - the full benefit - of this Holy Season. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God is to be most found in the ordinary events of our life. Our God is not hidden from us, but is revealed to us in the innocence and vulnerability of a baby. It is because God loves us so much that He makes himself so accessible to us. He promises to be with us to help us face life and its challenges through his limitless love for each of us. At Christmas we celebrate the eternal truth that God's love never ends, and that He will always be with us, especially in our times of great need.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Congratulations and a humble 'thank you' to every parishioner for your contribution to the continued wellbeing and progress of this most picturesque 'bush' parish. As detailed at our recent AGM, the past year has been one of significant change, challenge and achievement for the parish and, therefore, us. Hard work does have its own reward, as has been the case for our beloved Sacred Heart Parish in 2017. So enjoy the fruits of your labour, your gifts to both parish and the wider community as we now celebrate the birth of Jesus, and a week later, the arrival of another new year.

ADVENT WREATH: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Fulfilment")

Today, Sunday, during our candle lighting ceremony, all three purple candles plus the pink candle will be lit. The fourth purple candle, the "Candle of Love", reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to earth. After today, only the white (Christ) candle remains to be lit at the Christmas Vigil Mass this (Sunday) evening.

Week 4: Lighting of the 3 purple candles and the pink candle: From Isaiah we read, *"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." God of blessings, we celebrate your good gifts and rejoice in the gift of your Son, Jesus.* As the candle is lit, we say: **LET THIS CANDLE REMIND US THAT JESUS IS COMING, AND IN HIM WE REJOICE.**

EPIPHANY WALKERS: A final reminder for the physically energetic among you: the special table set aside with all relevant information for you is located near the brochure stand. This group will be staying here overnight on Sunday, 7 January 2018, before moving on to their destination at Bell the following day. Join them? Best of luck!

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSE-DOWN: Please note that this is the last Bulletin copy for 2017. The next edition will be available on Sunday 21 January 2018. Additional copies of this edition will be available on weekends during

PARENTS' ROOM

The Sacristy, which contains a few books and toys, is available for parents to use when your young children are restless. We hope this makes it a little easier for you and your children.

FR BRIAN ROONEY,

Pastor Emeritus of St Monica's Parish, Nth Parramatta and residing at Pearce Street, Baulkham Hills, died sometime during the night of 18 December. The Funeral Mass for Fr Brian will take place at St Michael's Church, Chapel Lane, Baulkham Hills, on Tuesday 2 January 2018 at 11am.

the intervening period. The enclosed Christmas/New Year Mass schedule will apply until the normal Mass Timetable (see this Bulletin cover) re-commences on Thursday 4 January. Emergencies: 0417 35 5479. **God bless!** Father Bob

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE will be drawn today! Last chance to purchase a ticket or two for the opportunity to win all those goodies! Only \$2 per ticket.

~ CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES ~

SACRED HEART BLACKHEATH

Sunday 24 December

9.30am Sunday Mass

7.00pm Christmas Vigil - Children's

Mass (Children are invited to dress as shepherds, kings or angels.)

Monday 25 December

Christmas Day 9.30am Mass

Sunday 31 December 9.30am Mass

Monday 1 January 2018

(New Year's Day) 9.30am Mass



Please note there will be **no Christmas Day Mass at St Joseph's in Megalong Valley.**

There will be no weekday Masses celebrated from 26-29 December or on Tuesday 2 January.

Normal scheduled Masses will be celebrated at Blackheath on 31 December and at Sacred Heart, St Paul's and St Joseph's from 1 January 2018.

ST PAUL'S MT VICTORIA

Monday 25 December Christmas Day 7.00am

Saturday 30 December 6.00pm Vigil Mass

LITURGICAL MINISTERS: If you are available to serve at the Christmas morning Mass, **PLEASE** let Father Bob know on the morning.

OFFICE CLOSURE: The Parish Office will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period **from Friday 22/12/17** and will **reopen on Wednesday 17/1/2018.**

Happy 72nd Birthday David Bucklzy ~ Today!
Happy Birthday Sean Illis & Fred Pateman for 27th Decembr.

Happy 49th Anniversary Christa and David Buckley for 28th December.

Please pray for the sick and their carers: Barry Bowden, John & Marion Crowley, Bill Grieves, Kevin Madden, Maria Slater and Roma Ziolkowski.

BISHOP VINCENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: We are unable to broadcast this message at the Christmas Masses but you will be able to access it on Youtube at the following links.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ae_om5LqtU or www.parracatholic.org

POSITION VACANT: Accounts Officer - Chancery Office, Parramatta.
Applications close: 5th January 2018. More details at: www.parracatholic.org/employment