



Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8 **Come down**  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 **While waiting**  
Mark 13:33-37 **Stay awake!**

**Psalm Response:**  
Lord, let us turn to you and we shall be saved.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Stay awake, be ready. You do not know the hour when the Lord is coming. Stay awake, be ready. The Lord is coming soon. Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord is coming soon.

#### Servers

3 Dec Pat Wicks  
10 Dec Diane Stewart

#### Readers

3 Dec 1st Reading Elaine Jackson  
2nd Reading Basil Jackson  
Intercessions Adrian Carroll  
10 Dec 1st Reading David Buckley  
2nd Reading Christa Buckley  
Intercessions Patricia Dee

#### Communion

3 Dec Monica and Brian Bright  
10 Dec Elizabeth Doolan and Grahame Adams

#### Counters

3 Dec Carla and Neil  
10 Dec Pamela and John

#### Church Care 15 Dec

#### Morning Tea

3 Dec Dave Harris Margaret Solomons/  
10 Dec Christine O'Grady Catherine McNamara

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

**Entrance Antiphon:** To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

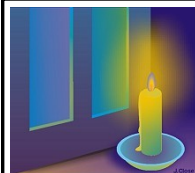
**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

#### **Feast Days of the Week: 3rd - 9th December**

3rd St Francis Xavier, Priest (1506-52), Memorial  
4th St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor (676-749), Optional  
5th Blessed Mary Frances Schervier, Founder (1819-76)  
6th St Nicholas, Bishop of Myra - Turkey (d343)  
7th St Ambrose (c340-397)  
8th Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
9th St Peter Fourier (1565-1640),  
Founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame



St Nicholas



### First Sunday of Advent Year B

3rd December 2017

Advent is a waiting time and a time of change in our world. In Southern lands trees are budding and fruiting, the air is fresh and warm and the sky is blue. In the North the leaves are showing autumn colour, the nights are getting colder and winter is edging in. Things are changing, but the changes can take us by surprise if we are not alert and looking for them. The natural cycle echoes the Advent mystery: we wait in hope for the coming of the Kingdom, for the end time, for the completion of creation.

That is the grand plan and the long view, but there is something a little more pedestrian here. After all, the Kingdom is among us now and it can be observed at work in our world. It shows in the ebb and flow of our lives and we need to pay attention to these changes, just as we watch and respond to the changes in nature. Jesus urges us to 'stay awake' so that when the changes come we will be prepared. So keep a candle burning, the door ajar, and be on the alert 'because you never know when the time will come'.

*Reflection and Artwork  
by Jenny Close (Liturgyhelp)*

# 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.*

<b>Blackheath</b>	<b>Sunday Mass</b>	<b>9.30am</b>
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</b>	<b>Vigil Mass (1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays)</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>
<b>Megalong Valley</b>	<b>Vigil Mass (2nd and 4th Saturdays)</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>

**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](mailto:shbheath2@bigpond.com)

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



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[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/)

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

Next Week: **Prepare a way** Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11; Psalm 84; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** (Theme - **'Expectation'**): Today we begin the Season of Advent, a four week period in preparation for Christmas. For many people this will be a time of shopping and parties, normal habits for this time of year - just as in the days before the Great Flood when *"people were eating, drinking, taking wives...then the flood came and swept all away"*. It is so easy to be consumed in the day-to-day events, in pleasures, in the immediate concerns of living. One year leads to another year, and another and another...it can all become a little bit meaningless. For us Christians though, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. God has come to us, lived with us, taught us how to live and then died for us. In Advent we, too, are reminded of that one day when Christ will return. So we also prepare for that to arrive. Christians, too, are engaged in the shopping and partying, but it is all for a special purpose. We are spiritual, not just material beings, and we are on a journey of continuing spiritual growth. We look for Christ in our daily lives and seek to follow him. So may this be a blessed season for all as we journey towards the Kingdom of God. This week, see if you can devote a little more time for reflection and prayer, and experience the joy and peace the Babe of Bethlehem brings at Christmas. Today, the Advent Wreath will be used for the first time this year, led at the beginning of each Mass by a parish family who will introduce each week's prayer for us to share.

**Week 1 - Lighting of the purple candle:** From Isaiah we read, *"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." God of compassion, be with us as we prepare and wait for the birth of your Son, Jesus. As the candle is lit: Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming."*

**THE ADVENT WREATH:** The circle of the wreath and the evergreens that make it up both signify God's endless mercy and undying love. Three purple candles and one rose-coloured (pink) candle are evenly spaced around the wreath. There is one larger white candle in the centre of the wreath. Each week, an additional candle is lit. As the light grows brighter each week, we are reminded that the Light of the world will soon arrive in glory. The central white candle is a recent addition to the Advent Wreath. It signifies the Light of Christ, and is first lit on Christmas Eve and then re-lit on Christmas Day.

**STOP PRESS:** David Buckley has been appointed to the new Parramatta Diocesan Pastoral Council, while both Michelle Davis and Brian Bright have been appointed to the first Blue Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council. Congratulations to all three of these hard-working toilers for our parish. They are the BEST!  
**God bless! Father Bob**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AGM:** At the Parish Pastoral AGM last Sunday, we said thank you and well done to our retiring councillors - David Buckley, Brian Bright, Carmen Beard and Adrienne Kitching and also casual replacements, Michelle Davis and Christine O'Grady. They have done a great job for us. Six new members were elected to the Council including Paul Harris, Christine O'Grady, Patricia Dee, Elizabeth Doolan, John Barclay and Diana Landsberg. We wish to congratulate them on the opportunity they now have to progress our Parish. The Parish recognises the generosity and commitment of all those people who volunteer to serve in this way. Thank you.

**SANCTUS SHOP** (in the arcade opposite St Canice's Church, Katoomba)  
4 Katoomba Arcade, Katoomba St, Ph 4782 3133 - In stock now - Advent Calendars and Candles,  
2018 TAN calendars, Christmas cards, tree decorations, children's books for Advent and Christmas,  
Nativity sets and so much more. 4 weeks till Christmas!

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** St Vincent de Paul Society Sacred Heart Blackheath Conference is humbled, and the people we assist are blessed by the generosity of this Parish. However, to assist financing our work for the disadvantaged, we are again holding our **Christmas Appeal TODAY and next Sunday, 10 December**. Homelessness is on the rise and while data from the 2016 Census has not been released yet, we know that in 2011, 105,000 people experienced homelessness; of these 17,000 were children under the age of 12 years. We anticipate the figures will have increased at last year's Census and be even worse this year. Our Conferences report that more people are seeking our assistance. Between July 2016 to March 2017, almost 60% of the people we assisted were in housing stress, where their rent takes up more than 30% of their income. And this was before the July 2017 energy price hikes. Too many families are struggling as a result of circumstances beyond their control. This Christmas we want to restore some dignity to their shattered lives.

Envelopes can be found in the Church today and next Sunday.  
Parishioners are respectfully asked to donate any sum that they are able.  
**Karen Hayward, President, SVdP Society, Sacred Heart Blackheath Conference.**

**~ Christmas Hamper Raffle ~**  
Small books of tickets are available today (\$2 per ticket). On the notice board, there is also a list of suitable hamper items needed.  
**Fund Raising Committee**

**Afternoon Capers** will be held on **Wednesday 6th December** at Megalong Tea Rooms at 12pm. If you need a lift, please phone Diane 4787 1357.

**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.

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

### **~ CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES ~**

**SACRED HEART BLACKHEATH**  
**Saturday 23 December** 9am Mass  
**Sunday 24 December** 9.30am Sunday Mass  
**7.00pm Christmas Vigil** Children's Mass  
**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

**ST PAUL'S MT VICTORIA**  
**Monday 25 December Christmas Day** 7am  
**Saturday 30 December Vigil** Mass 6pm

**ST JOSEPH'S MEGALONG VALLEY**  
**Saturday 23 December Vigil** Mass 6pm

\* Please note there will be **no Christmas Day Mass at St Joseph's** in Megalong Valley.  
\* However, at **Sacred Heart**, there will be a special **Second Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 13 December at 7.30pm.**  
\* Also note that normal Mass times will apply on Saturday 23 December (Vigil Mass Megalong) and Sunday 24 December (9:30am Blackheath)  
\* **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.