

**Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11** The Lord is coming  
**2 Peter 3:8-14** While you are waiting  
**Mark 1:1-8** Prepare a way

**Psalm Response:** Lord, let us see your kindness,  
 and grant us your salvation.

**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**

10 Dec Diane Stewart  
 17 Dec Graham Adams

**Readers**

10 Dec	1st Reading	David Buckley
	2nd Reading	Christa Buckley
	Intercessions	Patricia Dee
17 Dec	1st Reading	Elaine Jackson
	2nd Reading	Basil Jackson
	Intercessions	Marilyn Rowe

**Communion**

10 Dec Elizabeth Doolan and Grahame Adams  
 17 Dec Paul Harris and Robert Forbes

**Counters**

10 Dec	Pamela and John	<b>Church Care</b> 15 Dec
17 Dec	Julie and Lance	
10 Dec	Christine O'Grady	Margaret Solomons/
17 Dec	George Commens	Catherine McNamara

**St Paul's Mt Vic & St Joseph's Megalong Valley**

<b>Entrance Antiphon</b>	<b>Communion Antiphon</b>
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.	Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

**Feast Days of the Week: 10th - 16th December**

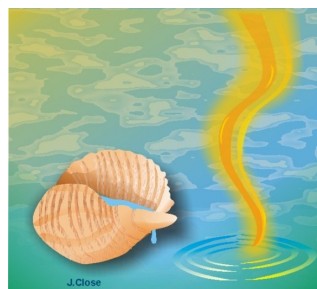
10th St Gregory III, (690-741), Pope (731-741)  
 11th St Damasus I, Pope (d384), optional  
 12th Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 13th St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (d304), memorial  
 14th St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor  
 (1542-91), memorial  
 15th St Mary Di Rosa, Virgin (1813-1855)  
 16th St Adelaide of Burgundy, Queen (931-999)

**In memoriam**

**Marj Cullen**  
 13th December  
**Travis Kingston**  
 13th December  
**Rosalie Sandor**  
 13th December  
**Maria Naraj**  
 14th December

**Next Week**  
**John,**  
**a witness**

Isaiah  
 61:1-2,10-11;  
 Ps Luke 1:46-54  
 1Thess  
 5:16-24;  
 John  
 1:6-8, 19-28



**Second Sunday  
 of Advent  
 Year B**

10th December 2017

Mark's Gospel begins  
 with a narrative about  
 baptism with water  
 and the Holy Spirit.  
 The earthly water  
 washes away the  
 detritus of sin and the  
 Holy Spirit regenerates:  
 the water is ours to use,  
 but the Holy Spirit  
 is pure gift.  
 The focus on repentance  
 and grace is part of  
 our Advent task -  
 to prepare ourselves by  
 reflecting on our lives  
 and seeking forgiveness  
 while we watch and wait.

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

<b>Parish Priest:</b> Father Bob Sheridan	<b>Parish Office:</b> 02 4787 8540
<b>Parish House:</b> 02 4787 8811	<b>Facsimile:</b> 02 4787 6143
<b>Parish Mobile:</b> 04 1735 5479	<b>Office hours:</b> Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
(Emergency only)	Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm
<b>E-mail:</b> 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/>



[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-153850768029631/)  
**Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-153850768029631/**

**ADVENT WREATH: Second Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Proclamation")**  
Advent is rich in symbols. The scriptures are filled with images of light, darkness, silence, waiting and fulfillment. The colour of the Season is violet, reflecting the penitential and reflective nature of this Church Season.  
This week I invite you to try and make available a little extra time to reflect on the scriptures we shared 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 violet candles:** From Isaiah we read, *"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light".* God of Salvation, help us give voice to the voiceless as we cry out in the name of your Son, Jesus. *As the candle is lit, we all say: Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming.*

**THE CRIB:** Many thanks to Julie and Lance Hodgkinson who, yet again, have supplied and assembled our Christmas crib for 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. Obviously very basic in the material used and its rather primitive construction, Julie and Lance have truly captured the reality of Jesus' era, in my humble opinion. We also congratulate Julie on her birthday yesterday, 9th December.

**ADVENT WREATH:** We, too, thank Barbara and Bill Grieves for their donation and assembly of our Advent Wreath. That was quite a task!

**EPIPHANY WALKERS:** At the end of last Sunday's Mass, we were addressed by Bryony and Jesse who are most responsible for the whole Epiphany Walk 'thing' since its inception two years ago. They trek from Emu Plains to Bell using walking trails, and stay overnight at parishes along the way, including ours on Sunday evening, 7th January 2018, Feast of the Epiphany, where they will share dinner in the parish hall with those of us who wish to attend.

Monday morning, 8th January, the walkers will trek the last 16kms to Bell via Mt Victoria. Once at Bell, a service will be shared on the site of the 'Magi Chapel', presently under construction. Should you wish to join them on any or all of the daily stages, or want more information in relation to this walk, please visit - [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org)

**CALL FOR CATECHISTS:** As we near the end of this calendar year, and begin a new Church year, the time is just about perfect to seek volunteer support for particular tasks during 2018. Right at the top of our 'needs' list is a call for more catechists! Whether you have experience in this field or not, you would make a valuable addition to the 'team' we already have should you decide to 'give it a go!' Please! The need is great! Give some thought to this request during the coming school holidays and, if possible, help us bring God into the lives of our Catholic children who otherwise might not have that opportunity from other sources. Should you want more information, please contact Claire Maguire (4787 7635) or myself.

**VINNIES:** For those who missed out making a donation to this most worthy cause last Sunday, today is your last chance to make such a contribution to this Vinnie's Christmas Appeal. Thank you, in advance for your support of others in this way!

Sacred Heart Parishioners and their friends are invited to an evening of **CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND BIBLE READINGS** at St Thomas Aquinas Church Springfield on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7:30pm.** Free Admission and supper is provided.

**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*



**SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:** Next Wednesday, 13th December at 7.30pm at Blackheath, those desiring to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation under the Second Rite in preparation for Christmas, will be most welcome. Fr Paul Hanna and I will be officiating. **God bless! Father Bob**

**VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** For many people, Christmas is a joyful time of year, a time for giving and celebrating with loved ones. But for around 105,000 Australians, including families and 17,000 children under 12, it's a time when fulfilling even the simplest of wishes, like having food on the table or a place to call home, will be a struggle. Your support can make a difference. Please give as generously as you can.

**Happy Birthday Julie Hodgkinson ~ 9 December & Jan Roberts ~ 10 December**  
**CHRISTMAS VIGIL & CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:** Please add your name to the rosters on the noticeboard if you are available for either/both of these Masses as Liturgical Ministers (Servers/Readers/Eucharistic Ministers). *Thank you.*

**New Rosters for Liturgical Ministers** are available at the back of the church.

**POSITION VACANT: Youth Minister ~ St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill.**  
More details at [www.parracatholic.org/employment](http://www.parracatholic.org/employment)

**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*  
*John & Marion Crowley, Sue Gracey, and their carers: Barry Bowden, 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.**