



Genesis 9:8-15 Covenant with Noah
1 Peter 3:18-22 Saving water
Mark 1:12-15 Repent

Psalm Response: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus. Praise and honour, Lord Jesus Christ. **No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

Servers

18 Feb Pat Wicks
25 Feb Michelle Davis

Readers

18 Feb	1st Reading	Basil Jackson
	2nd Reading	Elaine Jackson
	Intercessions	Robert Forbes
25 Feb	1st Reading	Claire Maguire
	2nd Reading	John Woodward
	Intercessions	Patricia Dee

Communion

18 Feb Ray Wood and Paul Harris
25 Feb Monica and Brian Bright

Counters

18 Feb Laurie
25 Feb Carla and Neil

Morning Tea

18 Feb Rasa Blansjaar
25 Feb Dave Harris

Church Care

23 Feb Marilyn Rowe and Noeleen Cliff
9 Mar Pat McAuley and Julie Hodgkinson

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

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Feast Days of the Week - Sunday 18th to Saturday 24th February

18th St Marie Bernadette Soubirous (1844-79)
19th St Mansuetus, Bishop (d685)
20th Bl. Francisco & Jacinta Manto, (1908-1919), Fatima's children
21st St Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor (1007-72AD), optional
22nd The Chair of St Peter, Apostle, Feast;
23rd St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr (c69-c156), optional
24th St Ethelbert, King (d616)



First Sunday of Lent Ordinary Time Year B

18th February 2018

A retreat into a wild and lonely place can mean both death and renewal, crisis and opportunity. Everything in a wilderness can seem a threat: even small creatures like this gecko can be classed as 'wild beasts'. But when we become familiar with geckoes – if we have lived with them and really looked at them – the threat fades. The same goes for Mark's 'wild beasts', i.e. demons, which 'the Spirit drove' Jesus to face. They were inner demons that confronted Jesus and they posed no mortal threat once he had lived with them and faced up to them. The vital ingredients in this situation are time, courage and a little help from God. Lent is a time for us to face our personal demons and, if we are courageous and rely on divine help, then death will lead to renewal and crisis to opportunity.

Reflection and Artwork by Jenny Close (Liturgyhelp)

Next Week
Listen to my Son
Gn 22:1-29-13,15-18
Ps 115
Rom 8:31-34
Mk 9:2-10

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 House: 02 4787 8811
Parish Mobile: 04 1735 5479 (Emergency only)
E-mail: shbheath2@bigpond.com

Parish Office: 02 4787 8540
Facsimile: 02 4787 6143
Office hours: Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm
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/>



Find us on facebook

www.facebook.com/

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

LENT: It's not often that we celebrate both Ash Wednesday and St Valentine's Day on the same day in any year. However, such is the case this year. What a contrast! Love of God, and love of a person - the same love graced to us by God and returned to him in our loving relationship with him, is also that same love we have for another special human being in our life. Same love - different application (spiritual and physical)!

Today we move spiritually from 'Ordinary Time' to 'Lent'. However, even after these first few days of Lent we should already be progressing in our Lenten endeavours in what is for most of us our major penitential effort for this year. Over the next 36 days we will have many opportunities to join Lenten activities that will help us form an ever closer relationship with God and each other - a time when we seek to revise, renew and reset our priorities in this life. Lent is that special time of the year when the liturgies are particularly framed to support us as we self-analyse where we are at, where we want to be, and how best to reach that goal. Yes! Lent is a time for action!

In passing, I have also to record the fact that 14th February was the 91st birthday of one of the 'nicest young ladies' in our parish - Betty Zeman! Congratulations Betty on achieving such an extraordinary milestone in your life.

Last Sunday, I invited any interested 'family' to take without charge a copy of a Lenten publication titled 'Surrender,' that sets before us on a daily basis a Lenten programme of renewal for families or groups. There are two copies only left should you be interested. No further copies are available as the entire print run has been sold out. Better hurry!

As to the two Ash Wednesday Masses: the 9.30am Mass attracted about 25 parishioners/visitors, while the 7.30pm Mass saw about 15 people attending with Fr Paul Hanna celebrating. Many thanks for sharing yourself with us in this way, Fr Paul!

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION (the old DWF Fundraiser): As indicated last week, today is the first of two opportunities available to you to contribute to the crucial work of the Parramatta Diocese, the other occasion being next weekend (25th February). Envelopes for this collection are arrayed in front of you in your pew. Please give generously to this fund as your contribution will greatly assist the many charitable activities within our Diocese, including many recipients who live in the Blue Mountains. A few of the ministries that this foundation supports include priests and religious training, Catholic Social Services, family support and youth activities. So, thank you in advance for your generosity. For those unable to contribute today, there will be the already-mentioned second opportunity to do so next weekend. Please place the completed envelopes on the second collection plates.

PROJECT COMPASSION (Caritas): This Lenten project's introduction has been delayed until 1st March and will conclude on 31st March, as mentioned last Sunday. The household collection boxes, however, are available now at each entrance to the church. Please take one and return to us over Easter. Many thanks for your ongoing support of this long-standing parish charity fundraiser. Figures for last Sunday's Pancake Feast are not yet available to me, so perhaps we will find out at the conclusion of this Mass the exact amount raised.


TAIZE SERVICE
You are warmly invited to our first Taize Service for 2018 this Sunday **18th Feb** from 5pm-6pm at **Leura Uniting Church**. The theme is "*Experiencing courage and comfort*".

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

†
In loving memory **Rick Frazer** 22nd February

As with most of our charitable endeavours, there are far too many people to thank individually for their efforts in this regard. Please take this mention as a personal 'thank you' from every parishioner - those who provided the 'mix', syrup and sugar, our culinary artists, and us consumers! How about that!

God Bless! Father Bob

 **Caritas AUSTRALIA** In Nepal, a Caritas Australia supported program has helped Janaki turn her life of poverty and disadvantage around. She is now running her own successful sewing business and has become a role model in her community. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and empower vulnerable young people like Janaki in Nepal to build a just future for themselves, their families and their communities. A Just Future starts with your support!** You can donate through Project Compassion boxes/envelopes, visit www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phone 1800 024 413.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019
Bishop Vincent and Catholic Youth Parramatta invite young people of our Diocese on a journey to the host city of **Panama** in Central America during January 2019. Visit www.parrawyd.org and join us for an **information evening** to learn more. **Tuesday, 20 Feb, at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys, 7pm-8:30pm.**

POSITIONS VACANT
Family Life Co-ordinator
Blacktown Parish, Blacktown
More details at: www.mqofblacktown.org.au
Interfaith and Ecumenical Executive Officer
Chancery Office, Sydney
Housekeeper/Cook
Bishop's Residence (Part Time)
Safeguarding Training and Support Officer
Chancery Office, Sydney
More details at www.catholicjobsonline.com.au

LENTEN RETREAT AFTERNOON FOR FAMILIES
Saturday 25th February
2pm: **Talk for Adults: JOY in SUFFERING** (Children's Programme and Baby sitting)
3pm: **Prayer, Adoration, Confession and Benediction**
4pm: **Afternoon Tea**
Where: Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa.
Cost: Free
Contact: Sr M Julie Bracar - 0408 738 334 or juliebracar@gmail.com

~ **SPECIAL EVENT** ~
Please keep **Friday 16th March** free to celebrate the **85th birthday of Father Bob**. More details will be available in the coming weeks.



Happy Birthday
Janet Lamerton ~ 23rd February
Diana Landsberg ~ 23rd February

GETTING ZOE TO BLACKHEATH
Zoe Griffiths and her husband Dave need our help.
Zoe has three life threatening conditions and has been told she must move to a cooler climate. They are trying to rent a house in Blackheath and are asking if anyone has a house they could rent at lower than normal rate for this area. (Their medical expenses are very high.) If you can help, please go to <https://www.youcaring.com/zoeinezsimms-1079492/>