


<div>TODAY</div> <div>Jer 33:14-16 ; 1 Thes 3:12 – 4:2 Lk 21:25-28. 34-36</div>			
Psalm Response: To you I lift my soul, O God			
<div>Gospel Acclamation:</div> <div>Alleluia, Alleluia!</div> <div>Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!</div>			
<div><u>Servers</u></div> <div>2 Dec Paul Harris</div> <div>9 Dec Ray Wood</div> <div><u>Readers</u></div> <div>2 Dec 1st reader John Woodward</div> <div>2nd Reader John Tweedie</div> <div>Intercessions Marilyn Rowe</div> <div>9 Dec 1st Reader Breda Seamons</div> <div>2nd reader Barbara Grieves</div> <div>Intercessions Paul Harris</div> <div><u>Communion</u></div> <div>2 Dec Mary Roberts & Pat Wicks</div> <div>9 Dec Elizabeth Doolan & Grahame Adams</div> <div><u>Counters</u></div> <div>2 Dec Marilyn Rowe</div> <div>9 Dec Laurie Noyes</div> <div><u>Morning Tea</u></div> <div>2 Dec George Commens</div> <div>9 Dec Mary Batty</div> <div><u>Church Care</u></div> <div>30 Nov Lance & Julie Hodgkinson</div>			<div>First Sunday of Advent Year C</div> <div>2.12.18</div> <div>I haven't got a clue when the world will cease to exist, but on this, the first day of the Church's Year, I know that the Lord returns to us every time we love, forgive, share, are compassionate, are generous and sacrificial toward one another. It may not be as grand as dancing suns and tidal waves, but the heroic love of a parent for a child, a spouse for their sick partner and the first world sharing with the third world are spectacular enough for me to believe that Jesus' kingdom comes every day, in every hour, at every moment. May the Advent season sustain us in our waiting and give us courage in our living.© Richard Leonard SJ.</div>
<div>St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley</div> <div>Entrance Ant: 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.</div> <div>Communion Ant: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.</div>			<div>Next Week:</div> <div>Bar 5:1-9 : Phil 1:3-6. 8-11</div> <div>Lk 3:1-6</div>
<div>Feast Days of the Week (3rd Dec to 8th Dec)</div> <div>3rd St Francis Xavier priest</div> <div>4th St John Damascene priest, doctor</div> <div>6th St Nicholas bishop</div> <div>7th St Ambrose bishop, doctor</div> <div>8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</div>			<div>Please pray for the sick and their carers: Barry and Madeleine Bowden, John & Marion Crowley, Kevin Madden, Maria Slater, Frank McKrell, Marie Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Jack Solomns</div>

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

Administrator: Father Bob Sheridan **Parish Office:** 02 4787 8540
Parish House: 0455 104 994.
Parish Mobile: 0417 355 479 **Office hours:** Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
(Emergency only) Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm
E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org 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 Sunday of each month.
If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Fr Bob; Diana Landsberg (Chair); John Barclay (Deputy Chair) or Patricia Dee (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 blackheath@parracatholic.org

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

 Find us on facebook www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/

ADVENT – FIRST SUNDAY (theme – ‘**Expectation**’): In the midst of the pre-Christmas frenzy of buying gifts and shopping, it is easy to lose sight of the profound spiritual importance of the Advent Season when there are many extra demands placed on our time. Pre-Christmas preparations can be fun but it is important to balance that with the spiritual side of the Advent Season and its associated Christmas Day. This week, it would be a good idea to devote a little more time for reflection and prayer, and experience the joy and peace the Babe of Bethlehem brings at Christmas. Today is the first of the four Sundays of Advent. The Advent Wreath will be used today for the first time this year, led at the beginning of each Mass by parish families who will introduce each week’s prayer for us to share as the candle is lit while we respond: “Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming!”

Week 1 – Lighting of the purple candle with this week’s Advent Prayer:

“O Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, come and dwell with us.

Desire of all nations; gift to every generation, come, make your home with us.

All nations, everybody is waiting for you, all races here and throughout

The world are waiting for you. Jesus, come to us. Amen.”

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 largest central white candle signifies the Light of Christ and is first lit on Christmas Eve.

PARISH COUNCIL AGM REVIEW: Once again, congratulations to Diana Landsberg, chairperson, and to all councillors for their dedicated role in the successful administration of our Sacred Heart Parish this past year. Congratulations, too, to John Tweedie, chairperson of the Finance Committee, and to all Finance Committee members for their most valuable contribution to the fiscal work of this parish. Given that this is a non-election year, the attendance of 35 interested parishioners was most gratifying to see. The meeting took a little over an hour to complete. No dilly-dallying there!

During the AGM four special Parish Awards were given for long and outstanding service rendered to this community. Sincere congratulations to Kate Forbes, Julie/Lance Hodgkinson, Pat Drummond and Lindsay Inman - well earned from a most grateful Parish! More generally, we have also continued to live up to the high expectations that Bishop Vincent has for us in bringing, and keeping, Christ in the lives of both parishioners and the many visitors we have hosted during the year. To that end, a very special ‘thank you’ to all parishioners for their friendship and support extended to our visitors and to each other.

Finally, I particularly thank all members of the many specialized groups who provide those services which are essential for the continued operation and maintenance of this parish, sometimes at a considerable personal cost to themselves. That certainly includes our office staff who, on a day-to-day basis, run this place so capably led by parish

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

secretary Marilyn Rowe. Take a bow, everyone!

BISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: This appeal is to be held today! Envelopes for this purpose are to be found in front of you in each pew. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible providing the required details are written on the envelopes. We are to make a special (third) collection immediately following the Gospel, and before the homily is delivered. The other two collections will remain as normal! The Parramatta Catholic Foundation will distribute this money as a priority to help Catholic Care’s Houses to Home services for vulnerable pregnant women and young mothers fleeing domestic violence and homelessness. Please give generously because, sadly, the need is great! God Bless! Fr. Bob

COFFEE CAPERS ~ Wednesday 5th December 12 noon at the Blackheath Golf Club. New caterers have taken over the restaurant and prices are reasonable. RSVP to Elizabeth Doolan 47875537

A warm invitation is extended to everyone to attend an evening of **Christmas Carols** which will be performed by St Thomas Aquinas Parish Choir, together with Bible readings, to be held at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood on Monday Dec 17, at 7.30pm. Admission is FREE. Supper will be served at the conclusion of the evening.

GARAGE SALE~ Please remember our Garage Sale on February 2 and 3 2019, if you are doing a Spring Clean, and donate your unwanted goodies to our sale. Please contact Marilyn 0414536601

Benedictine Spirituality Morning ~ The next Benedictine Spirituality morning will be at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls on Friday December 7th from 10 am till noon. New friends are very welcome. Enquiries Sr. Jacinta 4757 2290

Vinnies Christmas Appeal ~ The theme this year is ‘A Christmas without Joy is no Christmas at all’. Envelopes will be out at Mt Vic 15 Dec and Sacred Heart 16 Dec.

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: Role of Women in the Church Join us **TODAY**, at 11.00 am, after Mass in the hall for the second Listening Circles and Forum. This session will focus on the role of women in the church. This will be an opportunity to come up with further suggestions to feed into the Plenary 2020 process.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - Once again we will be raffling a wonderful Christmas hamper - supplied by our generous parishioners. Get your tickets from Sue Gracey after Mass, only \$2.00 each. *Your* contributions to the hamper can be listed outside the church.

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and an outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January 2019 and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk through the beautiful bushland and join parishioners in daily Mass, Adoration, prayer, catechesis and fellowship. To register for all or part of the pilgrimage:

www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. For updates and to follow the journey www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage