

TODAY Zep 3:14-18 ; Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18		
Psalm Response: Truly God is my salvation; I trust, I shall not fear.		
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!		
Servers 16 Dec Grahame Adams 23 Dec Pat Wicks Readers 16 Dec 1st Reader Patricia Dee 2nd Reader Frances Huckstepp Intercessions Patricia Wicks 23 Dec 1st Reader Elaine Jackson 2nd Reader Basil Jackson Intercessions Patricia Dee Communion 16 Dec Paul Harris & Ray Wood 23 Dec Brian & Monica Bright Counters 16 Dec Carla & Neal Endean 23 Dec Pamela Nash and John Tweedie Morning Tea 16 Dec Jan Roberts 23 Dec Pamela Nash Church Care 14 Dec Phil & Pat Wicks		
St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley Entrance Ant: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near. Communion Ant: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.		
Please pray for the sick and their carers: Barry & Madeleine Bowden, John & Marion Crowley, Kevin Madden, Maria Slater, Frank Mackrell, Marie Johnson, Trennah Portelli		
Feast Days of the Week ((17th to 22nd Dec)) 21 St Peter Canisius priest, doctor		



Third Sunday of Advent Year C 16.12.18

We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus, and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name. These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.
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Next Week:
Mi 5:1-4 : Heb 10:5-10
Lk 1:39-45

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

18th George Commens
20th Robert Forbes
20th Charles Hodgkinson
21st Dominic Burke



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/>



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

ADVENT WREATH – Third Sunday of Advent (Theme – “Celebration”): Today, during our candle lighting liturgy, the purple candles previously lit over the past two weeks will again be lit – plus the pink candle as well. These candles have different meanings and are lit in the following order: purple, purple, pink, purple, white! The first is called the “Candle of Hope”. It symbolizes our faith in God keeping his promises to humanity. The second is called the “Candle of Preparation”, reminding Christians to prepare to receive God. The third candle is the “Candle of Joy”. It recalls the angels joyfully signing about the birth of Christ. The fourth candle, the “Candle of Love”, reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to live among them in this life. The “Christ Candle”, the white candle in the centre, stands for Jesus Christ himself and is lit only for the actual Christmas celebrations.

GAUDETE SUNDAY: Today is “Gaudete Sunday”. The word “Gaudete” comes from the Latin and means ‘rejoice’. For those who have Advent Wreaths, this is the day when the pink candle is lit to emphasise the change in direction that now takes place in our preparation for Christmas. To reinforce this change, celebrants are also authorised to wear pink chasubles in today’s Mass (PS: My wardrobe doesn’t have a pink chasuble!). From this Sunday, we focus more on Mary, soon to be Jesus’ Mother, as may be seen from our scripture readings.

Week 3: Lighting of the two 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 all say:

“Let this candle remind us that Jesus is coming, and in him we rejoice!”

EPIPHANY WALKERS: As a follow-up to last Sunday’s mention of the Epiphany Walkers’ Blue Mountains Trek, we have been requested to once more mention to you that this long walk (about 112kms) from Emu Plains to Bell will see the group staying here overnight on Monday evening, 7th January 2019, where they will share dinner in the parish hall with those of us who wish to join the gathering. Tuesday morning, 8th January, the walkers (including those of us who so desire) will trek the last 16kms to Bell via Mt. Victoria. Once at Bell, a Mass will be shared on the site of the “Magi Chapel”, presently under construction. Bishop Vincent Long will be the celebrant for this Mass. Perhaps, too, he may stay overnight Monday at the Blackheath presbytery, in which case he would share dinner with everyone present. However, his Monday overnight stay with us has yet to be confirmed. Much more detailed information is available from our brochure stand, for those interested.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSE-DOWN:

Please note that the last Bulletin for this year will be printed next week. There will then be no new Bulletin until the Parish Office re-opens on 16th January 2019. A separate list of servers, readers, etc., will be posted on the notice board to cover the close-down period. Carefully note also the days and times for Masses during the Christmas/New Year period. Especially note that there will be no weekday Masses from the 26th-29th December and the 31st December, with only the Mt. Victoria Vigil Mass to be celebrated on Saturday, 29th December. 9.30am Masses will be held on both Sunday, 30th December and Tuesday, 1st January 2019. Normal scheduled Mass times will apply from 2nd January 2019. Should you have an emergency during the close-down period, kindly phone me on 0417 355 479.

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

VINNIE’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Once again, today, it’s time for us to ‘dig deep’ for those who are in serious need of our support during this otherwise wonderful time of celebration. While we know that whatever amount we give will not be enough, we do know that every dollar raised will be most gratefully received.
God Bless! Fr. Bob

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES

SACRED HEART BLACKHEATH

Saturday 22nd December 9:00am

Sunday 23rd December 9:30am (Sunday Mass)

Monday 24th December Christmas Vigil (Children’s Mass) 7:00pm

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day 9:30am

Sunday 30th December 9:30am

Tuesday 1st January 2019 (New Year’s Day) 9:30am



ST PAUL’S MT VICTORIA

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day 7:00am

Saturday 29th December (Vigil Mass) 6:00pm

ST JOSEPH’S MEGALONG

Saturday 22nd December (Vigil Mass) 6:00pm

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

There will be no weekday Masses celebrated from 26th to 29th December, or Monday 31st December.

Normal scheduled Masses will be celebrated at Blackheath, St Paul’s and St Joseph’s from 2nd January 2019.

Living Faith Booklets January-March 2019 are now available. Please see Jan Roberts or Marilyn to collect.

CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE

Friday 21 December 8am

All are welcome to come and work with our maintenance team on Friday morning 21 December from 8am. Come and help us make the grounds spic and span for Christmas.

Please bring a sunhat and garden gloves. Call Lance on 47878096 or John on 0407 288 957 for further information, or just turn up on the day.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - will be drawn on Sunday 23rd Dec after Mass. Tickets at \$2.00 each are available from Sue Gracey after Mass each Sunday. Contributions for hampers are still being received.

Please return sold tickets as soon as possible.

