

T
O
D
A
Is 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14;
Mt 24:37-44

Psalm Response; Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Servers
1 Dec Pat Wicks
8 Dec Paul Harris

Readers
1 Dec 1st Reader Barbara Grieves
2nd reader Frances Huckstepp
Welcome/Intercessions Patricia Dee
8 Dec 1st Reader Brian Bright
2nd Reader Monica Bright
Welcome/Intercessions Pat Wicks

Communion
1 Dec Mary Roberts & Elizabeth Doolan
8 Dec Grahame Adams & Diane Stewart

Counters
1 Dec Pamela & John
8 Dec Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

Morning Tea
10 Dec Pamela Nash
8 Dec Pamela Scott/Elizabeth Doolan

Church Care
13 Dec Sue gracey & Offner

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

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

Saints Days of the Week (2 Dec - 7 Dec)

2 Dec St. Bibiana virgin, martyr
3 Dec St. Francis Xavier Jesuit missionary
4 Dec St John Damascene priest, doctor
5 Dec St Gerard bishop, reformer
6 Dec St Nicholas bishop
7 Dec St Ambrose bishop, doctor



**1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
1.12.19**

Being in the light is not just about what we see, it is about what we do. St Ignatius Loyola often spoke about the things we keep buried in the dark. For Ignatius the experience we won't speak about, the sins we won't confess and the memories we suppress gain an inordinate power over us and we displace a lot of energy keeping them buried in the dark. Ignatius always saw the hand of the good spirit when these things came into the light. He encourages us to be alert to all the ways we con ourselves that keeping secrets hidden in the dark is a necessary or acceptable way to live. May this Advent be the season in which we bring to consciousness all the things that stop us from being fully alive and basking in the light.
© Richard Leonard SJ

Next Week:
Is 11:1-10 ; Rom 15:4-9;
Mt 3:1-12

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.

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 OAM Parish Office: 02 4787 8540
Parish House: 4787 8811
Parish Mobile: 0417 355 479
Office hours: Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org
Thu 9.00am - 12.00pm
Fri 11.30am - 2.30pm

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; Brian Bright (Chair) or David Buckley (Deputy Chair)

Sacred Heart Care Group (helping parishioners in times of need) Monica Bright 0420 937 690

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/

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: (theme for this week is – “Expectation”): Today we begin the Season of Advent, a four week period of preparation for Christmas, and Christ’s coming into our lives as one of us! For many people this will be a time of shopping, parties and perhaps mayhem, normal habits for this time of year! It is so easy to be consumed in the day-to-day events, in pleasures, in the immediate concerns of the living. One year leads to another year, and another, and another...it can become a little bit meaningless after a time for the uninitiated! For us Catholics 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 – each and every one of us! In Advent, we are reminded of that one day when Christ will return. So we also prepare for that day to arrive. Certainly, Christians are also involved in the shopping and partying, but it is all for a special purpose. We are spiritual as well as human beings, and we are on a journey through this temporal life seeking always to continue our spiritual growth as we progress on our human way. We look for Christ in our daily lives and seek to follow him. So may this be a blessed Christmas Season for you as we all journey towards the Kingdom of God.

This week, allow yourself a little quiet time during the week – a time to reflect and pray for the imminent joy and peace that will accompany the Babe of Bethlehem when he arrives among us on his birthday 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, we say: *“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 for us. Three purple candles and one rose-coloured (pink) candle are evenly spread 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.

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! In Bishop Vincent’s words, **“Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare to connect people with support and services to build strong foundations for self-sufficiency, fulfilling family relationships and brighter futures.”** Please give generously because you and I both know that the need is always greater than the available support! God Bless! Fr. Bob

Benedictine Spirituality Morning - The next Benedictine Spirituality morning will be held at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Road, Wentworth Falls on December 6th from 10 am till noon. Chapter 3 “A Single Vision” in the new book, Monastery of the Heart will be discussed. Morning Prayer, silent time and morning tea will be included. New friends are very welcome. Enquiries Sr. Jacinta 4757 2290

COFFEE CAPERS ~ WEDNESDAY ~ December 4th Lunch at Katoomba RSL Red Poppy Room. Final get together for the year. All welcome. RSVP to Elizabeth Doolan 4787 5537

PARISH TRANSITION WORKING PARTY

Our team held its first meeting last Sunday 24 November, reflecting on the early Christian community (Acts 4:32-37). The group desire to strengthen the prayer, fellowship and mission of Blackheath community in this time of transition. We clarified our role, noting that the group will facilitate a time of consultation, listening to the hopes and dreams of the whole community. Fr Bob, the parish staff, parish pastoral council and parish finance committee, will all be involved in this consultation, along with all our groups and ministries and the broader community. We are now working on a timeline for this consultation which we will then share with the parish. As you know, once we have heard from everyone regarding our hopes for our parish and preferred models of leadership, we will offer a recommendation to Bishop Vincent Long. Let us continue to pray for one another that we may become stronger in our love and service of Jesus Christ through this time of discernment. Richard McMahon, Chair, Working Party.

Rest in Peace
 27 Nov Iris Jones



THE EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE ~
 Registration and details at epiphanypilgrimage.org and facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage

PLENARY COUNCIL 2020: Thank you to all who came and participated in the Forum at Springwood last Sunday afternoon. This Listening and Discerning Forum was another fruitful step along our journey in finding where the Spirit is leading us, the Church, in this 21st Century. Bishop Vincent has told us it can’t be ‘business as usual’. One of the actions of the gathering on Sunday was to determine which of the suggestions for renewal could be implemented at a local level. We don’t have to wait till the final session of the Plenary Council to implement some of these suggestions for change at the local level. Over the coming months, as the papers for the final parts of the Plenary Council are written, we can begin our own renewal at the Parish level. Brian Bright & Michelle Davis, Mountains Deanery Pastoral Council.

Please pray for the sick and their carers:
John & Marion Crowley, Ron O’Brien, Shielagh Kirkham, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, and Elizabeth Farrar’s sister Mary Rose

PLEASE NOTE
 The parish office will be closed from **December 20 to January 15.**

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES

2nd Rite of Reconciliation Tuesday 17th December at 7.30pm (after 6.30 Mass) SACRED HEART BLACKHEATH

Sunday 22nd December 9:30am (Sunday Mass)
 Tuesday 24th December Christmas Vigil (Children’s Mass) 7.00pm
 Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day 9:30am
 Sunday 29th December 9:30am
 Wednesday 1st January 2020 (New Year’s Day) 9:30am

ST PAUL’S MT VICTORIA

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day 7:00am
 Saturday 29th 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 28th December, or Tuesday 31st December.** Normal scheduled Masses will be celebrated at Blackheath, St Paul’s and St Joseph’s from 2nd January 2020.