

TODAY
Is 35:1-6, 10; Jas 5:7-10;
Mt 11:2-11

Psalm Response; Lord, come and save us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Servers

15 Dec Grahame Adams
22 Dec Ray Wood

Readers

15 Dec 1st Reader Claire Maguire
2nd Reader Breda Seamons
Welcome /Intercessions Patricia Dee
22 Dec 1st Reader Elaine Jackson
2nd Reader Basil Jackson
Welcome/Intercessions Pat Wicks

Communion

15 Dec Pat Wicks & Michelle Davis
22 Dec Brian & Monica Bright

Counters

15 Dec Cate Mitchell
22 Dec Barbara Grieves

Morning Tea

15 Dec Rasa Blansjaar
22 Dec Claire Maguire

Church Care

29 Dec Margaret Solomons & Cathy McNamara

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.

Saints Days of the Week (16 Dec - 21 Dec)

16 Dec St. Ado of Vienne archbishop
17 Dec St. Olympias foundress
18 Dec St. Rufus martyr
19 Dec St. Thomas De & Companions martyrs
20 Dec St. Dominic of Silos healer
21 Dec St. Peter Canisius priest, doctor



**3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
15.12.19**

Advent is not the time when we pretend that Jesus hasn't come into our world and that we are the first to anticipate his coming at Christmas. It's a richer season than that. It is the time when we recall what it was like before he came and how much we need him to keep coming again and again in our daily lives.

Advent reminds us that by welcoming Christ we have an obligation to care for all his children. Everywhere is our backyard because that's where our brothers and sisters live. May we gain from Christ this Christmas the generosity to see that the desert is meant to bloom for all people everywhere, not just a few of us lucky to live in an oasis.

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Next Week:

Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7;
Mt 1:18-24

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

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

E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org

Office hours: Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm

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/

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 singing 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: I don’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 103 kms) from Emu Plains to Bell will see the group staying here overnight on Tuesday evening, 7th January 2020, where they will share dinner in the parish hall with those of us who wish to join the gathering. Wednesday morning, 8th January, the walkers (including those of us who desire) will trek the last 16 kms to Bell via Mt. Victoria. Once at Bell, a Mass will be shared on the site of the “Magi Chapel”, presently under construction.

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 Bulletins until the Parish Office re-opens on the 15th January 2020 (Wednesday). 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- 28th December or Tuesday 31st December 2019. 9.30am Masses will be held on both Sunday 30th December 2019 and New Year’s Day Wednesday 1st January 2020. Should you have an emergency during the close-down period, kindly phone me on 0417 355 479.

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.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION:

To all who look forward to the pre-Christmas 2nd Rite of Reconciliation, I remind you that this will be held following Blackheath’s 6.30pm Mass on Tuesday next, commencing from 7.30pm. However, normal Saturday Reconciliation times will still be available, or at other times by arrangement. God Bless! Fr. Bob

GARAGE SALE ~ The dates for the next garage sale have been set for 1 & 2 February. Please start sorting through all your collectables ready for this great fundraiser. More details will be available in the new year.

PARISH TRANSITION WORKING PARTY

Parish Transition Working Party
Our group is facilitating 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 finalising a timeline and content for this consultation which will commence mid to late January. Once compiled, we will then offer a recommendation to Bishop Vincent Long. In this time of Advent, we pray that our time of transition will continue to offer a sure home for Christ in the heart of our Blackheath community. Richard McMahon, Chair, Working Party.

WORKING BEE Tuesday 17 December 8am. Our next working bee is on Tuesday morning 17 December from 8am. Come and work with our maintenance team to help make our beautiful grounds spic and span for Christmas. Please bring garden gloves and a hat. Call Lance on 47878096 or John on 0407 288 957 or just turn up.

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



VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2019 - YOU CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE THIS CHRISTMAS.

Australia the Lucky Country? Not any more. FACT - 1 in 5 children in Australia goes hungry on any given day. FACT - 50% of crisis support provided by St. Vincent de Paul Society is for food. Ask any volunteer. No child should go hungry at Christmas. When you donate to Vinnies Christmas Appeal you help families who can’t feel the joy of Christmas. With your help Vinnies Volunteers can visit more families bringing much needed food and essentials. Your support helps provide hampers and food vouchers to families struggling to make ends meet. Please place your donations in the envelopes provided, for collection at Sacred Heart on Sunday 15 December, and at St. Paul’s on Saturday 21 December. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. God Bless you for your generosity. If you would like to assist us in this rewarding work, please call Karen Hayward 0419 123 744.

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

CAROLS IN THE PARK ~ Sunday 15th Dec 2019. Kids activities from 3:00pm. Christmas Carols 6:00pm - 7:30pm. At the Blackheath Community Hall Garden.

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.