

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

**Psalm Response; Let the Lord enter;
 he is king of glory.**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
 A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will
 be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia! Allelu-
 ia!**

Servers
 22 Dec Grahame Adams
 29 Dec Paul Harris

Readers
 22 Dec 1st Reader Elaine Jackson
 2nd Reader Basil Jackson
 Welcome/Intercessions Paul Harris
 29 Dec 1st reader Claire Maguire
 2nd Reader Barbara Grieves
 Welcome/Intercessions Brian Bright


Communion
 22 Dec Brian & Monica Bright
 29 Dec Elizabeth Doolan & Mary Roberts

Counters
 22 Dec Barbara Grieves
 29 Dec Marilyn Rowe

Morning Tea
 22 Dec Claire Maguire
 29 Dec Sue Newbury

Church Care
 27 Dec Margaret Solomons & Cathy McNamara

St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley
**Entrance Ant: Drop down dew from above, you
 heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just
 One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a
 Saviour.**
**Communion Ant: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive
 and bear a son; and his name will be called Em-
 manuel.**

Saints Days of the Week (23 Dec - 28 Dec)
 23 Dec St. John of Kanty priest
 24 Dec St. Lucian African martyr
 25 Dec The nativity of the Lord 
 26 Dec St Stephen martyr
 27 Dec St John apostle, evangelist
 28 Dec The Holy Innocents martyrs



**4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
 22.12.19**

Emmanuel; God-is-with-us – that's what we celebrate through Christmas and that's what we've been preparing for during Advent. We celebrate God-with-us in a particular time and place through our celebration of the birth of Jesus. But we remember it every year because we also use the Christmas celebration to remind ourselves that God continues to be with us. That is what is so remarkable about the Christmas season: that God-is-with-us now, not just in a stable in Palestine so many years ago, but now! Advent is the time to remind ourselves of this incredible truth and prepare ourselves to acknowledge it once again. © Greg Sunter

Next Week:
 Sir 3:2-6. 12-14; Col 3:12-21;
 Mt 2:13-15. 19-23

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/

A HAPPY, HEALTHY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

“May God’s richest blessings, His truest joys and His most tender guidance be with you at Christmas and always!”

Through this edition of the ‘Bulletin’, I offer you and those near and dear to you all the wonders of this Season. On behalf of our parish ‘family’, we welcome all visitors and pray that they too will enjoy a safe, healthy, happy and holy Christmas. In this joyful time, our hearts and minds are filled with memories of, and association with God, families and friends.

We remember also that it is in the name of Jesus we gather here, because it is as part of his adopted ‘family’ we are able to experience the full impact – the full benefit – of this Holy Season. The birth of Jesus reminds us that God is to be most found in the ordinary events of our life. Our God is not hidden from us, but is revealed to us in the innocence and vulnerability of a baby. It is because God loves us so much that He makes himself so accessible to us. He promises to be with us to help us face life and its challenges through his limitless love for each of us. At Christmas we celebrate the eternal truth that God’s love never ends, and that He will always be with us, especially in our times of great need.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Congratulations and a humble ‘thank you’ to every parishioner for your contribution to the continued wellbeing of this most picturesque ‘bush’ parish. During the course of this past year, we have been advised of major changes to the future working of this parish, said changes to be implemented during the first half of next year (2020). Although personally retiring at Easter, I will always watch with great interest from the sidelines the ongoing prosperity of yourself and our beloved Blackheath Sacred Heart Parish. In the meantime, gear-up to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and a week later, the arrival of that New Year.

ADVENT WREATH: Fourth Sunday of Advent (theme: “Fulfilment!”)

Today, Sunday, during our candle lighting ceremony, all three purple candles plus the pink candle will be lit. The fourth purple candle, the “Candle of Love”, reminds Christians that God loves them enough to send his only Son to earth. After today, only the white (Christ) candle remains to be lit at the Christmas Vigil Mass this Tuesday evening.

Week 4: Lighting of the three 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 say:

**LET THIS CANDLE REMIND US THAT JESUS IS COMING,
AND IN HIM WE REJOICE.**

EPIPHANY WALKERS: A final reminder for the physically energetic among you, all relevant information for you is located on the brochure stand. As mentioned last week, this group will be staying overnight with us 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. The next morning (Wednesday), the group (including any from Blackheath) will trek the 16kms to Bell via Mt. Victoria. Mass will be celebrated on arrival at Bell at the Magi Chapel presently under construction. Please contact Julie O’Keeffe for more information (4787 5974).

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSE-DOWN: Please note that this is the last Bulletin for 2019. The next edition will be available on Sunday, 19th January 2020. Additional copies of this edition will be available during the intervening period. The enclosed Christmas/New Year Mass Schedule will apply until the normal Mass Timetable (see Bulletin cover) recommences on Thursday, 2nd January 2020. Emergencies: 0417 355 479 (me!)

God Bless! Travel safely! See you next year! Fr. Bob

CATHOLIC BUSHWALKING CLUB

Are you are interested in Bushwalking
Camping Canyon and Ski Trips?

Apply for Membership with the CBC

via website www.cbcsnw.org.au or contact Adriana on 0422 688

Upper Blue Mountains Adoration Chapel ~ St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish in the Upper Blue Mountains has opened an Adoration Chapel at St Canice’s Church, Katoomba. If you would like further information please call the parish office on 02 4782 2804.

PLEASE PRAY for the sick and their carers: John & Marion Crowley, Shielagh Kirkham, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, and Elizabeth Farrar’s

In Memoriam



29th Jorgan Kallane (2016)

Happy birthday

24th David Buckley
27th Sean Lillis
27th Fred Pateman



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

Bishop Vincent’s 2019 Christmas message can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqtMPFd06Y4> or www.parracatholic.org.

ALPHA TEAM TRAINING WORKSHOP
9 February 2019, 9.30am- 4.30pm at the Institute for Mission, 1-5 Marion Street BLACKTOWN
FOR REGISTRATIONS & FURTHER INFORMATION

Pastoral Planning Office:
lisa.bright@parracatholic.org 8838 3497
Alpha in a Catholic Context:
lorraine.mccarthy@alpha.org.au
0402 217 123

PLEASE NOTE

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

Happy Anniversary!

28th Christa and David Buckley



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.