

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

Psalm Response; Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Servers
8 Dec Paul Harris
15 dec Ray Wood

Readers
8 Dec 1st Reader Brian Bright
2nd Reader Monica Bright
Welcome/Intercessions Pat Wicks
15 Dec 1st Reader Claire Maguire
2nd Reader Breda Seamons
Welcome /Intercessions Patricia Dee

Communion
8 Dec Grahame Adams & Diane Stewart
15 Dec Pat Wicks & Michelle Davis

Counters
8 Dec Julie & Lance Hodgkinson
15 Dec Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea
8 Dec Pamela Scott/Elizabeth Doolan
15 Dec Rasa Blansjaar

Church Care
13 Dec Sue Gracey & Peter Offner

St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley
Entrance Ant: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.
Communion Ant: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Saints Days of the Week (9 Dec - 14 Dec)

9 Dec Immaculate Conception of Mary
10 Dec Pope Saint Gregory III
11 Dec St Damasus 1 pope
12 Dec Our lady of Guadalupe
13 Dec St Lucy virgin, martyr
14 Dec St John of the cross priest, doctor



**2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
8.12.19**

In Christianity there is an important distinction between personal and private faith. Personal faith knows that God is close and intimate, which is what we celebrate at Christmas. For Christians, however, there is no such thing as private faith. We should always be careful of hymns that only ever speak about 'me and Jesus against the world'. Inheriting the promises made to Israel and seeing them as intended for all God's children, we believe we are saved AS A PEOPLE. For us, it is 'we and Jesus for the world.'

If we have no interest in justice, development and peace for our world. If we don't care to know our fellow parishioners, then we need to hear the story of Christmas all over again. May this Advent, then, see John the Baptist do what he does best: 'comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' © 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
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: Second Sunday of Advent (Theme: "Proclamation.")
Advent is rich in symbols. The scriptures are filled with images of light, silence, waiting, fulfilment. The colour of the Season is purple, reflecting the penitential and reflective nature of the Church Season. This week, I again invite you to reflect on the scriptures we had at Mass today, or perhaps another scripture passage – and the great gift that Jesus is for us!

Week 2: Lighting of two purple candles: Before Mass, we read from Isaiah, "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." God of salvation, help us to give voice to the voiceless as we cry out in the name of your Son, Jesus. As the candles are lit, we all say:
Let these candles remind us that Jesus is coming!

We also take this opportunity to again thank Barbara Grieves for organising and setting-up this year's Advent Wreath. That green material really is eye-catching! Many thanks, Barbara!

THE CRIB: Once more, we also need to thank Julie and Lance Hodgkinson who have again supplied and assembled our Christmas Crib this year. As Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus, the stable is presently without figures as a symbol of that waiting. Very basic in the material used and its rather primitive construction, Julie and Lance have truly captured the reality of Jesus' era, in my opinion. Spectacular!

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: For those who may have been absent last week, or who want to contribute to this appeal today, we have left a number of envelopes for this purpose in each of the pews for you to use. Donations \$2 and over are tax deductible providing the required details are written on the envelopes. These should be placed on the second collection, if possible. Once again, thank you for your generosity because, as we both know, the need is always greater than the available support.

PARISH TRANSITION WORKING PARTY: Today, following my homily, you will get to see all nine members of that appointed group as they are to be commissioned in their work here at Blackheath as part of this Mass. Theirs is an extremely difficult task whose ultimate success may very largely depend on the degree of support and assistance rendered to them by the rest of us – me included. Let the work begin!

EPIPHANY WALKERS: As has been the case in the past three years, the Epiphany Walkers are to once again trek the 103 kms from "Our Lady of the Way" Church at Emu Plains to 'Bell', via Mt. Victoria. More details are to be found on the brochure stand and notice board. As in the past, the walkers will arrive here mid-afternoon on Tuesday 7th January 2020 and be staying/sleeping overnight in our Parish Hall. Tuesday evening dinner will again be had in the hall from food and drink (hopefully) provided by our generous community – actually mostly our ladies if the past is any guide – with some support from those trekking. Julie O'Keeffe (4787 5974) will be co-ordinating this event with huge thanks from everyone involved, including me! If interested in joining any part of the walk, kindly let us know ASAP. Likewise, we need to know who may be attending the Tuesday evening dinner.

God Bless! Fr. Bob

PARISH TRANSITION WORKING PARTY
Our team holds its second meeting today, 8 December, reflecting on Pope Francis' Joy of the Gospel as our inspiration. The group desire to strengthen the prayer, fellowship and mission of Blackheath community in this time of transition. 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 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 in this time of Advent that we may bring to birth an even stronger community, focused on our love and service of Jesus Christ.
Richard McMahon, Chair, Working Party.

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.


VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2019
will be held next week, Sunday 15 December, at Sacred Heart Blackheath, and on Saturday 21 December at St.Paul's, Mt. Victoria. Envelopes will be available at both churches on these days. The theme of this year's appeal is "hunger" and how your donation can help.

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 or would like to sign up for a weekly hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, please call the parish office on 02 4782 2804.


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

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

Happy birthday
9th Julie Hodgkinson
11th Elaine Jackson



Rest in Peace
13th Rosalie Sandor
13th Marjorie Cullen



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.