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Gen 12:1-4; 2 Tm 1:8-10;
Mt 17:1-9

Psalm Response: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ. From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: **this is my beloved Son, hear him. Praise and glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Servers
8 Mar Server Grahame Adams
15 Mar Server Diane Stewart

Readers
8 Mar 1st Reader Claire Maguire
2nd Reader Pat Wicks
Welcome/Intercessions Brian bright
15 Mar 1st reader Elaine Jackson
2nd reader Basil Jackson
Welcome/Intercessions Paul Harris

Communion
Unfortunately there will be no distribution of the precious blood until further notice due to corona virus.

Counters
8 Mar Julie & Lance Hodgkinson
15 Mar Cate Mitchell

Morning Tea
8 Mar Christine O'Grady
15 Mar Monica Bright

Church Care
6 Mar Jim and Cathy McNamara (Margaret Solomons)

St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley
Entrance Ant: Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Communion Ant: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

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

9 Mar	St. Anthony	Benedictine hermit
10 Mar	St. John Ogilvie	Jesuit martyr
11 Mar	St. Teresa Margaret	Redi Carmelite nun
12 Mar	St. Paul Aurelian	Welsh bishop
13 Mar	St. Agnellus of Pisa	Italian Franciscan
14 Mar	St. Mathilda	German queen



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
YR A 1.3.2020

Just when some of us think Lent is a grim season of self-denial, the Church gives us the story of Jesus' Transfiguration to put our sacrifices in context. The only reason we deny ourselves anything or commit ourselves to actions of service for these 40 days is to grow more deeply in love with the God who loves us into life. Penance is not meant to attack our self-esteem, it's intended to help us sort out what really matters, to cast some light in the darkness of our lives and to focus on the relationship which gives meaning and purpose for this world and the next.

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Next Week:
Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2. 5-8;
Jn 4:5-42

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/

LENTEN MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS: *“Dear Brothers and Sisters, Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all, it is a time of grace. God does not ask of us anything he himself has not first given us. Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, and the sufferings and injustices they endure...our hearts grow cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don't think about those less well off. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalisation of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront.”*

Kindly note that this is but a short excerpt only of a much longer Lenten message from the Holy Father, and is certainly a message we need to hear and put into practice throughout Lent – and beyond!

CARITAS (Project Compassion): A reminder! As ever, Caritas is our key charity and fund-raiser for this year with donations being received during the Lenten/Easter period. Through Project Compassion, you and I have a unique opportunity to help Caritas Australia support those far less favoured than us by aiding them to reduce their poverty, promote justice for them and uphold the dignity that is the right of every living human being. All the Caritas literature, including Project Compassion boxes are to be found around the church today. If you haven't already done so, now is the time! Fill the box with your spare coins, and return to us at Easter. By so-doing, you will be doing much to alleviate the awful poverty of those severely deprived, dispossessed and suffering people and families in too many countries around the world. Thank you for your hard-won practical support for these otherwise helpless people!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Last Friday we participated in this ecumenical annual worldwide event, held at the local Uniting Church from 2.00pm. We both helped to organise and conduct the special service which this year focussed on Zimbabwe, the presentation being arranged by the women of that country. One of them also was guest speaker for the afternoon. The afternoon tea, too, was superb (as usual). Last year we hosted this event thanks in large measure to Diane Stewart with much support from many others in our parish – and other church groups as well – all at short notice! Congratulations to everyone who participated this year from our parish. It was yet another enlightening experience for all from the other side of the world!

SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS (SRE's): Following the homily, today we will commission this year's SREs'. These are the volunteers from our parish who provide religious education to Catholic children in local public schools. Earlier this year I asked through this Bulletin for volunteers to assist in this essential work. I don't think there was even one response. Sadly, our numbers are dwindling! The simple truth is that we need more SREs' to help with this vital Catholic work. Can you help??? If in any way interested, please contact Claire Maguire, our catechist co-ordinator, either at Mass or 4787 7635.

God Bless! Fr. Bob

✠ For Judy Harris - Remembering your Goodbye Day 8th March 2014.
We love and miss you ✠

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

NEW MINISTRY GROUP: Following Fr Bob's departure, there will be an interim period of about 6 months before the new parish leadership is in place. During this time, we will rely on Fr Carlos and Fr Omar from Katoomba for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. As their time will be limited, we are forming a group of parishioners to help prepare those requesting these sacraments. Training will be provided by Sr Mary Louise Walsh from the diocesan office. If you are able to join us in this ministry, please contact Fr Bob, the Parish Office or any member of the Parish Council. If you know of someone who might be interested, please draw their attention to this announcement.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD 2020

Friday 20 March ; 6pm
with Mass to Saturday 21 March 5pm
with Mass.
Mt Schoenstatt
230 Fairlight Rd Mulgoa
02 4773 8338
Reconciliation Friday 7.15pm - 10.00pm
Saturday 10am-12pm; 3-4.45pm
FB: Mt Schoenstatt Shrine & Retreat
Centre, Mulgoa 02 4773 8338
Come and spend some time with Our Lord and His Mother in the Schoenstatt Shrine

CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE

Government-funded Home Care Packages. Catholic Healthcare's local Care Advisors can work with you to create a customised support plan. Get a quote on 1300 734 350.

FR BOB'S BIRTHDAY PARTY ~ 15TH MARCH



All money for tickets must be paid today so we can organise caterers with numbers attending. Function requires payment before the event. See Diane Stewart or Elizabeth Doolan please

More helpers needed to serve *PARISH MORNING TEA* ~ We need a few more to help with serving morning tea immediately after our Sunday morning Mass. If you can help out, please see Christa Buckley or call her on 47875105. Hospitality is an important Ministry in our parish life – serving morning tea easy and everything is supplied. You only end up on the roster 4 to 5 times each year!

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE
March Edition

Look out for copies of the next edition of the Catholic Outlook Magazine in your local Catholic Church, Catholic school or Catholic office from early March.

NORMA CARLON'S 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY ~ Norma's family have invited our

Parish to join in Birthday Celebrations for their Mum's 90th. As many will know, Norma has been a (very) long term member of our parish family. Indeed, she is the backbone of our St Joseph's church in the Megalong. You are invited to drop in anytime between 11 am and 5pm on Sunday 22 March – in the Megalong Valley Community Hall alongside the Megalong Showground.

Rest in Peace !

8th Judy Harris
14th Pete Juhas



Happy Birthday !

10th Joe Blansjaar



Happy Anniversary

13th Pope Francis (Became Pope in 2013)