

**Today** Is 61:1-2. 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24;  
Jn 1:6-8. 19-28  
Next week

**Psalm Response:** My soul rejoices in my God.

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



**Servers**  
13 Dec Pat Wicks  
20 Dec Grahame Adams

**Readers**  
13 Dec 1st Reader David Buckley  
2nd Reader Christa Buckley  
Welcome/Intercessions Brian Bright  
20 Dec 1st Reader Pat Wicks  
2nd Dec Claire Maguire  
Welcome/Intercessions Paul Harris

**Counters**  
13 Dec Julie & Lance Hodgkinson  
20 Dec Cate Mitchell

**Church CareDec**  
**Dec** Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

**Flowers**  
Dec Cate Mitchell

**3rd Sunday of Advent Yr B  
13 Dec 2020**

John the Baptist, the embodiment of the old covenant, recognises who Jesus is for the world and encourages his foes and friends alike to welcome in the Christ, the new and everlasting Covenant. He could not have known the implications of what he was doing. John the Baptist simply saw Jesus and knew that Love had taken human form. Through his talent spotting and in his promotion of Jesus he enabled the first generation of Christians to see and believe that the promises made to their ancestors had been fulfilled.

And so may we all rejoice today, not only because salvation is always close at hand in Christ the Lord, but because we are also called to spot his love in every act of goodness we see, encourage and promote it as best we can and then watch nature and grace do the rest.

. © Richard Leonard SJ

**St Paul's Mt Victoria**  
**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 OF THE DAY** (14 to 19 Dec))

14 Dec	St. John of the Cross	priest, doctor
15 Dec	St. Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa	Italian foundress
16 Dec	St. Valentine	martyr
17 Dec	St. Jose Manyanet y Vives	priest, founder
18 Dec	St. Paul My	Vietnamese martyr
19 Dec	St. Dominic Uy	Vietnamese martyr

# 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.*

**MASSES:** Attendance is limited. Please 'book in' no later than 10am this Saturday. Please email Brian – bbright45@bigpond.com - with cc to Julie O'Keeffe (julesongodson@bigpond.com) Or phone/text: 0401 768 688 (Brian)  
**MT VIC VIGIL MASS AT 6.00PM (every week for the time being)**  
**BLACKHEATH MASSES**  
**SUNDAY 9:30AM**  
**Tues 6.30pm, Wed 6:30pm, Thurs 9.00am, Fri. 6.30pm**  
**RECONCILIATION at 6.15pm WedU**  
**PPER BLUE MOUNTAINS PARISH MASSES**  
Saturday morning 9am St Canice's Church Katoomba  
Vigil Mass 5pm St Bonaventure's Church Leura  
Sunday 8am Mass St Francis Xavier's Church Wentworth Falls  
Sunday 10am Mass St Canice's Church Katoomba  
Sunday 5pm Mass St Bonaventure's Church Leura

AH Emergency Number: 0428 878 810  
Calls only; no texts please.  
For all **Office** matters, please call 0247878540

**E-mail:** blackheath@parracatholic.org  
john.mcsweeney@parracatholic.org  
abraham.kunnatholy@parracatholic.org

Parish Priest: Fr John McSweeney  
Assistant Priest: Fr Abraham Kunnatholy  
**Priest-on-call phone number:** 0428 878 810

**Office hours** Wed 12.00pm - 3.00pm  
**Thu** 9.00am - 1.00pm  
**Address:** PO Box 354, Blackheath NSW 2785

**Parish Pastoral Council:** If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to either Paul Harris (Chair) (pauls\_harris@hotmail.com) or Julie O'Keeffe (julesongodson@bigpond.com)

**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/](http://www.facebook.com/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Community-Blackheath-NSW-Australia-153850768029631/)

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK****THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the midst of the 'busy-ness' that infects us all at this time of the year, the Liturgy calls us to 'rejoice'!

We rejoice in the First Coming of Christ; we rejoice that Christ will come again; but we also rejoice in the 'here-and-now' / the present moment - when Christ's presence is made known to us in the little things of life.

As Christians, JOY is one of the hallmarks of our faith. This is not 'happiness' - for happiness is not something that is consistent. Rather, joy is a deep-seated emotion that is borne of an act of will, and which persists even in the difficult times.

So, as we get caught up in the frantic pace of December in Australia, let's try to model ourselves on Christ, and not on the world around us: let's strive to be people who are obviously full of joy to others, enabling all to see that there is something beyond the busy-ness of our world. Let's prepare to worthily celebrate the great Feast of Christmas with love and thanksgiving.

1. Please remember to check the Mass times for Christmas this year, as there are some changes to times and place due to the need for more liturgies during our COVID restrictions.

2. If you wish to receive Communion on the tongue, please wait until all who are receiving on the hand have received.

3. Although the seating restrictions have been removed in most churches, please observe the 1.5m social distancing rule when choosing a seat.

God bless you all

Fr John

**Mass bookings for Christmas Services required.**

Bookings are now open for Christmas Eve (6pm & 9pm) and Christmas Day (9.30am) services. Chairs will be set up outside if our capacity is reached for those who have not booked in. Please book by email ([bbright45@bigpind.com](mailto:bbright45@bigpind.com)) or text/phone Brian (0401768688).

**Registration, Hand Sanitiser and Face Masks**

Our greeters appreciate your cooperation in registering and hand sanitising upon arrival. In the interests of keeping all out parishioners safe, we request that face masks are worn and appropriate social distancing is maintained. Thank you.

**Sacred Heart Hospitality**

As we move into the holiday season, we are seeking a small group of parishioners to meet and greet people as they arrive at Mass to assist with the registration process. Please let Julie or Paul know ([blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org)).

**BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS Appeal** this weekend - Supporting the work of Parramatta CatholicCare

Our Parish's Catholic Foundation appeal in support of the work of CatholicCare is being held this weekend 12/13 December. Your gifts will help CatholicCare's Project Elizabeth to support vulnerable families to build strong, loving relationships. You can help give people the emotional and practical support they need to live their lives in love and joy. Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal.

Envelopes will be available at Mass.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES**

There will be a series of 6 sessions available on either Monday nights at Blacktown at 7.00pm, beginning on Feb 8; or Thursday nights at Penrith at 7.00pm beginning on 11 Feb. If you are interested please contact Pat Wicks or the Office

**ANNUAL GARAGE SALE**

It's on again, our annual garage sale scheduled for Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th February 2021.

We will be asking for helpers closer to the event but at this stage we just want you to lock in the dates and start your annual clean out.

As in the past you can leave your items on the parish hall verandah which will be checked regularly.

If you have any larger items you can ring Marilyn or Pat W in the office for pick up. The best contact number is Marilyn's mobile on 0414536601.

GET SORTING!!!

**PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS, JOURNEYING THROUGH ADVENT WITH CARITAS**

A weekly gathering will be held on Friday mornings on the 11 and 18 December from 10:30- 11:30 in the church. The Caritas Advent program will be followed and each session will include the lighting of candles and prayer, a gospel reading and reflection, a Caritas Australian story and reflection, our faith in action and a closing prayer. BYO brunch if you would like to stay for a short while afterwards. This program will be facilitated by Frances Huckstep. All Welcome!

**THERE WILL BE NO MASS AT**

**BLACKHEATH** on this Saturday morning

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE**

<b>Sacred Heart Blackheath</b>	<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec (Children's Mass) 6.00pm</b> <b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Vigil 9.00pm</b>
<b>Sacred Heart Blackheath</b>	<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day 9.30 am</b>
<b>Sacred Heart Blackheath</b>	<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> December Boxing Day 9.00am</b>
	<b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 New Year's Day 9.00am</b>

**Happy Birthday !**  
18th **George Commens**



**Anniversaries of Death**  
13th **Rosalie Sandor**  
13th **Marjorie Cullen**



**PLEASE PRAY** for the sick and their carers: John & Marion Crowley, Maria Slater, Marie Johnson, Pat Frazer, Tatiana Schultz, Trennah Portelli, John Hanna, Doug Ford and Bishop Geoffrey Robinson

