

Today Is 40:1-5. 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14;
Mk 1:1-8
Next week Is 61:1-2. 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24;
Jn 1:6-8. 19-28

Psalm Response: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

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



Servers
6 Dec Paul Harris
123 Dec Pat Wicks
Readers
6 Dec 1st Reader Pat Wicks
2nd Reader Mary Roberts
Welcome/Intercessions David Buckley
13 Dec 1st Reader David Buckley
2nd Reader Christa Buckley
Welcome/Intercessions Brian Bright
Counters
6 Dec Pamela & John
13 Dec Julie & Lance Hodgkinson
Church CareDec
Dec Julie & Lance Hodgkinson
Flowers
Dec Cate Mitchell

St Paul's Mt Victoria
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.

**2nd Sunday of Advent Yr B
6 Dec 2020**

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it cannot be reconciled with a Christian faith which believes in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthestest thing from the mind of the writers of today's readings – Isaiah, Psalm (84) 85, St Peter and St Mark. The scriptures tell us from the beginning of time that we have a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby. That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover. So this Advent let's not ransom ourselves to a benevolent dictator. Let's ask for anything we need with confidence that God has heard our words and so sent love itself in Jesus Christ our Lord.
. © Richard Leonard SJ

SAINTS OF THE DAY (7 December to 12 December)
7 Dec St Ambrose bishop, doctor
8 Dec THE IMMACUALTE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
9 Dec St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoac hermit
10 Dec St. Peter Duong Vietnamese martyr
11 Dec St Damasus I pope
12 Dec Our Lady of Guadalupe

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 Sat 9.00am
RECONCILIATION at 6.15pm Wed, after 9.00am mass on Sat.
UPPER 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
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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
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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/

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

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In our Second Reading for this Sunday's Liturgy from the Second Letter of St Peter we read: "(God) is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost, and everybody to be brought to change his/her ways".

God is always patient with us... even when we seek what is not of benefit for us; when we choose the wrong path; when we turn our backs on the Lord.

God does not want anyone to be lost, but everyone to be saved: to experience the healing balm of forgiveness, to return to right relationship with our loving Creator

God wants us to change our ways, to repent and return to the Lord's Way.

During this Advent season, let's make certain that we cooperate with God's grace - repent and return to the Father's loving embrace; let's strive to build up and not tear down; let's seek out those who have drifted from the right path and invite them back.

And in doing all this, we will truly 'prepare the Way for the Lord'.

Please note the times for Christmas masses in Blackheath and the Upper Blue Mountains parishes... there are changes to times and places from before, as a result of COVID restrictions.

From this coming week we will be able to have more people at mass; there are other changes as well. However, at present, we await the Diocesan decisions to be promulgated for all parishes to follow

Let's continue to keep each other in thought and prayer in the week ahead.

God Bless

Fr John

NEW Pastoral Council for 2021. The new Parish Pastoral Council for 2021 include **Chair** - Paul Harris, **Deputy Chair** - Julie O'Keeffe, **Secretary** - Adrian Carroll, Brian Bright, Mary Ryan, Diane Stewart. Ex-officio members Fr John (Parish Priest), Fr Abraham (Assistant Priest), John Tweedie (Finance Committee).

Thank you from Sacred Heart Blackheath Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society Dear Parishioners

Thank you for your very practical support of Vinnies. The 2020 Christmas Appeal, held at Mt. Vic on Saturday 28 November and at Sacred Heart on Sunday 29 November, raised more money than any previous Sacred Heart Christmas Church Appeal. A glorious \$4,035.65. Your generosity has enabled us to refill our food bank, provide Christmas Hampers and emergency accommodation for those in need. Your generosity and support means that what we initially set up as a food bank in the Parish Hall, is now able to provide the complete range of Vinnies services.

Thank you for your support of Vinnies "Build Homes/Build Hope" program; the petition you signed did reach state parliament and as a result social housing will increase, but this was short of the result we hoped for. Vinnies is keeping a watching brief on the government's response to homelessness. I am happy to say that Vinnies, through its Amelia Housing, has built 26 units in Katoomba which will be blessed on 18 December, 2020. These units were built on land owned by Vinnies with most of the costs borne by Vinnies. It is your donations which make it possible for the Society to change lives. Thank you for caring. You are in our prayers. Each time we gather our St. Vincent de Paul group prays for you.

LIVESTREAM MASSES

Livestreamed Masses from across the Diocese of Parramatta are still available on the Diocesan website <https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online>.

https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL ~ Bishop's Christmas Appeal - Supporting the work of Parramatta CatholicCare - Next Sunday 13 December
Our Parish's Catholic Foundation appeal in support of the work of CatholicCare will be held next Sunday 13 December (12 December - Mt Victoria). This Christmas, let us unite in demonstrating God's unconditional love and keep families together. Your compassionate gifts and prayers 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: yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

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

Happy Birthday !
9th Julie Hodgkinson
11th Elaine Jackson

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

A weekly gathering will be held on Friday mornings on the 4, 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.

Friday Fiesta! : Food for the Soul – Food for the Body.

Every second Friday during summer. Come for shared prayer in the Church and afterwards, a light meal in the hall. Date Friday Dec 11. Time 630pm. See flyer for more details. Bookings essential. Paul (0411535316) or Julie (47875974)

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

