

T O D A Y
 Mi 5:1-4 ; Heb 10:5-10
 Lk 1:39-45

Psalm Response: Lord make us turn to You, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation:
 Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Servers
 23 Dec Pat Wicks
 30 Dec Ray Wood

Readers
 23 Dec 1st Reader Elaine Jackson
 2nd Reader Basil Jackson
 Intercessions Patricia Dee
 30 Dec 1st Reader David Buckley
 2nd Reader Christa Buckley
 Intercessions John Woodward

Communion
 23 Dec Brian & Monica Bright
 30 Dec Mary Roberts & Pat Wickss

Counters
 23 Dec Pamela Nash and John Tweedie
 30 Dec Julie & Lance Hodgkinson

Morning Tea
 23 Dec Pamela Nash
 30 Dec Claire Maguire

Church Care
 28 Dec Sue Gracey & Peter Ofner


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 Emmanuel.

Feast Days of the Week (24th to 29nd Dec)

25	Nativity of our Lord
26	St Stephen first martyr
27	St John apostle, evangelist
28	Holy Innocents martyrs





Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C
23.12.18

The visitation is one of the moving scenes in the Gospel. On a human level, here are two cousins, unexpectedly pregnant in the most extraordinary circumstances, meeting and offering each other greetings and support. We can see the scene and feel the bond. In the Gospel of Luke this moment is pivotal. These women meet in the mountains where God has always been manifest to the Israelites. Elizabeth is the Old Covenant made to Israel and she carries John who will be the herald of the Messiah. Mary, literally, embodies the new, and final, covenant in Jesus. Elizabeth recognises what is happening here and she embraces all that God is doing in the world. © Richard Leonard SJ.

Next Week:
 Sir 3:2-6. 12-14 : Col 3:12-21
 Lk 2:41-52

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !

24th	David Buckley (b 1945)
27th	Sean Lillis
27th	Fred Pateman



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 **Parish Office:** 02 4787 8540
Parish House: 0455 104 994.
Parish Mobile: 0417 355 479 **Office hours:** Wed 1.00pm - 4.00pm
 (Emergency only) **Thu** 9.00am - 12.00pm
E-mail: blackheath@parracatholic.org **Fri** 12.00 - 3.00pm

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; Diana Landsberg (Chair); John Barclay (Deputy Chair) or Patricia Dee (Secretary).

Sacred Heart Care Group (helping parishioners in times of need) call Monica Bright 4757 3943.

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, HOLY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TO ALL!

“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 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 during our times of greatest need.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Congratulations and a humble ‘thank you’ to every parishioner for your many contributions to the continued wellbeing and progress of this most friendly, family-orientated, picturesque ‘bush’ parish. As detailed at our recent AGM, the past year has been one of significant change, challenge and achievement for the parish – us! Hard work does have its own reward, and this has certainly been the case in 2018 for our beloved Sacred Heart Blackheath Parish. So enjoy the fruits of your labour, your gifts to both parish and the wider community as we now celebrate the birth of Jesus, and a week later, the arrival of another new year with its fresh challenges and rewards.

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 us enough to send His only Son to earth. After today, only the white (Christ) candle remains to be lit at the Christmas Vigil Mass tomorrow (Monday) evening, and again at the Christmas Day Mass.

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 candles are lit, we say: LET THESE CANDLES 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. This group will be staying here overnight on Monday evening, 7th January 2019 where they will share dinner in the parish hall with those of us who wish to join the gathering. The next morning (Tuesday), the group (including any from Blackheath) will trek the 16kms to Bell via Mt. Victoria. Mass will be celebrated on arrival at Bell. Unfortunately, Bishop Vincent is now unable to join in this activity!

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CLOSE-DOWN: Please note that this is the last Bulletin copy for 2018. The next edition will be available on Sunday, 20th January 2019. Additional copies of this edition will be available on weekends during the intervening period.

GARAGE SALE~ Please remember our Garage Sale on February 2 and 3 2019, if you are doing a Spring Clean, and donate your unwanted goodies to our sale. Please contact Marilyn 0414536601

The enclosed Christmas/New Year Mass Schedule will apply until the normal Mass Timetable (see Bulletin cover) re-commences on Wednesday 2nd January 2019. Emergencies: 0417 355 479.
God Bless & Travel Safely! Fr. Bob

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES

SACRED HEART BLACKHEATH

Sunday 23rd December 9:30am (Sunday Mass)
Monday 24th December Christmas Vigil (Children’s Mass) 7:00pm
Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day 9:30am
Sunday 30th December 9:30am
Tuesday 1st January 2019 (New Year’s Day) 9:30am



ST PAUL’S MT VICTORIA

Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day 7:00am
Saturday 29th December (Vigil Mass) 6:00pm

ST JOSEPH’S MEGALONG

Saturday 22nd 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 29th December, or Monday 31st December.

Normal scheduled Masses will be celebrated at Blackheath, St Paul’s and St Joseph’s from 2nd January 2019.

THE PARISH OFFICE ~ will be closed over the Christmas-New Year period from Friday 21st December 2018 and will reopen on Wednesday 16th January 2019. The office hours will be Wed 12.00noon till 3.00pm; Thurs 9.00am till 12 noon and Fri 12.00 noon till 3.00pm

Please pray for the sick and their carers:
Barry & Madeleine Bowden, John & Marion Crowley, Kevin Madden, Maria Slater, Frank Mackrell, Marie Johnson, Trennah Portelli

ANNIVERSARIES
28th Christa and David Buckley (m 1968)



CLAIMING the DATE ~ 10TH FEBRUARY 2019 at 2pm for a forum where you can "Have your say about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia" at Mavis Wood Hall , Mid Mountains Community Centre Lawson. EVERYONE is welcome.



IN MEMORY

29th Jorgan Kallane (2016)

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - will be drawn today after Mass. Thank you for all your contributions

