

TODAY
 Gen 15:5-12. 17-18 ; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
 Lk 13:1-9

Psalm Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ. Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory and Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Servers
 24 Mar Ray Wood
 31 Mar Paul Harris

Readers
 24 Mar 1st Reader Pat Wicks
 2nd Reader Claire Maguire
 Intercessions Patricia Dee
 31 Mar 1st Reader Christa Buckley
 2nd Reader David Buckley
 Intercessions Marilyn Rowe

Communion
 24 Mar Brian & Monica Bright
 31 Mar Mary Roberts & Pat Wicks

Counters
 24 Mar Marilyn Rowe
 31 Mar Pamela & John

Morning Tea
 24 Mar Claire Maguire
 31 Mar Rasa Blansjaar

Church Care
 5 Apr Marilyn Rowe and Noeleen Cliff

St Paul's Mt Victoria & St Joseph's Megalong Valley

Entrance Ant: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Communion Ant: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Saints Days of the Week (25th Mar to 30th Mar)

25th Mar The Annunciation of the Lord
 26th Mar St. Basil the Younger hermit
 27th Mar St. Augusta Italian martyr
 28th Mar St. Alexander martyr
 29th Mar St. Ludolf of Ratzeburg German priest
 30th Mar St. Fergus Irish bishop



**Third Sunday in Lent
 Year C
 24.3.19**

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance. May this Eucharist be a moment to take stock and to assess with honesty how, as a sign of Christ's light within us, we live out our faith in our marriage, at home, at work and in the world. © Richard Leonard SJ

Next Week:
 Jos 5:9-12 ; 2 Cor 5:17-21 ;
 Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

PARENTS' ROOM: The Sacristy, which contains a few books and toys, is available for parents when young children are restless. We hope this makes it a little easier for you

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/

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. We love because he first loved us. He is not aloof from 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 the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their 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 act 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.”* Please note that this is but a short excerpt only of a much longer Lenten Message from the Holy Father. This is certainly a message we need to hear and put into practice throughout Lent – and beyond!

I also confirm that we, at this stage, do not have any candidate for Baptism during the Easter Saturday Vigil Mass and celebration.

CARITAS (Project Compassion): As mentioned in this Bulletin last week, Caritas is our key charity and fund-raiser for this year with donations being received throughout the Lenten/Easter period. Through Project Compassion, you and I have a unique opportunity to help Caritas Australia to support those far more deprived than us, by helping to reduce their poverty, promote justice for them and uphold the dignity that is the right of every living human being. You will find dispersed around the church today a range of Caritas literature, including Project Compassion boxes to be found at each of the three entrances to the Blackheath church. If you haven’t already done so, please take one home with you, fill it with your spare coins, and return it to us at Easter. Huge thanks for your support!

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION of the LORD: This Feast occurs tomorrow, Monday 25th March. However, because we do not celebrate Mass on Mondays due to my other commitments, I am transferring this Solemnity Feast to replace the normal scheduled Tuesday Mass at 6.00pm on 26th March this year only! Those of you who want to attend Mass tomorrow may do so at either Katoomba or Lithgow parish churches.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME FOR 2019: This past week, introductory letters to parents have been given all children who attend Catholic religious classes in the three public schools (Blackheath, Megalong Valley and Mt. Victoria) with which we are involved. In that letter, we raise the issue of eligible children completing the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation) this year. We should know within the next couple of weeks the names and details of those to enter this year’s course.

OTHER MATTERS: New Zealand Deaths: Like you, I am appalled at the wholesale unprovoked murder of so many innocent God-loving people at prayer in quiet Christ-church in that peaceful land. Please continue to keep all in that city and nation in your prayers every day. As well, also include the perpetrator of this hideous act in your prayers that he may realize, accept, be filled with regret and ultimately change into someone who cares for others!

Retreats/Birthday: For me there is no more restful place to renew and reinforce my relationship with God than in an Abbey hermitage half-way up Jamberoo Mountain (near Kiama). I am well-rested and ready for all that is to come during Lent and Easter. Thank you everyone for your support and friendship, both there and celebrations surrounding my 86th birthday. God Bless! Fr. Bob

BALANCING THE BOOKS WITH BALLADS

Pat Drummond is holding a one night only concert on 30th March 2019 at the Sacred Heart Hall, 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath. From 7.00pm, Pat will take us on a journey of his well documented songs about real people and places, drawn from interviews gathered on his erratic tours across Australia and present a composite picture of our country and her people. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available after Mass today or at the Parish Office (Wed-Fri. phone 4787 8540) . Tea/ Coffee and cakes are included. **ONLY ONE WEEK TO GO.** Pat is holding this concert to assist our Parish ministries and financial commitments for 2019.



Palm Sunday Rally and March ~ Sunday 14th April. 2.00pm at Belmore Park (near Central Railway Station). “Say Yes to refugees. Bring them here”

Happy Birthday

28th Ray Wood
29th Carmen Beard



Please pray for the sick and their carers: *Barry Bowden, John and Marion Crowley, Barbara Grieves, Kevin Madden, Maria Slater, Frank Mackrell, Marie Johnson, Trennah Portelli and Pat Frazer*

✠Rest In Peace✠

28th Jim Grainger (2014) friend of Fr Paul

JRS Foodbank ~ The Jesuit Refugee Service’s foodbank need our help each week over Lent. Contact 02 9098 9336 or kim.smith@jrs.org.au for more information. Each week they ask for a specific product for their food bank. Next week it is tinned tomatoes. Please support this worthy cause.

Earth Ministry Project

A Lenten focus:-

- Share and discuss a reading of Laudato Si with family and friends;
- Spend time in Nature;
- Try this week not to use a single disposable plastic product;
- Earth Hour- get ready to Switch off the Lights on Saturday March 30 from 8:30-9:30pm.

For further information about the Earth Ministry Project and other initiatives visit <http://catholicearthcare.org.au/2019/01/catholic-earthcare-reference-group-membership/>

Carmelite Retreat centre ~

Contact Ph: 02 8795 3400

retreats@carmelite.com

www.carmeliteretreats.com.au

Praying with St John of the Cross

April 6: 10:00 am – 4:00pm

Cost: \$30 (please remember to bring your lunch). Pick-ups from Minto train station at 930am and 1000am.

Presenter: Barbara Stenning OCDS

Volunteers Needed ~ Help make a difference to someone’s life... Visit a lonely person who would enjoy your company. Learn a little about them and share a little about your life. A weekly or fortnightly visit can make the world of difference! Contact Bodington Age Care Facility...Nadja (02) 4757 810