

**TODAY**

Numbers 6:22-27 **A blessing**  
Galatians 4:4-7 **God's saving acts**  
Luke 2:16-21 **Mary, mother of Jesus**

**Psalm Response**

May God bless us in his mercy. May God bless us.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!  
In the past God spoke to our ancestors  
through the prophets;  
now he speaks to us through his Son.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**ROSTERS**

**Servers**

1 Jan Jan Roberts  
8 Jan Ray Wood

**Readers**

1 Jan 1st Reading David Buckley  
Intercessions Frances Huckstepp  
2nd Reading Christa Buckley  
8 Jan 1st Reading Ian Maguire  
Intercessions Marilyn Rowe  
2nd Reading Claire Maguire

**Ministers of the Eucharist**

1 Jan Anthony Gilchrist and Ray Wood  
8 Jan Margaret Davis and Diane Stewart

**Children's Liturgy**

1 Jan No Children's Liturgy during the holidays.  
8 Jan No Children's Liturgy during the holidays.

**Counters**

1 Jan Laurie  
8 Jan Carla and Neil

**Morning Tea**

1 Jan David and Christa Buckley  
8 Jan Carmel Vanny and Barbara Smith

**Church Care**

6 Jan Therese Gatt and Margaret Solomons  
13 Jan Carla Endean and Gail Shepherd

Next Week: **Following the star** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 71; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

**Feast Days for this week: 1 - 7 January 2012**

Sun 1 Jan Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)  
Mon 2 Jan St Basil the Great (330-379), Bishop of Caesarea  
Tue 3 Jan St Genevieve (c422-512), Virgin  
Wed 4 Jan Bl Angela of Foligno (c1248-1309), Mystic  
Thu 5 Jan St Emiliana (c550), Mystic  
Fri 6 Jan St Macra (d287), Martyr  
Sat 7 Jan St Raymond of Penyafort, Dominican Friar  
St Lucian of Antioch (c240-312), Martyr



**The Solemnity of Mary**

1 January 2012

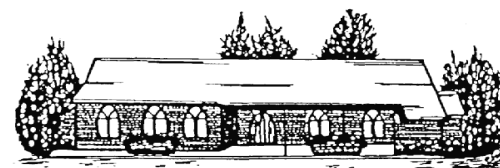
At the Nativity, it is the marginalised, the shepherds, who proclaim the birth of the Saviour.

The baby is found with Mary his mother. How Mary must have pondered in her heart as she recalled the visit of the angel and his mysterious promise, the conception and the birth of her child!

How her pondering must have continued as she watched his life unfold!



# SACRED HEART PARISH



Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath  
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria  
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

We wish to acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the original custodians of this land.

**Our Mission Statement:** 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.

**Parish Priest: Father Bob Sheridan**

**Parish House:** 4787 8811

**Parish Mobile:** 0428 878 810 (Emergency only)

**Parish Office:** 4787 8540 **Fax:** 4787 6143

**e-mail:** shbheath2@bigpond.com

**Parish Office hours:**

**Wednesday:** 12.00pm - 4.00pm

**Thursday:** 10.00am - 1.00pm

All enquiries regarding Baptisms, Marriages and sick calls - 4787 8811.

**Parish Address:** 18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath. NSW 2785

**Website:** <http://www.keepersoftheflame.net/SacredHeartParish/index.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sacred-Heart-Parish-Blackheath/153850768029631>

<b>Blackheath - Mass</b>	Sunday	9.30am
Evening Mass	Tuesday	6.30pm
Morning Mass	Wednesday, Friday and Saturday	9.00am
	Thursday	8.00am
Benediction	22nd Saturday after 9.00am Mass	
Exposition	All other Saturdays after 9.00am Mass	
Reconciliation	Saturday	9.30am
Healing Mass	1st Saturday of the month	9.00am
<b>Mount Victoria - Vigil Mass</b>	1st and 3rd Saturdays	6.00pm
<b>Megalong Valley - Vigil Mass</b>	2nd and 4th Saturdays	6.00pm

**Parish Pastoral Council** meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. If you would like an issue discussed, please submit it in writing to Fr Bob or Michelle Davis (Chair), Frances Huckstepp (Deputy Chair) and Diane Stewart (Secretary).

**Sacred Heart Care Group:** Carmel Vanny 4787 8706 or Michelle Funnell 4757 2638

**\*Bulletin Items:** Please contact the Parish Office on Wednesday or Thursday during office hours on 4787 8540 or email [shbheath2@bigpond.com](mailto:shbheath2@bigpond.com)

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY 2012 ABUNDANTLY BLESS YOU WITH HAPPINESS,  
GOOD HEALTH AND PEACE.

### Mary, Mother of God (Solemnity)

This day has been celebrated as part of the Octave (eight days) of Christmas since around the sixth century. It is a feast which talks about both Jesus and Mary. It is a celebration of the fact that Jesus was truly God and truly human. Because this is true of Jesus, it is also true that Mary is the 'God-Bearer' - the Mother of God.



To view Bishop Anthony's 4 minute Christmas message, go to <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/news---events/latest-news/latest-news.aspx/bishop-anthony-s-christmas-2011-video-message.aspx>

The Funeral Mass for **Fr John Smith** was held at St Canice's, Katoomba on Thursday, 30th December. Bishop Anthony Fisher was the primary celebrant. Fr John died on 15th December. May he rest in the peace of Christ.

During Fr Bob's absence, Fr Paul Hanna will be our ordained celebrant for the following masses: 1st, 8th & 15th January.

Please remember in your prayers:

**Iris Austin; Neal Evans; Fr Frank Fletcher MSC; James Ford; Virginia Hayward; Kenneth Kirkham; Loretta Laird; Ray Lee; Barry Leeder; Lorraine McKelvie; Irene Peacock; Lee Piercy and his mother, Kellie; Jean Pye; Cy Schreiber; Fr Bob Sheridan; and Matthew Walker.**

Position Vacant: Catholic Diocese of Parramatta  
**Co-ordinator Social Justice & Caritas Officer**  
Full time (38 hours) - based in Parramatta

The Co-ordinator of Social Justice & Caritas in the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta works closely with the Bishop of Parramatta, the Episcopal Vicar for Health and Social Welfare, the Executive Director of CatholicCare Social Services, Diocesan agencies and parishes to respond to major political, social and environmental challenges in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching.

The role will support and resource Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation activities, ministries and initiatives in the Diocese. You will also respond to the social justice issues of the day through research, writing, education, action and collaboration with other like-minded organisations. Part of the role will be to liaise and support the parish priests and parish social justice groups of the Diocese.

Applications close on Sunday 15 January 2012 at 5pm. For more details, please visit <http://www.parra.catholic.org.au/employment/employment.aspx>

### Gospel Reflection (Lk 2:16-21)

*There's a lot going on this Sunday! Being January 1st, we celebrate the beginning of the New Year in our secular calendar. In the past, this day was celebrated liturgically as the Feast of the Circumcision to mark the eighth day of Jesus' life when, as for all Jewish boys, Jesus would have been circumcised in accordance with the covenant made by Abraham and God. This event is acknowledged in today's reading. Today, this day is celebrated as the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. January 1st was always a special day for honouring Mary and the Church has confirmed that by making this day a special celebration of Mary's role as mother of Jesus. This day also concludes the Octave of Christmas, the eight days from Christmas Day to January 1st that provide a special focus to the whole Christmas liturgical season. Finally, since introduced by Pope Paul VI in 1967, January 1st is recognised by the Church as World Day of Peace. A very busy day indeed!*

*Interestingly, today's gospel is virtually the same as the gospel used at the dawn liturgy on Christmas Day and follows directly on from the gospel used at Christmas Midnight Mass. It completes the nativity story with the shepherds' visit to the manger in Bethlehem. Despite what would appear to be a lot of excitement around the birth of her child, Mary is portrayed as remaining very calm, pondering all these things in her heart. It is a measure of Mary's acceptance of all that she had been asked to do. Despite the incredible series of events that led to and surrounded the birth of Jesus, Mary accepted with enormous grace the role she was asked to play in the salvation of the world. Perhaps it is Mary's calm in the midst of great events that makes this day an appropriate one to mark as World Day of Peace. -from Liturgyhelp online*

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLES - RESULTS

Thank you to everyone for buying and selling tickets and donations of items for the hamper. We had four prizes:

- 1st Hannah** (works at Bookshop Blackheath)
- 2nd Charles Hodgkinson**
- 3rd Calab Parker** (Megalong)
- 4th Rick Goodsell** (Megalong)

Guess the Weight of the Christmas Cake was won by **Judy White** - 2.70kg. Thank you to Sheilagh Kirkham for making and donating the cake. The Christmas stocking was won by **Jenny Inman**. Thank you to Anne-Marie Bland for making and donating the stocking.

Amounts raised: Raffle - \$1,080 and Cake - \$51

### Parish Garage Sale 4th & 5th February 2012 in the Parish Hall.

You may leave your saleable goods after Australia Day. Helpers are needed for both before with sorting and on the day. Please keep dates available and closer to the date, we will have a list for names and times available.



The Parish Office re-opens on Wednesday 25 January.

Join our online community for Sacred Heart Parish Blackheath



### Sacred Heart Care Group

Our Care Group is here to assist parishioners in times of need. Please contact Carmel 4787 8706 or Michelle 4757 2638 if you think we can help.

