



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

25 OCTOBER 2020

Reflection on the Sunday Readings by Fr. John:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, The words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel are as radical as ever: our Christianity is not just God-oriented nor just humankind-oriented, but BOTH. our personal worship and religious experience should be in balance with our communal worship and religious experience. To say you are Christian and never worship with other Christians on the Lord's Day is a misnomer: you are only half a Christian! To say you are Christian and never go into your private space to speak with the Lord in silent prayer is a misnomer: you are only half a Christian! Just as Jesus' words challenged the Pharisees, so they challenge us; as they called the first Christians to a radical realignment of values and practices, so these same words call us to seek out and change those areas of our lives that may need realigning and balancing.

FIRST READING Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel this:

"You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

RESPONSE I love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of

the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

St. Augustine (354-430)

I know, beloved, how well fed you are every day by the exhortations of Holy Scripture, and what nourishment your hearts find in the word of God.

Nevertheless, the affection we have for one another compels me to say something to you, beloved, about love. What else is there to speak of apart from love?

To speak about love there is no need to select some special passage of Scripture to serve as a text for the homily; open the Bible at any page and you will find it extolling love.

We know this is so from the Lord himself, as the Gospel reminds us, for when asked what were the most important commandments of the law he answered: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind; and you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

And then, just in case you might be tempted to search further through the pages of Holy Scripture for some commandments other than

these two, he added: "The entire law and the prophets also depend upon these two commandments." If the entire law and the prophets depend upon these two commandments, how much more must the gospel do so?

People are renewed by love. As sinful desire ages them, so love rejuvenates them. Enmeshed in the toils of his desires the psalmist laments: "I have grown old surrounded by my enemies." Love, on the other hand, is the sign of our renewal as we know from the Lord's own words: "I give you a new commandment—love one another."

Even in former times there were people who loved God without thought of reward, and whose hearts were purified by their chaste longing for him.

They drew back the veils obscuring the ancient promises, and caught a glimpse through these figures of a new covenant to come. They saw that all the precepts and promises of the old covenant, geared to the capacities of an unregenerate people, prefigured a new covenant which the Lord would bring to fulfillment in the last age.

The Apostle says this quite clearly: "The things that happened to them were symbolic, and were recorded for us who are living in the last age." (1 Cor 10:11) When the time for it came the new covenant began to be openly proclaimed, and those ancient figures were expounded and explained so that all might understand that the old covenant promises pointed to the new covenant.

And so love was present under the old covenant just as it is under the new, though then it was more hidden and fear was more apparent, whereas now love is more clearly seen and fear is diminished.

For as love grows stronger we feel more secure, and when our feeling of security is complete fear vanishes, since, as the apostle John declares: "Perfect love casts out fear."

Sermon 350A.



COMMUNION Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering to God.

NOTES FROM FR JOHN: ***Please consider joining the St Vincent de Paul society and helping those in need, while deepening your own faith and its practice ***There will be a course for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion offered at Katoomba on 14 November. Please consider signing up for this. We need many who can minister to the many people in need of the Eucharist.

VINNIES SLEEPOUT: Please support one of our adorers, Simone Smith, who will be sleeping "rough" on October 23rd, 2020, in the Western Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout. The funds will go towards Vinnies hubs in Western Sydney to help those experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to domestic/family violence; leaving prison; loss of employment; difficulty finding employment. To donate visit: <https://my.fundraise.vinniesnsw.org.au/vinnies-community-sleepout-western-sydney-2020/simone-smith>



CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL 17/18 Oct: Donations can still be made online www.catholicmission.org.au/cambodia Thank you for your support.

PLANNED GIVING: Would the owner of envelope #53, contact the parish office.

BOOK A MASS: If you wish to come to a weekend Mass, please click on the link below to book a Mass time. You may book one Mass per weekend. Bookings close 3pm Fridays: <https://forms.gle/LDSNJTP69UjtEJYs5>

BOOKING A SUNDAY MASS: Numbers are determined by the 1.5m social distancing requirements. This means: Katoomba: 60 people. Leura: 40 people. Wentworth Falls: 35 people. You MUST book to attend a Sunday Mass. You may do so either on the link above (also on our [Facebook page](#)) or by emailing or calling the parish office. Bookings open until Friday at 3pm. Please book only one weekend Mass and arrive at least 5-10 minutes early as the doors will be locked at the start of the Mass.

FINANCES: If you would like to contribute to the 2nd Collection for the parish: Bank Transfer: BSB 067 950 Account 000 00594 Name: Mary MacKillop Parish Reference: Surname and envelope number or Parish Donation (with or without surname if preferred). If parishioners would like to contribute to the First Collection for the clergy of the diocese: BSB 067 950 Account No 00004265 Account Name Diocesan Clergy Reference either the Parish Name or the parish code 6038

ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL: We are still taking enrolments for next year if there are any families interested. Please ring the office on 4780 6800 and ask for an enrolment pack to be sent out. Alternatively a tour of the school can be organised.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Red Wednesday. On 25 November the Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need is asking Catholics around the world to commemorate Red Wednesday and pray in solidarity with those who are persecuted and suffer unjustly for their faith. Find out more: www.redwednesday.org.



NEW PARISH WEBSITE: Fr. Carlos and the parish media team had been working with the wonderful diocesan communications team to spruce up our parish website. While following the diocesan template, it now features a lot more info and pictures on our parish. A calendar will soon be added so that you can be easily notified of upcoming events, if you wish. The Sunday bulletin will be uploaded as a pdf the Tuesday following. The site can be visited at: www.bluemountainscatholic.org.au.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES You need to book Sunday Leura 5pm (Saturday) Wentworth Falls 8am Katoomba 10am Leura 5pm *10am on public holidays	WEEKDAY MASS TIMES MON: 8:30am* Katoomba TUE: 5:15pm Leura WED: 8:30am W-Falls THU: 8:30am Leura FRI: 12pm Katoomba SAT: 9am Katoomba	CONFESSION TIMES TUE 4:45-5:00pm Leura SAT: 9:30am Katoomba SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura Confessions are always available on request.	SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis. WED: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles. SAT: BVM. NEXT SUN: All Saints—Solemnity. NEXT MON: All Souls. NEXT WED: St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop.
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MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: Therese Binder, Bruce Jude Gale (RIP). Patrick Leonard Gale (RIP). Forgotten Souls in Purgatory. **DECEASED and ANNI-VERSARIES:** JOHN COONAN, MARK NOYCE, GILES AUTY, BARRY MULHOLLAND, ROSLYN MOUNDER, and All the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses **AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY.** **SICK LIST:** Valerie Small, Marie Thuez, Maria Laznic, Mary Sullivan, Kathleen Hayes-Gilson, Evelyn Maw, Wanda Heffernan, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Assanti, Susan Keegel, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphet, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heininger, Michelle Scully, Julie Walss, Edwin Wulff.

PARISH OFFICE: 158 Katoomba Street, Katoomba 2780
Postal Address: P.O. Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780
Phone: (02) 4782 2804 **Hours:** 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.
Parish Email address: bluemountains@parracatholic.org
After Hours Emergency Number: 0428 878 810 Calls only; no

Weddings: Please call Parish Office for details. **Baptisms:** upon request.
Parish Website at: www.bluemountainscatholic.org.au
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic
Parish School: St Canice's Primary School, Katoomba **Principal:** Ms. Miriam Meaney
Phone: (02) 4780 6800 **Email:** stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au