



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH  
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



ALL SAINTS

YEAR A

1 NOVEMBER 2020

Reflection on the Sunday Readings by Fr. John:

Dear friends in Christ,  
This week's celebration of All Saints and All Souls is our traditional start to the month of November, when we pray for all who have gone before us - especially those who have died in the past 12 months.

Many of those for whom we pray in November are probably already experiencing the Beatific Vision, seeing God face-to-face! Just because the Church has not officially declared someone a 'saint' doesn't mean that they are not a saint. Indeed, there are many whom we have known who have lived worthy and faithful lives!

Whether declared a saint officially or one of the multitude of faithful dead, let's ask for their intercession to the one true God on our behalf, so that, one day, we can be in the midst of the joyful heavenly throng, living a life of blessedness in the presence of the loving and eternal God of the universe.

FIRST READING

Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

RESPONSE Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!  
Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

St. Augustine (354-430)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." This is the end [purpose] of our love, an end by which we are not consumed but perfected. Food is finished when it is eaten, a garment when it is woven. Both the one and the other have an end, but the end of the one is consumption; the end of the other is perfection.

Whatever we do now, whatever good deeds we perform, whatever we strive for, whatever praiseworthy object we long for, whatever we blamelessly desire, we shall need no more when we come to the vision of God. What is there to seek for when God is present? What will suffice if God does not?

We want to see God, we strive to see him, we long to see him. Who does not? But notice what scripture says: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Provide yourself with that by which you may see him; for, to give a physical example, what use would longing to see a sunrise be if you were half blind?

If the eye is healthy that light will bring joy: if the eye is unhealthy that light will be a torment. You will not be permitted to see with an impure heart what can be seen only with a pure heart. Far from seeing you will be repelled, driven away.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." How often already has the Evangelist mentioned the blessed, the reason for their blessedness, their works, their services, their merits, their rewards! But nowhere does he say that "they shall see God."

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Of none of these is it said that they shall see God. It is when we come to the pure in heart that the vision of God is promised. This is because it is the heart that has eyes capable of seeing God. To these eyes the apostle Paul refers when he says: "having the eyes of your hearts enlightened."

At present, as becomes their infirmity, these eyes are enlightened by faith: hereafter, as will become their strength, they will be enlightened by sight. "As long as we are in the body, we are absent from the Lord, for we walk by faith and not by sight." While we are in this state of faith, what is said of us? "Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we shall see face to face."

Sermon 53

COMMUNION Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

NOTES FROM FR JOHN: \*\*\*Masses as normal this coming week.

\*\*\*I will be on Annual Leave from 9-26 November. As a result there will be a modified weekday mass timetable during my absence: no Saturday morning at Blackheath; no Vigil Mass at Mt Victoria on Saturday evening; no Wednesday morning mass at Wentworth Falls. A Supply Priest will celebrate the 8am & 10am masses on Sunday mornings.

\*\*\*Kindergarten and Years 1 & 2 from St Canice's School will be joining us for next Friday's midday Mass.

THANK YOU :St Vincent de Paul Society, Katoomba wish to acknowledge and thank the Principal, Staff, Students and Parents and Friends of the Parish school of St Canice's for its continued outstanding support of the Society particularly during this past year in very difficult circumstances. The School through the support of its Mini Vinnies Group has raised and donated in excess of \$2100 to our Katoomba Conference. A TRULY REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTION. All funds donated to our Conference are totally directed towards the meeting the needs of the disadvantaged members of our Mountain Community .Thank You all.

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](http://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 and a calendar. The Sunday bulletin will be uploaded as a pdf the Tuesday following. The new site can be visited at: [www.bluemountainscatholic.org.au](http://www.bluemountainscatholic.org.au).

BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER ☩ Mary said her "yes" to God: a "yes" which threw her simple life in Nazareth into turmoil, and not only once. Any number of times she had to utter a heartfelt "yes" at moments of joy and sorrow, culminating in the "yes" she spoke at the foot of the Cross. Here today there are many mothers present; think of the full extent of Mary's faithfulness to God: seeing her only Son hanging on the Cross. The faithful woman, still standing, utterly heartbroken, yet faithful and strong. And I ask myself: Am I a Christian by fits and starts, or am I a Christian full-time? ...Never to prefer a makeshift path of our own. That kills us. Faith is ultimate fidelity, like that of Mary. Pope Francis, 2013. ☩

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.

MON: All Souls.  
TUE: St. Martin de Porrees, Religious.  
WED: St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop.  
SAT: BVM.

NEXT SUN: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: Therese Binder, Bruce Jude Gale (RIP). Patrick Leonard Gale (RIP). Forgotten Souls in Purgatory. DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: 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, Marie Laznic, Mary Sullivan, Kathleen Hayes-Gilson, Evelyn Maw, Wanda Heffernan, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Asanti, Susan Keegel, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphett, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heining, 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](mailto: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](http://www.bluemountainscatholic.org.au)

Parish Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic](https://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](mailto:stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au)

Pope John Paul II on the Eucharist, continued:

The joint and inseparable activity of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, which is at the origin of the Church, of her consolidation and her continued life, is at work in the Eucharist. This was clearly evident to the author of the Liturgy of Saint James: in the epiclesis of the Anaphora, God the Father is asked to send the Holy Spirit upon the faithful and upon the offerings, so that the body and blood of Christ "may be a help to all those who partake of it ... for the sanctification of their souls and bodies". The Church is fortified by the divine Paraclete through the sanctification of the faithful in the Eucharist.

24. The gift of Christ and his Spirit which we receive in Eucharistic communion superabundantly fulfils the yearning for fraternal unity deeply rooted in the human heart; at the same time it elevates the experience of fraternity already present in our common sharing at the same Eucharistic table to a degree which far surpasses that of the simple human experience of sharing a meal. Through her communion with the body of Christ the Church comes to be ever more profoundly "in Christ in the nature of a sacrament, that is, a sign and instrument of intimate unity with God and of the unity of the whole human race".

The seeds of disunity, which daily experience shows to be so deeply rooted in humanity as a result of sin, are countered by the unifying power of the body of Christ. The Eucharist, precisely by building up the Church, creates human community.

ECCLESIA DE EUCHARISTIA, 2003.

Next week JP II talks about the worship of the Eucharist outside of Mass. Do you have an hour to spare for Jesus to spend time with Him in our adoration chapel?

If you would like to find out more about becoming a rostered weekly or temporary fill in adorer, please contact Jacquie Harsh, on 0405 600 155. God bless.

