



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

8 NOVEMBER 2020

Reflection on the Sunday Readings by Fr. John:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, The text from Scripture for this weekend have much to offer us:

1. Our lives on earth are meant to be lives that remain open to the delights of Divine Wisdom. They are meant to be full and rounded lives NOW: lived in love of God and neighbour. And so we need to ask ourselves: How are we living our lives now - in imitation of Christ and his double commandment of love, or otherwise? What can we do to renew our commitment to Christ and His Gospel in this coming week?
2. Furthermore, our lives should also be lived with a view to the future: Will we be ready for the Judgment to come, when we will meet the Lord face-to-face? What do we need to do to be ready and awake for Lord's Coming? Let's use these last weeks of the Church's Liturgical year to reflect on and renew our Christian responsibilities and commitments.

FIRST READING Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

RESPONSE My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonian 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven;

those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL Attributed to Anthony

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," since purity of heart leads to perfection. Two things are contained within the heart—goodness which is natural to it and evil which is unnatural. This latter gives rise to such passions of the soul as murmuring, envy, detraction, and all the rest.

Goodness, on the other hand, promotes knowledge of God and rids the soul of all these passions. If people honestly try to root out vice and avoid evil, if they repent with tears and sighs, devoting themselves humbly to a life of prayer, fasting, and watching, the Lord in his goodness will come to their aid and free them from all sinful inclinations.

Many who have lived a celibate monastic life for a long time have failed to learn what purity

of heart is, because instead of studying the teaching of the fathers, they have followed their own wayward desires. So evil spirits and rebel marauders of the air have prevailed against them, hurling invisible darts by day and night, and thus preventing them from finding rest anywhere. Moreover they fill their hearts with pride, vanity, jealousy, criticism, raging anger, strife, and any number of other passions.

Such people are to be reckoned with the five foolish virgins because they have spent their time foolishly. They have not controlled their tongues nor cleansed their eyes and bodies from concupiscence, neither have they purged their hearts of lust and other deplorable defilements. It was enough for them merely to wear a woolen garment signifying virginity. Consequently they lack the heavenly joy which would kindle their lamps, and the Bridegroom does not open the door to them but repeats what he said to the foolish virgins: "Truly I say to you, I know you not."

My only reason for writing you this letter is my desire for your salvation. I want you to be free and faithful and pure brides of Christ, the Bridegroom of all holy souls; as Saint Paul says: "I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." (2 Cor 11:2)

Let us awake, then, while we are still in this body, and grieve over ourselves, lamenting day and night from the bottom of our hearts, so that we may escape the bitter torment, the weeping, wailing, and remorse that will have no end.

We must beware of entering through the wide gate and taking the easy road that leads to perdition, for many go that way. Instead we must enter by the narrow gate and take the path of sorrow and affliction that leads to life. Few people enter this gate, but those who do are real workers who will have the joy of receiving the reward of their labors and will inherit the kingdom.

If any are prepared to set out, I do beg them not to delay and waste time, for they may be like the foolish virgins and find no one willing to sell them oil. These virgins burst into tears and cried out: "Lord, open to us." But he answered: "Truly I say to you, I know you not." And this happened to them simply because of their laziness. I beg you by the grace of God to obey me as I also will obey you; and may we all obey the Lord who said by the tongue of the Prophet: "Who longs for life and desires to see good days? Keep your tongue from evil talk and your lips from deceitful speech. Turn away from evil and do good; seek and strive after peace."

Letter 20.

COMMUNION The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

NOTES FROM FR JOHN:

***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.

HAIL BRIGHT CECILIA: Our annual celebration of St. Cecilia featuring sacred music from the early Church to the present day will take place on the 27th of November at 7pm at St. Canice's Church Katoomba. COVID19 regulations will be observed. Booking details to follow soon.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION COURSE offered at Katoomba on 14th November 10am to 12.00 Noon in the church. Please consider signing up for this. We need many who can minister to the many people in need of the Eucharist. To book please call the parish office 4782 2804

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: St Canice's had their orientation and welcome ZOOM meeting this week for new families and parents of the 2021 Kindergarten class. Friday is the Colour Fun Run where the children complete an obstacle course/ fun run for our colour explosion fundraiser! So the streets of Katoomba may be more colourful than unusual this Friday afternoon!

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.

***Masses for the Holy Souls: During the month of November Aid to the Church in Need is encouraging the faithful to arrange Masses on behalf of loved ones and for the souls that have nobody to pray for them. Find out more: www.aidtochurch.org/november

***A Gift of Faith is a Christmas present given in place of a material gift. You can arrange multiple Gifts of Faith for children, grandchildren, godchildren, siblings, cousins, co-workers, friends and parishioners. Find out more: www.thatcatholicshop.com/giftsoffait

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: Dedicaton of the Lateran Basilica. TUE: St. Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor. WED: St. Martin of Tours, Bishop. SAT: BVM. NEXT SUN: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.
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MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: 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, 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 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
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

SIMON SAYS...

Pope John Paul II on the Eucharist, continued:

25. The worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass is of inestimable value for the life of the Church. This worship is strictly linked to the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice. The presence of Christ under the sacred species reserved after Mass – a presence which lasts as long as the species of bread and of wine remain – derives from the celebration of the sacrifice and is directed towards communion, both sacramental and spiritual. It is the responsibility of Pastors to encourage, also by their personal witness, the practice of Eucharistic adoration, and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in particular, as well as prayer of adoration before Christ present under the Eucharistic species.

It is pleasant to spend time with him, to lie close to his breast like the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in his heart. If in our time Christians must be distinguished above all by the "art of prayer", how can we not feel a renewed need to spend time in spiritual converse, in silent adoration, in heartfelt love before Christ present in the Most Holy Sacrament? How often, dear brother and sisters, have I experienced this, and drawn from it strength, consolation and support!

This practice, repeatedly praised and recommended by the Magisterium, is supported by the example of many saints. Particularly outstanding in this regard was Saint Alphonsus Liguori, who wrote: "Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us". The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace. A Christian community desirous of contemplating the face of Christ in the spirit which I proposed in the Apostolic Letters Novo Millennio Ineunte and Rosarium Virginis Mariae cannot fail also to develop this aspect of Eucharistic worship, which prolongs and increases the fruits of our communion in the body and blood of the Lord.

ECCLESIA DE EUCHARISTIA, 2003.