



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

15 NOVEMBER 2020

FIRST READING

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 .

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband’s heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

RESPONSE Happy are those who fear the Lord.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. ‘The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

‘Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.”

‘His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.”

‘Next the man with the two talents came forward. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.”

‘Last came forward the man who had the one talent. “Sir,” said he “I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.” But his master answered him, “You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into

the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”’

COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

St. John Chrysostom (347-407)

In the parable of the talents the Master entrusted money to his servants and then set out on a journey. This was to help us understand how patient he is, though in my view this story also refers to the resurrection. Here it is a question not of a vineyard and vine dressers, but of all workers. The Master is addressing everyone, not only rulers, or the Jews.

Those bringing him their profit acknowledge frankly what is their own, and what is their Master’s. One says: “Sir, you gave me five talents; another says; You gave me two,” recognizing that they had received from him the means of making a profit. They are extremely grateful, and attribute to him all their success.

What does the Master say then? “Well done, good and faithful servant” (for goodness shows itself in concern for one’s neighbor). “Because you have proved trustworthy in managing a small amount, I will give you charge of a greater sum: come and share your Master’s joy.”

But one servant has a different answer. He says: “I knew you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not winnowed; and I was afraid, and hid your talent.” “Here it is—you have back what belongs to you.”

What does the Master say to that? “You wicked servant! You should have put my money in the bank,” that is, “You should have spoken out and given encouragement and advice.” “But no one will pay attention.” “That is not your concern. You should have deposited the money” he says, “and left me to reclaim it, which I should have done with interest,” meaning by interest the good works that are seen to follow the hearing of the word. “The easier part is all you were expected to do, leaving the harder part to me.”

Because the servant failed to do this, the Master said: “Take the talent away from him, and give it to the servant who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has more will be given, and he will have enough and to spare; but the one who has not will forfeit even the little he has.”

What is the meaning of this? That whoever has received for the good of others the ability to preach and teach, and does not use it, will lose that ability, whereas the zealous servant will be given greater ability, even as the other forfeits what he had.

Homily 78 on Saint Matthew’s Gospel.

COMMUNION To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

SIMON SAYS... Simon says... As a result there will be a no Wednesday morning mass at Wentworth Falls. A Supply Priest will celebrate the 8am & 10am masses on Sunday mornings.

WEDNESDAY ROSARY at 8:45am Leura Church for this week 18th and next week 25th while Fr John is away on annual leave and no Mass is being said at Wentworth Falls Church that morning.

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. Please phone parish office to reserve seats 4782 2804

BISHOP’S CHRISTMAS APPEAL: 28th/29th November. This Christmas, let us unite in demonstrating God’s unconditional love and keep families together. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare’s Project Elizabeth to support vulnerable families to build strong, loving relationships. You can help give people the emotional and practical support they need to live their lives in love and joy. Please give generously to the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal: yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

PLANNED GIVING: Would 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

MIDNIGHT MASS: This year at St Canice’s, to celebrate the solemnity of Christmas, we are going to hold a High Mass at midnight with a thurible and an organist with a small, socially distanced choir.

This is a great opportunity for parishioners and visitors to experience the true beauty of our Catholic traditions this Christmas. We hope to see you all there for this special occasion, especially after many of us may have felt distanced from the beauty of our liturgies during this difficult time of COVID.

PARISH ADORATION CHAPEL: 9am Monday—9am Saturday (inclusive). “Our Communal worship at Mass must go together with our worship of Jesus in Eucharist adoration in order that our lives may be complete (St. JP2).” For chapel inquiries please contact Jacquie on 0405 600 155.

PHILIPPINES TYPHOON: Super typhoon Goni (Rolly), one of the most intense on record, has slammed into the Philippines. An estimated 346,000 people have already sought refuge in evacuation centres and about 19.8 million people may be affected. Br. Joseph Saladno told Vatican News that with the Covid-19 pandemic and typhoon, they are going through a "complex calamity." Donations can be made to Caritas Australia to provide support for emergencies like Typhoon Goni at <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/online-donation?DonationCode=AASIA> or by calling 1800 024 413 toll free. The link is also on our Facebook.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES	WEEKDAY MASS TIMES	CONFESSION TIMES	SAINTS THIS WEEK: <u>Ora pro nobis.</u>
<i>You need to book Sunday</i> Leura 5pm (Saturday) Wentworth Falls 8am Katoomba 10am Leura 5pm *10am on public holidays	MON: 8:30am* Katoomba TUE: 5:15pm Leura WED: 8:30am W-Falls THU: 8:30am Leura FRI: 12pm Katoomba SAT: 9am Katoomba	TUE 4:45-5:00pm Leura SAT: 9:30am Katoomba SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura Confessions are always available on request.	MON: St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude, Virgin. TUE: St. Elisabeth of Hungary, Religious. WED: Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul. SAT: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. SUN: Christ the King.

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: MARIA LAZNIC, 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, 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 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 Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney

SIMON SAYS...

Pope John Paul II on the Eucharist, continued:

CHAPTER THREE

THE APOSTOLICITY OF THE EUCHARIST AND OF THE CHURCH

26. If, as I have said, the Eucharist builds the Church and the Church makes the Eucharist, it follows that there is a profound relationship between the two, so much so that we can apply to the Eucharistic mystery the very words with which, in the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, we profess the Church to be “one, holy, catholic and apostolic”. The Eucharist too is one and catholic. It is also holy, indeed, the Most Holy Sacrament. But it is above all its apostolicity that we must now consider.

27. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in explaining how the Church is apostolic – founded on the Apostles – sees three meanings in this expression. First, “she was and remains built on ‘the foundation of the Apostles’ (Eph 2:20), the witnesses chosen and sent on mission by Christ himself”. The Eucharist too has its foundation in the Apostles, not in the sense that it did not originate in Christ himself, but because it was entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and has been handed down to us by them and by their successors. It is in continuity with the practice of the Apostles, in obedience to the Lord’s command, that the Church has celebrated the Eucharist down the centuries.

The second sense in which the Church is apostolic, as the Catechism points out, is that “with the help of the Spirit dwelling in her, the Church keeps and hands on the teaching, the ‘good deposit’, the salutary words she has heard from the Apostles”. Here too the Eucharist is apostolic, for it is celebrated in conformity with the faith of the Apostles. At various times in the two-thousand-year history of the People of the New Covenant, the Church’s Magisterium has more precisely defined her teaching on the Eucharist, including its proper terminology, precisely in order to safeguard the apostolic faith with regard to this sublime mystery. **This faith remains unchanged and it is essential for the Church that it remain unchanged.**

ECCLIESIA DE EUCHARISTIA, 2003.