



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

29 NOVEMBER 2020

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

O that you would tear the heavens open and come down You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

RESPONSE Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

by St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

"Our God will come openly; our God will come and will not keep silent." The first coming of Christ the Lord, God's Son and our God, was in obscurity; the second will be in sight of the whole world.

When he came in obscurity no one recognized him but his own servants; when he comes openly he will be known by both good people and bad. When he came in obscurity, it was to be judged; when he comes openly it will be to judge. He was silent at his trial, as the prophet foretold: "He was like a sheep led to the slaughter, like a lamb before his shearers. He did not open his mouth."

But, "Our God will come openly; our God will come and will not keep silence." Silent when accused, he will not be silent as judge. And he is not silent now. By no means; when people of today recognize his voice and despise him, Scripture assures us that he will not be silent, he will not hold his hand.

Nowadays when the divine commands are spoken of, some people begin to jeer. They are not at present shown what God promises, they do not see what he threatens—so they laugh at his commands. After all, good people and bad enjoy this world's so-called happiness; good people and bad suffer from what are deemed this world's misfortunes.

Those whose lives are geared to the present rather than the future are impressed by the fact that this world's blessings and sufferings fall to the lot of good and bad without distinction. If wealth is their ambition, they see

it being enjoyed not only by decent folk, but also by people of the worst kind. If they are in dread of poverty and all the other miseries of this world, they also see that the good and the bad both suffer from them.

Therefore they say to themselves, "God does not care about human affairs, he exercises no control over them. On the contrary; he has sent us into the abyss of this world, and simply abandoned us to its sufferings. He shows no sign of his providence." Consequently, seeing no evidence of anyone being called to account, such people hold God's commands in derision.

Nevertheless, each person would do well to take thought even now, because when he wills to do so, God looks, and he judges; he will not tolerate an hour's delay. When he wills to do so, he waits.

Why does he do this? Surely if he never passed judgment in this present life, some people would think he does not exist. But if he always gave sentence here and now, there would be nothing reserved for the Day of Judgment. That is why much is kept for that day; but in order to put the fear of God into those whose cases are deferred, and so convert them, some judgments are made here and now.

For it is clear that God takes no pleasure in condemning. His desire is to save, and he bears patiently with evil people in order to make them good.

Yet we have the Apostle's warning: "The wrath of God will be revealed from heaven against all ungodliness, and God will reward each one according to his deeds."

The Apostle takes scoffers to task by asking them: "Do you think lightly of God's abundant goodness and his forbearance?" Do you despise him and think his judgment a matter of no account because he is good to you, because he is long-suffering and bears with you patiently, because he delays the day of reckoning and does not destroy you out of hand?

"Do you not know that the patience of God is meant to lead you to repentance? By the hardness of your heart you are storing up wrath against yourself on that Day of Retribution," when the righteous judgment of God will be revealed and he will give every one the reward his or her deeds deserve. *Sermon 18*



COMMUNION The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL ADORERS - Dear adorers, as we approach the 'holiday season' we ask you to consider the weeks ahead. The chapel will continue to be open for adoration during the holiday season, If you are going away and have a rostered time slot please start to search and find a replacement adorer from the contact list, or a parishioner friend to cover for you. You will need to let your team leader know what dates you'll be away, and who will be covering you. If you are a parishioner (or visitor) who would like to be on the temporary fill in list for a Holy Hour, please contact Jacquie on 0405 600 155 to register your details, Many thanks!

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.

ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS: Ad Jesum per Mariam.

SAT and SUN: 4:10pm, Leura.

MON: after 8:30am Mass, Katoomba.

TUE: 4:30pm Divine Mercy, Rosary and Exposition, Leura.

WED: after 8:30am Mass, Wentworth Falls.

THU: after 8:30am Mass, Leura.

FRI: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.

FRI: 5pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.

SAT: 8:30am before Mass and also after Benediction following Mass, Katoomba.

ADORATION CHAPEL: 9am Monday - 9am Saturday, Katoomba.

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.



ECCLISIA DE EUCHARISTIA, 2003.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis.

MON: St. Andrew, Apostle.

*** THU: St. Francis Xavier. ***

FRI: St. John Damascene, Priest, Doctor.

SAT: BVM.

NEXT SUN: 2nd Sunday of Advent.

NEXT MON: Immaculate Conception of the BVM.

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: MARK GLASHEEN, ELIZABETH SINNAPPAN, ALLAN LEATHWOOD, MARIA LAZNIC, JOHN COONAN, MARK NOYCE, and All the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Monique Haulber, Valerie Small, Marie Thuez, Mary Sullivan, Kathleen Hayes-Gilson, Evelyn Maw, Wanda Hefferan, 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 Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.

Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney