



# ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

6 DECEMBER 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ  
In our Second Reading for this Sunday's Liturgy from the Second Letter of St Peter we read: "(God) is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost, and everybody to be brought to change his/her ways". \*\*God is always patient with us... even when we seek what is not of benefit for us; when we choose the wrong path; when we turn our backs on the Lord. \*\*God does not want anyone to be lost, but everyone to be saved: to experience the healing balm of forgiveness, to return to right relationship with our loving Creator. \*\*God wants us to change our ways, to repent and return to the Lord's Way.  
During this Advent season, let's make certain that we cooperate with God's grace - repent and return to the Father's loving embrace; let's strive to build up and not tear down; let's seek out those who have drifted from the right path and invite them back. And in doing all this, we will truly 'prepare the Way for the Lord'. Let's continue to keep each other in thought and prayer in the week ahead.  
God Bless  
Fr John

**FIRST READING**  
Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against

his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**RESPONSE** Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**SECOND READING**  
2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

**ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! **Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.** Alleluia!

**THE GOSPEL**  
Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

**COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL**  
by Origen (183-253)

Let us examine the scriptural texts foretelling the coming of Christ. One such prophecy begins with a reference to John the Baptist: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." What follows, however, applies directly to our Lord and Savior, since it is by Jesus rather than by John that "every valley has been filled in."

He has smoothed out your rough places and changed your disorderly ways into level paths, making in you an even unimpeded road.

You have only to recall the kind of people you were before you put your faith in the Lord to see yourselves as deep valleys, as pits plunging precipitously into the lowest depths. But now that the Lord Jesus has come and has sent the Holy Spirit in his name, all your valleys have been filled in with good works and the Holy Spirit's fruits.

Love no longer tolerates the presence of valleys in your lives; if peace, patience, and goodness find a home in you, not only will each of you cease to be a valley but you will actually begin to be a mountain of God. ....

...If Christ did not come to your soul, of what use would his historical coming in the flesh be to you? Let us pray that each day we may experience his coming and be able to say: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

Jesus my Lord has come, then. He has smoothed out your rough places and changed your disorderly ways into level paths, making in you an even unimpeded road, a road that is absolutely clear, so that God the Father may walk in you and Christ the Lord make his dwelling in you and say: "My Father and I will come and make our home in them." *Homily on Luke's Gospel 22.*

**COMMUNION** Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Notes from Fr John: \*\*Please note the times for Christmas masses in Blackheath and the Upper Blue Mountains parishes... there are changes to times and places from before, as a result of COVID restrictions.

\*\*From this coming week we will be able to have more people at mass; there are other changes as well. However, at present, we await the Diocesan decisions to be promulgated for all parishes to follow

**BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL:** Please give generously to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal: [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://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.

**ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL:** Thursday 10th December from 9am till 10 30 is an exciting time for St Canice's and the main street of Katoomba.

The children will be performing Christmas Carols outside on the grass area in front of the school/Church so that parents and the community can "drop in" on Katoomba St and listen and watch them.

The children have had very limited opportunities to perform to an audience this year so it will be a lovely experience for all and a fitting experience for the Christmas Season.

**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.



## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**CHRISTMAS EVE (Thursday)**

*Vigil of the Nativity*

6:30pm Katoomba

9:00pm Leura

**CHRISTMAS DAY (Friday)**

*Midnight Mass*

(Sung Mass with incense)

12:00am Katoomba

*Mass During the Day*

7:30am Wentworth Falls

9:00am Leura

10:30am Katoomba

**\*NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

**BOXING DAY (Saturday)**

10:00am Katoomba

**NEW YEAR'S DAY (Friday)**

10:00am Katoomba

## CHRISTMAS CONFESSION TIMES

Saturday 19 Dec: after the 9:00am

Mass Katoomba

Saturday 19 Dec: 4:00-4:45pm Leura

Sunday 20 Dec: after the 8:00am

Mass Wentworth Falls

**SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis.**

MON: St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor.

TUE: Immaculate Conception of the BVM.

WED: St. Juan Diego.

FRI: St Damascus 1, Pope.

SAT: Our Lady of Guadalupe.

NEXT SUN: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday).

**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 Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.

Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

## *Christmas Appeal*

The Katoomba Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will again this year be providing Christmas hampers for needy families in our community.

*We are seeking your help with donations.*

**Suitable food items for hampers  
and “tap-and-go” donations  
on the weekend of 12 - 13 December.**

St Vincent de Paul representatives will be at all Masses that Weekend, or food donations may be left at any time in the Vinnies bins at the Church door.

Please help us help those less fortunate.

**Draw near to God through works of charity.**

Pope Francis 08.01.15 Holy Mass, Santa Marta.

