



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH  
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



HOLY FAMILY

YEAR B

27 DECEMBER 2020

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

**RESPONSE Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.**

**SECOND READING**

Colossians 3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your

wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

**ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia!  
**In the past God spoke to our fathers through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!**

**THE GOSPEL**

Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left

the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

**COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL**

St. Cyril of Alexandria (d.444)

We see Emmanuel as a newborn infant lying in a manger. In his human condition he is wrapped in swaddling clothes, but in his divine nature he is hymned by angels. Angels brought the shepherds the good news of his birth, for God the Father had given those who dwell in heaven the special privilege of being his first heralds.

Today we also see him submitting to the law of Moses; or rather, we see God the lawgiver subject as man to his own decrees. The reason for this we learn from the wisdom of Paul. He says: "When we were under age we were slaves of the elemental spirits of the universe, but when the fullness of time had come God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law."

Christ ransomed from the law's curse those who were subject to the law but had never kept it. How did he ransom them? By fulfilling the law. Or to put it in another way, to blot out the reproach of Adam's transgression, he offered himself on our behalf to God the Father, showing him in all things ready obedience and submission.

Scripture says: "As through one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so through one man's obedience many will be made righteous." And so, Christ submitted to the law together with us, and he did so by becoming man in accordance with the divine dispensation.

It was fitting that Christ should do everything that justice required. He had in all truth assumed the condition of a slave; and so, reckoned among those under the yoke by reason of his humanity, he once paid the half-shekel to those who demanded it, although as the Son he was by nature free and not liable to this tax.

When you see him keeping the law, then, do not misunderstand it, or reduce one who is free to the rank of household slaves, but reflect rather on the depths of God's plan.

*Homily 12*

**COMMUNION** Our God has appeared on the earth and lived among us.

MONDAY MASS December 28th at 10am not the usual 8:30am due to the public holiday. **NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS:** Friday 10:00am Katoomba.

**WALKING IN THE SPIRITUAL FOOTSTEPS OF THE MAGI 2021 EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE GROUP:** will be in our parish January 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>. Assistance with catering and helping serve dinner in St Canice's Hall for approx. 25 pilgrims would be appreciated on the evening of the 6th January. If you would like to help please ring Barbara 4784 2473. For information about the pilgrimage itinerary and to register visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org)

**ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED:** If you would like to help serve at Midnight Mass and/or serve in the coming year, please contact Hugh Jones on 0402 904 681.

**PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL:** Dear adorers, if you are going away and have a rostered time slot please find a replacement adorer from the contact list, or a parishioner 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 the owners of Planned Giving Envelope numbers 38, 41 and 53 kindly contact the Parish office immediately to submit your contact details. Your contributions are unable to be recorded until we have this information.

**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

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



**POPE FRANCIS:** [Today's] liturgy invites us to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Indeed, every nativity scene shows us Jesus together with Our Lady and St. Joseph in the grotto of Bethlehem. God wanted to be born into a human family, he wanted to have a mother and father like us... Today our gaze on the Holy Family lets us also be drawn into the simplicity of the life they led in Nazareth. It is an example that does our families great good, helping them increasingly to become communities of love and reconciliation, in which tenderness, mutual help, and mutual forgiveness is experienced. Let us remember the three key words for living in peace and joy in the family:

"may I", "thank you" and "sorry"... I would also like to encourage families to become aware of the importance they have in the Church and in society. The proclamation of the Gospel, in fact, first passes through the family to reach the various spheres of daily life. Let us fervently call upon Mary Most Holy, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, and St. Joseph her spouse. Let us ask them to enlighten, comfort and guide every family in the world, so that they may fulfil with dignity and peace the mission which God has entrusted to them.

**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.

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

MON: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs.  
TUE: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr.  
THU: St. Sylvester.  
FRI: Mary, Mother of God.  
SAT: Sts. Basil and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors.  
NEXT SUN: The Epiphany of the Lord.

**MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** VALERIE SMALL, MARK GLASHEEN, ELIZABETH SINNAPPAN, and All the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Monique Haulber, 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 Morphett, 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 Wals, 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](http://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)  
Parish School: St Canice's Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.  
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney

**POSITION VACANT**  
Parish Secretary – 6 hours per week  
Sacred Heart Parish Blackheath

The parish of Sacred Heart, Blackheath invites applications for the position of Parish Secretary.

The role of Parish Secretary will entail providing secretarial and administrative support to the Parish's Priests and the Parish team. The Parish Secretary will be responsible for processing correspondence, emails, telephone calls, meeting and greeting visitors, managing diaries, ordering of office supplies, as well as preparing the weekly Parish newsletter, maintaining documentation for the Sacraments, providing assistance to enquiries regarding the Sacraments and maintaining and updating the Parish website.

The successful applicant would need to:

- demonstrate an ability to relate to a variety of people and develop sound working relationships with other members of the Parish team;
- have a strong commitment to the Catholic faith;
- have a professional manner and excellent people skills;
- have high level computer skills, attention to detail and a well ordered approach to work
- have the right to work within Australia and undertake a national police and working with children check.

Applications must include a cover letter, resume and names and contact details of at least two referees, one of whom includes your parish priest.

Closing date for applications is: Friday 15 January 2021

Please send your application, resume and full referee details to: [blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org) with the subject title: PARISH SECRETARY APPLICATION.

For more information, please contact the parish office at [blackheath@parracatholic.org](mailto:blackheath@parracatholic.org) or visit <https://parracatholic.org/employment/>.