



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH  
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

24 JANUARY 2021

**Reflection on the Sunday Readings by Fr. John:**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, As with Jonah, so with us! We are sometimes afraid to follow God's Call and what it demands of us. As with the Corinthians, so with us! We can run away from the lifestyle God demands of us and try to hide from our faith commitments. Discipleship is a process; it is a state of 'becoming'. We are continually 'coming from' and 'going to'. We live in a state of tension, battling our fears and restrictive tendencies, striving to open ourselves to a responsive trust in God. We must try to imitate the Apostles, and be willing to follow the Lord's call always...

As Christians, we are asked to *recognise God's Call in our daily lives and activities*; and having recognised this Call, to *listen to our God*; and having listened, *not to run away like Jonah* but to *respond in faith and trust like the Apostles*; to strive for the *ideal that we are all called to live*.

This ideal, this following of God's Call may involve a real or metaphorical *leaving all behind us*.

Let us do all we can to proclaim Jesus Christ and the Good News for all people in our world.

**FIRST READING**

Jonah 3:1-5,10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour, and God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

**RESPONSE** Teach me your ways, O Lord.

**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

**ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia!  
**The kingdom of God is near: believe the Good News!**  
Alleluia!

**THE GOSPEL**

Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

**COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL**

Caesarius of Arles (c. 470-543)

In today's Gospel, beloved, we heard the exhortation to repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Now the kingdom of heaven is Christ, who, as we know, is the judge of good and evil and scrutinizes the motives for all our actions.

We should therefore do well to forestall God's judgement by freely acknowledging our sins and correcting our wrongheaded attitudes; for by failing to seek out the needful remedies and apply them, we place ourselves in danger

And our knowledge that we shall have to

account for the motives behind our shortcomings makes the need for such a change of heart even greater.

We must recognize the greatness of God's love for us; so generous is it that he is willing to be appeased by the amends we make for our evil deeds, provided only that we freely admit them before he has himself condemned them. And though his judgments are always just, he gives us a warning before he passes them, so as not to be compelled to apply the full rigor of his justice.

It is not for nothing that our God draws floods of tears from us; he does so to incite us to recover by penance and a change of heart what we had previously let slip through carelessness. God is well aware that human judgment is often at fault, that we are prone to fleshly sins and deceitful speech.

He therefore shows us the way of repentance, by which we can compensate for damage done and atone for our faults. And so to be sure of obtaining forgiveness, we ought to be always bemoaning our guilt.

Yet no matter how many wounds our human nature has sustained, we are never justified in giving ourselves over to despair, for the Lord is magnanimous enough to pour out his compassion abundantly on all who need it.

But perhaps one of you will say: "What have I to fear? I have never done anything wrong." On this point hear what the apostle John says: If we claim to be sinless, we deceive ourselves and are blind to the truth. So let no one lead you astray; the most pernicious kind of sin is the failure to realize one's own sinfulness.

Once let wrongdoers admit their guilt and repent of it, and this change of heart will bring about their reconciliation with the Lord; but no sinner is more in need of the tears of others than the one who thinks he has nothing to weep for. So I implore you, beloved, to follow the advice given you by holy Scripture and humble yourselves beneath the all-powerful hand of God.

As none of us can be wholly free from sin, so let none of us fail to make amends; here too we do ourselves great harm if we presume our own innocence. It may be that some are less guilty than others, but no one is entirely free from fault; there may be degrees of guilt, but no one can escape it altogether.

Let those then whose offenses are more grievous be more earnest in seeking pardon; and let those who have so far escaped contamination by the more heinous crimes pray that they may never be defiled by them, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen. *Sermon 144.*

**COMMUNION** Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

**NOTES FROM FR JOHN:** \*\*\*St Canice's at 10am (no Mass at Leura 5:15pm); Sacred Heart at 11am (Foundation Day). \*\*\*Blackheath PFC meeting Thursday 28/1; UBM PFC Sunday 31/1.

**BOOK A SUNDAY MASS:** If you wish to come to a Vigil or a Sunday Mass, click on the link below to book a time. Bookings close 3pm Fridays: <https://forms.gle/sZTJhQJymvAkPjHb6> The form will also be linked on our Facebook page.

**ALTAR SERVERS:** If you would like to serve contact Hugh Jones on 0402 904 681.

**PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL:** If you are a parishioner (or visitor) who would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill in list, please contact Jacquie on 0405 600 155 to register your details, many thanks!

**PLANNED GIVING:** Would the owners of 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

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL KATOOMBA:** We would like to thank all our parishioners for your response to our Christmas 2020 Appeal. Over \$1,200 was raised, as well as food donations that enabled us to make up hampers for some 28 needy families. Our continued prayers for you and your families.

**VATICAN NEWS:** Pope Francis invites us to pray for nurses. Pope Francis prayed especially for nurses during his daily Mass at Casa Santa Marta on Tuesday morning. More than just a profession, he said, it is a vocation. He acknowledged that nursing is a calling that, especially in this time of pandemic, is marked by heroism – even to the point of giving one's life.

In his homily, Pope Francis reflected on Jesus's words from the Gospel of St John: "Peace I leave you; my peace I give you" (Jn 14:27)... While the peace the world gives exacts a huge toll, the peace Jesus gives is entirely free, a gift of the Lord. He gave the example from the Gospels of the wealthy man whose barns were filled with grain, who thought he was doing well, and was even looking to build more. "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'" (Lk 12:20)". This worldly peace "doesn't open the doors to the future, to heaven", the Pope said, but is concerned only with oneself. The peace Jesus gives, on the other hand, is always focused on the Lord. It is a peace not just for today, but for the future: "It is to begin to live in heaven, with the fruitfulness of heaven". Worldly peace can lull us to sleep like a drug... but we are constantly in need of another "dose". This worldly peace is limited, because it is always temporary; but the peace that Jesus gives, "is definitive, fruitful, and infectious".

**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.

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

Mon: Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle.  
TUE: Australia Day.  
WED: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops.  
St, Angela Merici, Virgin.  
THU: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor.  
NEXT SUN: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

**MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** REGINA & EUGENIO NATONTON, RICARDO NATONTON, EUGENIO NATONTON Jnr, ENRIQUE NATONTON, TARCELA GOLEZ, SOTERO GOLEZ, GLORIA FRESCO, DELIA ALCONIS, 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 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](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

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 12 February 2021 Please send your application, resume and full referee details to: [John.McSweeney@parracatholic.org](mailto:John.McSweeney@parracatholic.org) with the subject title: **PARISH SECRETARY APPLICATION** For more information, please contact us at the above email.