



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



5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

7 FEBRUARY 2021

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

**FIRST READING:** Job 7:1-4,6-7

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief. Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Alleluia, alleluia! He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering. Alleluia!

**THE GOSPEL:** Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

**COMMENTARY:**

ST. Peter Chrysologus (c. 400-50),

Those who have listened attentively to today's Gospel will have learnt why the Lord of heaven, by whom all creation was renewed, entered the houses of his servants on earth. Nor should it surprise us that he so courteously adapted himself to every situation, since his motive in coming among us was to bring mercy and help to all.

You can easily see what drew Christ to Peter's house on this particular occasion; it was no desire to sit down and rest himself, but compassion for a woman stricken down by sickness. He was prompted not by the need to eat but by the opportunity to heal, his immediate preoccupation being the performance of a work which only his divine power could

carry out, rather than the enjoyment of human company at table.

In Peter's house that day it was not wine that flowed, but tears. Consequently Christ did not enter to obtain sustenance for himself, but to restore vitality to another. God wants human beings, not human goods. He desires to bestow what is heavenly, not to acquire anything earthly. Christ came to seek not our possessions but us.

As soon as Jesus crossed the threshold he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying ill in bed with a fever. On entering the house he immediately saw what he had come for. He was not interested in the comfort the house itself could offer, nor the crowds awaiting his arrival, nor the formal welcome prepared for him, or the assembled household. Still less did he look for any outward signs of preparation for his reception. All he had eyes for was the spectacle of a sick woman, lying there consumed with a raging fever.

At a glance he saw her desperate plight, and at once stretched out his hands to perform the divine work of healing; nor would he sit down to satisfy his human needs before he had made it possible for the stricken woman to rise up and serve her God. "So he took her by the hand, and the fever left her."

Here you see how fever loosens its grip on a person whose hand is held by Christ's; no sickness can stand its ground in the face of the very source of health. Where the Lord of life has entered, there is no room for death.

*Sermon 18.*

**REFLECTION ON THE READINGS by Fr John:**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, In reading the whole of Chapter 9 of 1 Corinthians, we see that St Paul offers his hearers (and us) some basic principles for Christian Living. 1. We have received various gifts 2. We must use them for others (ministry) 3. If we are to stay the distance in ministry, then we need # basic sustenance for our spiritual life # time out for prayer and reflection # support structures that aid us in our ministry Thus, discernment is a constant requirement of the spiritual life. Asking questions of ourselves helps us discern our gifts, our use of our talents, and those things which support us and keep us serving God's people. Paul's words continue to challenge us: "I make myself all things to all people in order to save some at any cost; and ... I do this, for the sake of the Gospel, to have a share in its blessing".

**Notes from Fr John:** 1. Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath, is having its major fundraising activity this weekend (6-7 Feb): the annual Garage Sale will be held in the Blackheath Parish Hall. Please come along and support this important endeavour. 2. Next Sunday, Sacred Heart Parish will be having its first Pastoral Council meeting for 2021. And I hope to discern a way forward this year for the establishment of a Pastoral Council for the UBM Parish, according to the statutes of the Diocese. The Deanery Pastoral Council will be meeting at Lawson on Sunday from 2:30pm. 3. Also on Second Friday evenings at Blackheath, there will be a time of Reflection followed by a shared meal... please book in for this FRIDAY FIESTA. Finally... we say 'Farewell' to Mary Gale who has more than ably fulfilled her responsibilities as Parish Secretary for Mary MacKillop Parish over the past few years. We wish Mary all the best with her university course in the future. And we thank Mary for her continuing ministry as SRE and Sacramental Coordinator for the parish.

**Lenten Programmes:** We need volunteers to lead our Lenten parish groups. If you would like to lead a Lenten group please contact the parish office [this week 4782 2804](tel:47822804) with a time, day and location for when you would like to run your group. CD sets are available for group leaders as a resource for guiding group reflection and discussion if needed. Each participant will receive a Lenten Program book. Suggested donation \$5 per book to help cover costs. It is recommended that groups begin to meet in the week prior to First Sunday of Lent 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021. The parish hall can be made available to Lenten groups depending on hall availability. Lenten group sign up sheets will appear beginning Saturday Vigil 13<sup>th</sup> February at the back of the church for people to join their preferred Lenten group. Lenten group days/times will also be promoted in the bulletin. A night program will be available if needed. If you prefer to have the Lenten program book for personal prayer and reflection during Lent you are welcome to request them from the parish office once Lenten groups have been finalised.

**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/sZTJhQYjmvAkPjhb6> 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

**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.



**MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS:** First wedding anniversary of Gracian Antony & Delani Lavaniya 17th February **DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** NORA HARGAR, ALLAN LEATHWOOD, PHILOMENA GABRIEL, MAUREEN KELLY, RONALD JOHN DYCO, JAMES BLACK, NOEL CORRIGAN and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Eleanor Hagor, 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 Heiningner, 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](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)  
**Parish School:** St Canice's Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.  
**Principal:** Ms. Miriam Meaney

**ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS:** Parishioners of Upper Blue Mountains - WE NEED YOU!! We are accepting enrolments for 2021 into our fabulous Catholic school: St Canice's. We love this school and know we are working together on providing children with the best education possible. We need you to spread the word and let any families you know, with primary school children, just how great this school is. We welcome enquiries and organised visits through the school.

**FIRST CONFESSION:** If you would like to enrol your child for 1st Confession you are invited to come to the first of 4 sessions held in St Canice's Hall Katoomba, 9am Sunday 28th February. Child must be in Year 4 or above. Please bring a copy of your child's Baptism certificate. At this session you will receive an enrolment form, information sheets and a preparation workbook. If you would like your child to receive 1st Confession you will need to attend this initial session with your child and the following three Sundays. Sessions will be held at the same time and venue. After each session those attending the preparation are warmly invited and highly encouraged to attend the 10am Sunday Mass in St Canice's Church. 1st Confession will be held in the church on the final session day Sunday 21st March after 10am Mass. Once completed the candidate will be able to participate in 1st Communion preparation sessions and day in term 2. Dates TBA.

**THANK-YOU:** to those who gave generously to cover the costs of new lighting for Leura church. The amount paid in full by your generous donations. The lights were fittingly installed last Tuesday on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord 2nd February.

### Position Vacant

Parish Secretary – 20 hours per week - Casual  
The parishes of Upper Blue Mountains (Katoomba) and Sacred Heart (Blackheath) invite applications for the position of joint Parish Secretary for the two parishes. The role will report to Fr John McSweeney, Parish Priest of both parishes.

The role of Parish Secretary will entail providing secretarial and administrative support to the Parish Priest. 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 newsletters, maintaining documentation for the Sacraments, providing assistance to enquiries regarding the Sacraments, carrying out the bookkeeping functions for the Upper Blue Mountains parish and maintaining and updating the Parish websites. 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 teams;
- 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 sound knowledge of Microsoft Office and MYOB
- 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 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.

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

MON: St. Jerome Emilian.  
St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin.  
WED: St. Scholastica, Virgin.  
THU: Our Lady of Lourdes.  
SAT: BVM  
SUN: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.