



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH  
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

7 MARCH 2021

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

**FIRST READING:** Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me. 'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or

Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loves the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

**THE GOSPEL:** John 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** The sparrow find a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

**COMMENTARY:**

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

"God's temple is holy," and you are that temple: all you who believe in Christ and whose belief makes you love him.

Real belief in Christ means love of Christ: it is not the belief of the demons who believed without loving and therefore despite their belief said: "What do you want with us, Son of God?"

No; let our belief be full of love for him we believe in, so that instead of saying: "What do you want with us," we may rather say: We

belong to you, you have redeemed us.

All who believe in this way are like the living stones which go to build God's temple, and like the rot-proof timber used in the framework of the ark which the flood waters could not submerge. It is in this temple, that is, in ourselves, that prayer is addressed to God and heard by him.

But to pray in God's temple we must pray in the peace of the Church, in the unity of the body of Christ, which is made up of many believers throughout the world. When we pray in this temple our prayers are heard, because whoever prays in the peace of the Church prays in spirit and in truth.

Our Lord's driving out of the temple people who were seeking their own ends, who came to the temple to buy and sell, is symbolic. For if that temple was a symbol it obviously follows that the body of Christ, the true temple of which the other was an image, has within it some who are buyers and sellers, or in other words, people who are seeking their own interests and not those of Jesus Christ.

But the temple was not destroyed by the people who wanted to turn the house of God into a den of thieves, and neither will those who live evil lives in the Catholic Church and do all they can to convert God's house into a robber's den succeed in destroying the temple. The time will come when they will be driven out by a whip made of their own sins.

The temple of God, this body of Christ, this assembly of believers, has but one voice, and sings the psalms as though it were but one person. If we wish, it is our voice; if we wish, we may listen to the singer with our ears and ourselves sing in our hearts. But if we choose not to do so it will mean that we are like buyers and sellers, preoccupied with our own interests.

-Expositions of the Psalms 130



**PARISH FUNDRAISING:** "Easter hamper raffle". Anyone who wants to donate any items towards the raffle please ring Barbra on 47842473 or Matalena 0459656657

**LENTEN GROUPS:**

**TUESDAYS** in St Canice's Hall Commencing 16/2  
Time: 9:30-11am  
Group facilitator: Pam Le Breton  
**WEDNESDAYS** commencing 17/2  
Afternoon group 2pm  
Evening group 7:30pm  
Location: 3 Easter Street Leura  
Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson

**HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS:**  
if you or your love ones are sick and would like a visit please contact the parish office or Barbara Davidson 0417 490 103

Each participant will receive a Lenten Programme book. Suggested donation \$5 per book to help cover costs. 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. If you prefer to have the Lenten programme book for personal prayer and reflection during Lent you are welcome to request them from the parish office once groups have been finalised.

**SUNDAY MASS:** Due to an easing of covid-19 restrictions you no longer need to book to come to Sunday Mass. You will still, however, need to sign on when you arrive and observe social distancing requirements. Attendance is on a first come first served basis. Masks are recommended but no longer required.

**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!

**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

**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.

**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: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** MARIE THUEZ, BISHOP BEDE HEATHER, MITCHELL GALE, NORA HAGAR, ALLAN LEATHWOOD, PHILOMENA GABRIEL, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Eleanor Hagar, Monique Haulber, 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 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  
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:** This week we are celebrating Open Day at our school with lots of events for parents to view such as our wonderful musical ensemble. Next week is Catholic Schools Week. On Thursday the children will be wearing purple and the Faith In Action Team children will be selling purple morning tea. It is to remember the Church colour of Purple during Lent and to raise money for Project Compassion.

**PROJECT COMPASSION 2021 - "Be More":** Support Caritas Australia this Lenten season by taking home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes. Through your generosity, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**PONTIFICAL HOLY LAND GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION:** 2 April: The annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be held on Friday 2 April around Australia. The collection will continue to support the works of the Holy Land Custody through the generosity of the Australian Church. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus in the face of great odds.

**BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL HELP:** Catholic-Care chaplains bring comfort, faith and hope to the sick and isolated. Your compassionate gifts and prayers will help CatholicCare chaplains provide spiritual, sacramental and emotional support in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at: [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal). Thank you for accompanying them on their journey.

**ST. JOSEPH:** March is the month the Church dedicates to St. Joseph. His feast day is Friday the 19th.



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

MON: St. John of God, Religious.  
TUE: St. Frances of Rome, Religious.

NEXT SUN: 4th Sunday of Lent.