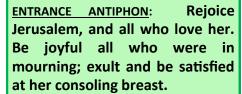


# ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

YEAR B

### 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)



FIRST READING: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23 All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.

to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Let mv tongue be silenced if I ever forger you.

#### SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your

own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise** 

to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

#### THE GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

> COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

#### COMMENTARY:

St. John Chrysostom (c. 347-407)

Although we praise our common Lord for all kinds of reasons, we praise and glorify him above dying like one accursed.

It is this death for people like ourselves that Paul constantly regards as the sign of Christ's love for us. He passes over everything else that Christ did for our advantage and consolation and dwells incessantly on the cross. "The proof of Gods love for us," he says, "is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.'

Then in the following sentence he gives us the highest ground for hope: "If when we were This was to show for all ages to come, alienated from God, we were reconciled to him through his goodness towards us in Christ by the death of his Son, how much more, now Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life!"

It is this above all that made Paul so proud, so

wrote to the Galatians: "God forbid that I should glory in anything but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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What wonder, indeed, if Paul rejoices and glories in the cross, when the Lord himself spoke of his passion as his glory. "Father," he prayed, "the hour has come: glorify your Son.

The disciple who wrote those words also told us that the Holy Spirit had not yet come to them because Jesus was not yet glorified, calling the cross glory.

And when he wanted to show God's love did he do so by referring to signs, wonders, or miracles of any sort?

By no means: he pointed to the cross, saying: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him might not perish but have eternal life.

And Paul writes: "Since he did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how can he fail to lavish every other gift upon us?"

And in his exhortation to humility he uses the same example, saying: "You should have the same dispositions as you find in Christ Jesus. Although his nature was divine, he did not cling to his equality with God, but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave. Bearing the human likeness. sharing the human lot, he humbled himself and was obedient even to the point of dying-dying on a cross!"

Returning to the subject of love, Paul again urges his hearers to "love one another, even as Christ loved us, and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Eph 5:2) And Christ himself showed how the cross was his chief preoccupation, and how much he longed to

In his ignorance, Peter, first of the Twelve, foundation of the Church, leader of the Apostles, protested: "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you"! Listen to what Christ called him: "Get behind me, Satan. You are an obstacle in my way," proving by the strength of his reprimand his great eagerness to suffer on the cross. Treatise on Providence 17.

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

#### **Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ**

The second reading from the letter to the Ephesians contains a line which encourages us to keep on keeping on, no matter how difficult elements of our lives can become.

Whenever we feel down in the dumps, whenever life seems depressing and everything we do seems a complete waste of time, whenever all for the cross. It fills us with awe to see him people hurt us intentionally or otherwise, whenever we doubt the direction of our lives. whenever troubles seem insurmountable -

then let us remember the words of today's liturgy:

'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the Good life, as from the beginning God had meant us to live it'

Notes from Fr John:

\*\* Next Sunday (21/3) we will be celebrating First Reconciliation for children in both parishes after 9.30am mass at Blackheath and after 10am mass at Katoomba. Please keep these children in your prayers.

FUNERAL FOR FR. MICHAEL "MICK" O'CALLAGHAN: A Vigil Mass for Fr. Mick will be held at Our Lady of the Way Parish, Emu Plains, on Tuesday 16 March at 7.30pm. The Mass of Christian Burial for Fr Mick will take place at the Parish of Baulkham Hills (St Michael's Church) on Wednesday 17 March at 11am. Bishop Vincent will be the principal celebrant.

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL THIS WEEKEND 13/14: will be a leaving collection after all the Sunday Masses. CatholicCare 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 Bish op's Good Samaritan Appeal

yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Thank you for accompanying them on their journey.

WEDNESDAY MASS TIME CHANGE: The feast of ST. PATRICK will be celebrated at St. Canice's Katoomba at 6pm in the evening instead of the regular morning Mass at Wentworth Falls, due to the funeral of Fr. Michael O'Callaghan.

f vou or vour love ones are sick and would like a visit please contact the parish office or Barbara Davidson 0417 490 103

ST: JOSEPH: March is the month the Church dedicates to St. Joseph. His feast day is this Friday the 19th. Mass 12 midday at Katoomba.

There will also be a special Mass in the little St Joseph's Church Megalong Valley at 4pm. Numbers limited. Please book via Blackheath Parish Office.

PARISH FUNDRAISING: "Easter hamper raffle". Tickets for the Easter Raffle will be available after weekend Masses. There are seven prizes to the value of approximately \$300.00. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Phone Barbra on 47842473 or Matalena 0459656657 if you would like more tickets.

#### **LENTEN GROUPS:**

Leura 5pm

\*10am on public holidays

**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

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.

	<b>ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS: Ad Jesum per Mariam.</b>			
	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.				
	AT: 8:30am before Mass and also after Benediction following Mass, Kat			
	ADORATION CHAPEL: 9am Monday - 9am Saturday, Katoomba.			
	SUNDAY MASS TIMES	WEEKDAY MASS TIMES	CONFESSION	
	You need to book Sunday	MON: 8:30am* Katoomba	TUE 4:45-5:0	
	Leura 5pm (Saturday)	TUE: 5:15pm Leura	SAT: 9:30am	
	Wentworth Falls 8am	WED: 8:30am W-Falls	SAT: 4:30-4:4	
	Katoomba 10am	THU: 8:30am Leura		

FRI: 12pm Katoomba

SAT: 9am Katoomba

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: NONI ROWLAND, BILL CLIFFORD, FR MICK O' CALLAGHAN, STEPHANNIE JEAN MURPHY (2nd April) MARIE THUEZ, BISHOP BEDE HEATHER, MITCHELL GALE, 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, 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 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 Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic Parish School: St Canice's Catholic Primary School, Katoomba. Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney

**HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS** 



Katoomba.

strictions 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.

SUNDAT MASS: Due to an easing of covid-19 re

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

ST CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS: We are celebrating 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. We thank the families in our community for supporting this important fundraiser.

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 <u>www.caritas.org.au/</u> projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

PONTIFICAL HOLY LAND FRIDAY COLLECCTION: 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.

CONFESSION TIMES	SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis.
TUE 4:45-5:00pm Leura	WED: St. Patrick, Bishop, Missionary. (solemnity)
SAT: 9:30am Katoomba	THU: St. Cyril of Jerusalem. Bishop, Doctor.
SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura	FRI: St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Confessions are always available on request.	(solemnity) NEXT SUN: 5th Sunday of Lent. NEXT THU: The Annunciation of the Lord. (solemnity)



# **PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

O happy man, blessed Joseph, to whom it was given not only to see and hear God, whom many kings longed to see and did not see, to hear and did not hear, but also to carry, kiss, clothe and guard him!

Pray for us, O blessed Joseph, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

# Let us pray.

O Lord, we implore your clemency, that, supported by the protection of the Spouse of your most holy Mother, you may make our hearts despise all things earthly and love you, the true God, with perfect charity. You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH | 19th MARCH

ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

Palm Sunday – 28th March 2021: 5pm Vigil (27th) St. Bonaventure's Leura. 8am St. Francis Xavier's Wentworth Falls. 10am St. Canice's Katoomba (High, Sung Mass). 5pm St. Bonaventure's Leura.

Holy Thursday – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021: 7pm St. Canice's Katoomba, followed by procession to the altar of repose and adoration until midnight.

Good Friday – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021: Stations of the Cross 9:30am, St. Francis Xavier's Wentworth Falls. Stations of the Cross 10am, St. Bonaventure's Leura. Way of the Cross, 10:30am St. Canice's Katoomba. Confession available after the Way of the Cross at 11am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm St. Canice's Katoomba.

Holy Saturday – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021: Easter Vigil (High, Sung Mass), 7:30pm St Canice's Katoomba.

Easter Sunday – 4th April 2021: 8am St. Francis Xavier's Wentworth Falls. 9am St. Bonaventure's Leura (High, Sung Mass). No evening Mass at Leura. 10:30am St. Canice's Katoomba (High, Sung Mass).

# Holy Week and Triduum Times 2021

