

ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY) YEAR B 11 APRIL 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Receive the joy of your glory, giving thanks to God, who has called you into the heavenly kingdom. Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

FIRST READING: Acts 4:32-35.

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love is everlasting.

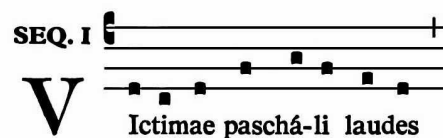
SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets.

We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith.

Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

THE SEQUENCE: ON THE REVERSE SIDE



THE GOSPEL: John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.

For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven;

for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS: by Father John.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The words of Jesus spoken to Thomas in today's Gospel Reading are also spoken to us on this Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday or Divine Mercy Sunday).

Jesus firstly compliments Thomas for his belief in the Risen Lord now that his doubts have been allayed. Yet, the greater compliment is offered to this who have not seen Jesus in his Resurrected Body and yet believe that He is alive.

"You believe, Thomas, because you can see me: Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe".

This final and seventh Beatitude in John's Gospel leads us to reflect on our own belief in the Resurrection of Jesus. And, furthermore, our belief in the Risen Lord will express itself through our love for our fellow human beings. Faith must lead to action if it is to be valid belief. Let's ask the Lord to strengthen our Easter Faith and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, let us recommit to living out that Faith in ways that may lead others to know and love the Lord.

PLEASE NOTE

* I will be having a few much-needed Days Off this week... please note that there will be no mass on Thursday (15/4) at Leura; there will be the usual 9am Mass at Blackheath on that day.

* Also, there will be no Saturday morning mass at Blackheath on 17/4; Saturday morning at Katoomba at 9am will be as normal.

* Parish office will be closed Tuesday 13/4 & Wednesday 14/4.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of our two Parish Teams to thank all those who helped in the preparation, celebration and clean-up of our Holy Week and Easter Celebrations in both parishes of Sacred Heart, Blackheath and St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Upper Blue Mountains.

I am in awe of the generosity and work ethic of so many of you. You helped make these celebrations of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection a time of genuine prayer and renewal for us all.

God bless you all.
Fr John

ST CANICE'S CHURCH PARKING WEEKENDS: Beginning Easter Sunday, the school playground will be open for parking Saturday morning Masses and 10am Sunday Masses at Katoomba. Please be sure to move your car from the playground after Mass, as gates will be shut 15 minutes after Mass finishes.

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.

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

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES 2021: Please return ASAP. They can be handed in after Mass to the sacristans or at the parish office Tuesday through Friday 10am-3pm.

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!

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

Appeal for Timor Leste Flood Victims

Under water, Dili devastated

Salesian Missions Australia has launched an appeal for victims of this week's devastating floods in Timor Leste, Australia's closest neighbour and the poorest country in South East Asia.

Intense rain and storms sent surging torrents of rain through towns and villages turning the streets of Dili into canals. Roads and bridges have been destroyed and deaths now exceed 100. Support is urgently needed as the schools are converted to evacuation centres.

Dili's population of more than 220,000 is currently in lockdown to tackle the nations rising COVID transmission. Catering for the victims in the aftermath of the floods presents new challenges in addition to the existing health crisis.

Don Bosco Training Centre Comoro is a major relief centre providing shelter and food for those who have lost their homes and possessions. The gymnasium and classrooms are being used for emergency accommodation by more than 3000 displaced persons.

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

Leura 5pm (Saturday)

Wentworth Falls 8am

Katoomba 10am (1st Sunday: High Mass. 4th: w/ choir)

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: JOHN HOARE, NONI ROWLAND, MORAN WILLIAM HALLIDAY, BILL CLIFFORD, FR MICK O'CALLAGHAN, STEPHANNIE JEAN MURPHY (2nd April), 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 Morphet, 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

Tina Newton (Director of Salesian Missions) said there is an urgent need for food, clean water and medicine. Donations can be sent to: Salesian Missions Australia P O Box 264 ASCOT VALE Vic 3032

Made via: Website : www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au Givenow: <https://www.givenow.com.au/salesianmissionstimorleste> Phone : 03 9377 6060 Email : salmiss@salesians.org.au

Donations are tax deductible.

THE SEQUENCE: *Victimae Paschali Laudes*

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!

Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis. TUE: Saint Martin I, Pope, Martyr.

NEXT SUN: 3rd Sunday of Easter.

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Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney