



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



IMPORTANT POINTS for the weeks ahead...

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B 2 MAY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be

afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS:
BY Father John.

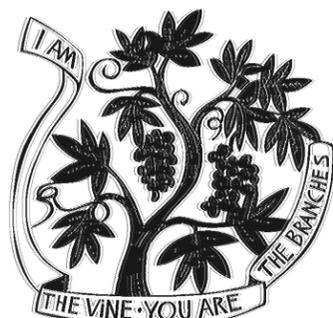
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ it is only through our living in Christ and His living in us by means of the Holy Spirit that we can find fulfilment as human beings; and this is the only way that we can bear fruit for the sake of others.

All three texts encourage us today to ask two questions of ourselves:

1. How are we living in Christ? Totally, half-heartedly? Perhaps we need to be pruned in order to grow more and produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives...

2. How are we bearing fruit? So that our neighbour can benefit... or do we sometimes find ourselves so caught up in our own needs that we forget that one of our duties as a Christian is to use our gifts for others? In the week ahead, let us meditate on our Scripture Texts for the Fifth Sunday of Easter (B), and look at those areas of our lives that may need pruning so that we can be better followers of the Lord; let's also ask for the grace of God to bear fruit as we strive to be missionaries of Christ's love to the world.

As St John reminds us: "...our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active..."



** First Communion Sessions commence this weekend from 9am on 2/5. We will celebrate the First Communion of our younger parishioners during the 10am solemn sung mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi (6th June). Please keep these children in your prayers over the coming weeks
** There will be a special Mothers Day School Mass this Wednesday (5th May) at 9am in St Canice's Church. Numbers are limited due to COVID restrictions; but let us all pray for our Mothers (alive or with the Lord) in these days leading up to next Sunday's celebrations.
** The Parish will recommence an Anointing Mass at Bodington on the Third Wednesday of the Month at 10:30am, commencing on 19th May.

ANNOUNCEMENT

News of great joy!
The Church of St Canice's, Katoomba, has been offered 2 of 5 bells for a Ring of Bells for the Belltower.
We are also trying to secure funds from public and private sources to supplement any outstanding costs associated with this endeavour.
Hugh Jones is liaising with the Bellringers Association of Australia and New Zealand, and will be establishing a Go Fund Me page for donations.
If you would like to purchase one of the remaining 3 bells, and/or donate towards the project, please contact myself or Hugh.
Those who purchase a bell can have the privilege of naming it, and having an inscription engraved on 'their' bell.
Once concluded, there will be the opportunity for people to be trained as bellringers. This is an exciting development that will add to the beauty of St Canice's and the Catholic communities of the Upper Mountains
I hope you all have a blessed week.
Fr John

Message from Most Reverend Vincent Long van Nguyen .

Pastoral letter to the pastors, parents and the faithful of the Diocese of Parramatta on the proposed Parental Rights Bill.
<https://catholicoutlook.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Pastoral-letter-27.04.2021.pdf>

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.

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.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis.
MON: Sts. Phillip and James, Apostles.

NEXT SUN: 6th Sunday of Easter.

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: MICHAEL MAGANN, JOHN HOARE, NONI ROWLAND, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Eleanor Hager, 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 Russele, 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: 0490 814 284 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
Phone: (02) 4780 6800 **Email:** stcanices@parracatholic.edu.au

St Canice's School News:

St Canice's would like to welcome the community to two upcoming events. We will be having a Mother's Day Mass on Wednesday 5th May at 9am to celebrate and acknowledge the work of so many female carers. A few weeks later we will be hosting an Australia's Biggest Morning Tea on Wednesday 26th May to help the Cancer Council raise vital funds for people impacted by cancer. All are invited

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

FEAST OF PENTECOST: Our parish will mark this year's Pentecost Sunday (May 23rd) with a celebration of a diversity and culture of our parishioners.

After 10am mass at St Canice's Katoomba we will be celebrating the day with a wide variety of ethnic flavours from all the various backgrounds of our parishioners with a selection of foods to enjoy in the parish hall.

We will also be offering Prayers of the Faithful in the native languages of our parishioners to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and Christ's message for all peoples.

If you would like to read a prayer of intercession in your native language please contact Matalena Ale on 0459 656 657. If you would like to contribute a dish of food to the event after mass please contact Barbara Davidson on 0417 490 103.

Help us mark this important feast day with a celebration of our parishes' rich diversity and please join us for the extravaganza of foods after 10am mass.