



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



ASCENSION OF THE LORD

YEAR B

16 MAY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-13

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it. It was said that he would: When he ascended to the height, he captured prisoners, he gave gifts to men.

When it says, 'he ascended', what can it mean if not that he descended right down to the lower regions of the earth? The one who rose higher than all the heavens to fill all things is none other than the one who descended. And to some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL: Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them:

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into

heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS:

BY Father John.

As Mark's Gospel reminds us: the disciples, after witnessing the Ascension of the Lord to sit "at the right hand of God", are told - "Proclaim the Good News to all creation... (and) they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it".

Thus, we are reminded that Jesus, sitting at God's right hand, protects his own by the sending of the Spirit to strengthen and help us as we imitate our Master and tell the world of the Good News of the Kingdom. If today's celebration of the Ascension says anything to us, it is reminding us that the Spirit of the Risen and Ascended Lord is within us, enabling us to proclaim the Good News to all creation.

And, furthermore, for us to be aware of the Spirit's presence and be true Evangelists at all times, we need to be still and open, silent, reflective and LISTEN.

In the coming week let's try to get off the merry-go-round of contemporary 'busy-ness' and reflect and listen to the silent words of the Lord, as we await with expectant joy the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT POINTS for the weeks ahead...

** The Parish will recommence an Anointing Mass at Bodington on the Third Wednesday of the Month at 10:30am, commencing on 19th May.

ST CANICE'S NEWS

St Canice's students in Years 3 and 5 underwent their NAPLAN testing. Parents have generously hosted breakfast for the students before the tests which is a great way to help them feel relaxed and ready to start the day fueled with a healthy breakfast. We continue to take enrolments and encourage all parishioners to recommend their lovely mountains school to any relevant families. Appointments can be made through the school office on 4780 6800

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.

Get vaccinated for the common good:

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>

SUNDAY MASS: Please note that from today their will be no singing in mass and masks are mandatory until Monday. You will 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

BISHOP VINCENT has encouraged all parishioners to read the submission from the Diocese of Parramatta in relation to the Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020 currently in front of the NSW Parliament. Copies of this, and the Bishop's Pastoral Letter, are available in the church or online at <https://catholicoutlook.org/diocese-of-parramatta-submission-into-the-education-legislation-amendment-parental-rights-bill-2020/>

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

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	WEEKDAY MASS TIMES	CONFESSION TIMES
Leura 5pm (Saturday) Wentworth Falls 8am Katoomba 10am (1st Sunday: High Mass. 4th: w/ choir) Leura 5pm *10am on public holidays	MON: 8:30am* Katoomba TUE: 5:15pm Leura WED: 8:30am W-Falls THU: 8:30am Leura FRI: 12pm Katoomba SAT: 9am Katoomba	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.
TUE: St. John 1, Pope, Martyr.
THU: St. Bernadine of Sienna, Priest.
FRI: St. Christopher Magallanes and his Companions, Martyrs.
SAT: St. Rita of Cascia.
NEXT SUN: Pentecost.



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:** Andrzej Krawczyk, Eleanor Hagar, 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 Heining, Michelle Scully, Julie Wals, 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.bluemountaincatholic.org.au
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluemountaincatholic
Parish School: St Canice's Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney
Phone: (02) 4780 6800 **Email:** stcanices@parracatholic.edu.au

WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE: Safeguarding Face to Face Training for parish volunteers at 7.30 – 9.00 pm. All volunteers and ministers of the Blue Mountain Deanery are welcome to attend. Please-Julian Knouf (secretary@stfinbars.org.au) for registration

GREGORIAN CHANT: Masterclass in singing Chant to be given in the parish hall. Hosted by James Doig. Date and time to be confirmed. For more information or to confirm your attendance please contact Kevin Varney on 0426 678 291.

GLENBROOK PARISH WOMEN'S RETREAT: 12 June. St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a women's retreat filled with peace, prayerfulness, adoration, Mass, Reconciliation, guest speakers and praise and worship. It will be held at the parish on 12 June from 8.30am to 8.30pm. Registration is \$60, and with places limited, register now at <https://forms.gle/KkBaTAvm1gkYYCzm8>. For enquiries, email beloved2021info@gmail.com

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.

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.