



PARISH CONTACTS

Fr. John McSweeney (Parish Priest)
Fr. Abraham Kunnatholy Varu CMI (Assistant Priest)
Parish Office: 158 Katoomba Street, Katoomba 2780.
Postal Address: PO Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780.
Phone: (02) 4782 2804.
Hours: 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.
After Hours Emergency Number: 0490814284 . Calls only; no texts please.
For all Office matters, call 02 4782 2804.

Parish email address: bluemountains@parracatholic.org
Parish website: bluemountainscatholic.org.au
Parish Facebook: facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic

Weddings: Please call the Office for details.
Baptisms: upon request.

PARISH SCHOOL: St Canice's Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney.
Phone: (02) 4780 6800.
Email: stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au

USUAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES
Leura 5pm (Saturday)
Wentworth Falls 8am
Katoomba 10am (1st Sunday: High Mass, 4th Sunday: with Choir.)
Leura 5pm

USUAL WEEKDAY MASS TIMES
MON: 8:30am Katoomba (10am on public holidays)
TUE: 5:15pm Leura
WED: 8:30am W-Falls
THU: 8:30am Leura
FRI: 12pm Katoomba
SAT: 9am Katoomba

USUAL CONFESSION TIMES
TUE 4:45-5:00pm Leura
WED 6:15 Blackheath
SAT: 9:30am Katoomba
SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura

NOTE: Confessions are always available upon request.

KATOOMBA ADORATION CHAPEL
9am Monday - 9am Saturday. The chapel is at the back of St. Canice's church. Entry is from the outside.
"One cannot know the Lord without the habit of adoring in silence (Pope Francis)."

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR B | 3 October 2021.

FR. JOHN'S REFLECTION.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ
At first glance, the teaching of Jesus on marriage and divorce in today's Gospel text from Mark seems quite confronting.

"What God has united, man must not divide".
Catholic Marriage Law refuses to recognise divorce for those whom God has united.

But how do we determine who is or is not married "in God's eyes"?
Surely it is not simply a matter of form, of rules, of law, of process?
This text and its rather strict interpretation has been the cause of much anxiety and stress. It has hurt innumerable people over the centuries.

But, for me, there is a light shining in the gloom of such a traditional understanding....
I do believe that the key to this text is the next pericope in the Gospel of Mark.

Having been rather strict in his re-interpretation of Genesis, Jesus now forbids his Apostles from turning away the little ones.

Jesus can be seen as saying that those who are unable to live up to the ideal of marriage as expressed in the previous section should never be turned away by the community of believers.

"Let the little ones come to me!"
The unconditional love-ethic of Jesus of Nazareth must be at the heart of all that we do and say - both as individuals and as ecclesia (as Church).

Otherwise, we are at risk of descending to the legalistic approach to faith that was constantly criticised by the Lord!

My brothers and sisters, let us never close our minds to the life-giving Spirit of God who is alive and active in our community, our church.... that Spirit, that Paraclete, who will lead us into the complete Truth.

What was ...may no longer be!
God is a God of surprises.

And the omnipotence of the Divine can never be controlled by the finite minds of mere mortals!

Bishop Vincent has sent a pastoral letter (attached to the bulletin) which says that, in this Diocese, we will not be opening our churches until 80% are vaccinated.

In this way we will not be discriminating between parishioners.
I agree with this very Christian decision of our Bishop.
I have also attached a Link from Catholic Outlook which encourages us ALL to be vaccinated for the wellbeing of our neighbour.

God Bless you all. Fr John



Please mute your mobile at Mass. God does not call people on their phone. Thank-you for your curtesy.



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

Sunday 1 August
10am Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY 2 August
Mass 8:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 3 August
Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura
Mass 5:30pm Leura
6:30 pm Mass Blackheath

WEDNESDAY 4 August
Mass 8:30am W-Falls
6:30 pm Mass Blackheath

THURSDAY 5 August
Mass 8:30am Leura
9.00 am Mass Blackheath

FRIDAY 6 August
10.am Blackheath
Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 7 August
Mass 9am Katoomba
Mass 9am Blackheath
Confession 9:30am Katoomba
Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

SAVE THE DATE(s) (POSTPONED)
His Lordship the Most Reverend Bishop Vincent Long OFM will be celebrating a Pontifical High Mass at Katoomba's St Canice's church at 5:30pm Vigil on Saturday 24th July 2021. This mass is the formal installation of Fr John as parish priest and will feature the full Schola Cantorum and incense, as this is a high mass. This mass replaces the scheduled 5pm Vigil mass at ST Bonaventure's Leura. So there will be no 5pm Vigil at Leura on Saturday 24th July. All parishioners are most welcome.

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: MARY ELLEN MAYER, BOSA LIVAIC, RITA KIRKLAND, PEGGY SOMMERVILLE, DIANNE WOOD, OWEN WEAVER , MARY BRELL, NEIL ROWLAND, MOYA THERESE ZARB, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY.

SICK LIST: Monique Halbur, Andrzej Krawczyk, 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.

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Sunday Mass live streamed via YouTube. The Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHTj55rsvGDQqCDN7mldNQ>

PLEASE NOTE: During these days of lockdown our parish finances are suffering. If you could consider switching from Envelopes to Direct/credit card Debit, we would be grateful. There is also the opportunity to use B.point for our parish, and there you can distinguish between 1st collection (for our priests) and 2nd collection (for our parish). Thank you so much for your continuing support in these difficult times.

Sunday Mass live streamed via YouTube not Facebook. Link to the YouTube account for the parish: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHTj55rsvGDQqCDN7mldNQ> otherwise in the search box type: st canice's katoomba - live

B.POINT
We have introduced a new and easy way of contribution for 2nd collection and 1st collection.
Please follow this link: if choosing 2nd collection please note name and envelop No.
<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains>



ATM 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

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 (Not Permitted during lockdown)

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 name. We currently have a 2-3pm THURSDAY slot that has become vacant and needs filling each week. We have a living near each of our churches... "...the Blessed Sacrament which is, in the tabernacle, living near each of our churches..." (Pope St. Paul VI).
"If Jesus is to become the centre of our life, we need to spend time in his presence, before the tabernacle (Pope Francis)."





OCTOBER IS WORLD MISSION MONTH: In three weeks, Catholic Mission will share the essential mission work of Sister Chalaad and the Good Shepherd Sisters in Bangkok, Thailand, as they reach out to vulnerable mothers and their babies during their time of need. You will have the opportunity to respond to this great work and help Sister Chalaad reach out to more mothers and their babies. Please come with an open and generous heart.
Freecall: 1800257296 or visit catholicmission.org.au/thailand



OFFICE FOR SAFEGUARDING OFFERING ONLINE TRAINING TO KEEP OUR PARISHES SAFE: The Office for Safeguarding is providing an opportunity for all of us to develop our awareness and skills in ensuring our parishes are safe and welcoming places for all. The team are currently offering accompanied online training courses throughout September and October. If you are interested or have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email our Safeguarding office on safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org or maria.kervin@parracatholic.org.



YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE – WE ARE WITH YOU: “I am with you always” Matthew 28:20. The Diocese has launched a new website in response to the mental health crisis impacting our young people. The website parracatholic.org/withyou contains links and information about services that can help young people whose wellbeing is suffering. Please share widely with young people and their families.



PLENARY COUNCIL STARTS: As the First Assembly of the Plenary Council gets underway on 3 October, you can tune in from home as the almost 300 Members of the Plenary Council discern the future of the Church in Australia. The Plenary Council is providing livestreamed Daily Masses from 9.30am AEDT and access to the Plenary session livestreams from 11am AEDT. The official opening Mass for the Plenary Council will be celebrated by Archbishop Tim Costelloe SDB from St Mary’s Cathedral, Perth at 2pm AEDT. Watch the opening Mass, daily Masses and plenary sessions via plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1 The Code of Canon Law, 1983, has the following to say about plenary councils.

Canon 445 A particular council is to ensure that the pastoral needs of the people of God in its territory are provided for. While it must always respect the universal law of the Church, it has power of governance, especially legislative power. It can, therefore, determine whatever seems opportune for an increase of faith, for the ordering of common pastoral action, for the direction of morality and for the preservation, introduction and defense of a common ecclesiastical discipline.

Canon 446 When a particular council has concluded, the president is to ensure that all the acts of the council are sent to the Apostolic See. The decrees drawn up by the council are not to be promulgated until they have been reviewed by the Apostolic See. The council has the responsibility of defining the manner in which the decrees will be promulgated and the time when the promulgated decrees will begin to oblige.



ST. CANICE’S SCHOOL NEWS:

The staff and students are very excited to be starting 2 weeks of school holidays, ready to come back to online learning in Term 4.

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 or email the school at stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au



DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA LAUNCHES PLENARY COUNCIL RESOURCE WEBSITE:

A new website provides resources for parishioners in the Diocese of Parramatta to stay involved in the Plenary Council, which is exploring what the future of our Church should look like. The first assembly starts in October, so visit parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/ to find a range of information, a Diocesan prayer and more.

Link from Catholic Outlook which encourages us ALL to be vaccinated .
<https://catholicoutlook.org/catholics-encouraged-to-get-vaccinated-for-the-common-good/>

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

ENTRANCE Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

FIRST READING Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.’ So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

‘This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man.’ This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

RESPONSE May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God’s grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, ‘Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?’ They were testing him. He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’ ‘Moses allowed us’ they said ‘to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.’ Then Jesus said to them, ‘It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.’ Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, ‘The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.’

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.



COMMUNION The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

OUR THREE PARISH CHURCHES
ST CANICE'S KATOOMBA:
Katoomba St.
ST. BONAVENTURE'S LEURA:
Railway Pde & Hartley Esp.
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S
WENTWORTH FALLS: Day St.

SAINTS THIS WEEK
MON: St. Vincent de Paul, Priest.
TUE: St. Wenceslaus, Martyr.
Sts. Lawrence Ruiz and his Companions, Martyrs.
WED: Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels.
THU: St. Jerome, Priest, Doctor.
FRI: St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor.
SAT: Holy Guardian Angels.
NEXT SUN: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS
SAT and SUN: 8:10pm, Katoomba.
MON: after 8:30am Mass, Katoomba.
TUE: 4:30pm Divine Mercy, Rosary, Exposition, Leura.
WED: after 8:30am Mass, Katoomba.
THU: after 8:30am Mass, Katoomba.
FRI: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.
FRI: 5pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.
SAT: 8:30am before Mass and after Benediction, Katoomba.

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