



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

## 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](mailto:bluemountains@parracatholic.org)

Parish website:

[bluemountainscatholic.org.au](http://bluemountainscatholic.org.au)

Parish Facebook: [facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

[bluemountainscatholic](https://www.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](mailto:stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## USUAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Leura 5pm (Saturday)

Wentworth Falls 8am

Katoomba 10am (1st Sunday: High Mass)

Leura 5pm

## USUAL WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

MON: 10am Katoomba

TUE: 5:15pm Leura

WED: 8:30am W-Falls

THU: 8:30am Leura

FRI: 12pm Katoomba (with Benediction)

SAT: 9am Katoomba (Benediction 1st Sat)

## USUAL CONFESSION TIMES

TUE 4:45-5:05pm Leura

FRI: After Mass Katoomba

SAT: 9:30-9:50 Katoomba

SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura

NOTE: Confessions are always available  
upon request.

## KATOOMBA ADORATION CHAPEL

10:30am Monday - 8pm Friday. 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)."

## 4th Sunday of Advent

YEAR C | 19 December 2021.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our First Reading for this Fourth Sunday of Advent speaks of the promise of a Saviour to come who will rule over all. There is an expectation that this Saviour will attain victory over Israel's enemies.

This text is fulfilled in the Gospel, where Jesus, conceived in Mary's womb, makes a journey with his Mother; and his Mother is proclaimed 'blessed' for she carries the Saviour. The Promise of God is being fulfilled and there is an abundance joy at this event.

However, sometimes we overlook the fact that the fulfilment of the Promise, joyful as it is, also demands obedience and sacrifice:

\* Mary obeyed and was proclaimed blessed; Jesus obeyed the Father's Will and is Saviour for all.

\* Such obedience meant sacrifice: for Mary it was the 'shame' of being thought an unwed mother; for Jesus it was his death of the Cross, which brought about salvation for all.

And so we are invited by the Word of God for today to reflect on the need for obedience and sacrifice in our lives.

Like Mary, like Jesus, we need to examine those areas of our lives that may demand renewal and change, so that we will be more obedient to the Father's Will for us.

At times we will need to overcome fear / shame / ridicule / discomfort in order to achieve the designs of our loving God.

Sacrifice will be demanded of us at various moments in our Christian journey of obedience; we need to imitate the Lord and his Blessed Mother and be willing to walk in faithfulness all the days of our life.

And the result for us will be Blessing and unending Joy in the Lord, both now and forever in the life to come!

1. Please check the Bulletin and Church noticeboards for the mass times for next weekend: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day (Feast of the Holy Family).
2. My thanks to all for all the work in preparing for the celebrations surrounding our Christmas Feasts.
3. Our thanks to David and Luke for their time among us: may the Lord continue to bless you both as you follow your Vocations.
4. Let us continue to pray for an end to this Pandemic which has ruled our lives for two years; may 2022 be a time of grace for all our world, a time of new beginnings!

God bless you all

Fr John



Please mute your mobile at Mass.  
Thank-you for your courtesy.



## WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

**Sunday 19 December**  
4th Sunday of Advent

**MONDAY 20 December**  
Mass 10am Katoomba

**TUESDAY 21 December**  
Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura  
Mass 5:15pm Leura

**WEDNESDAY 22 December**  
Mass 8:30am W-Falls  
6:30 pm Mass Blackheath

**THURSDAY 23 December**  
Mass 8:30am Leura

**FRIDAY 24 December**  
Mass 12pm Katoomba  
Adoration & Benediction after mass until-  
1pm (Confessions during this)  
cf. Christmas Mass times.

**SATURDAY 25 December**  
The Feast of the Nativity  
cf. Christmas Mass times.

**COMING TO MASS:** All parishioners are welcome back to Mass. Please arrive early, sign in using the QR code, wear your face mask (covering the mouth and nose) and observe social distancing. Thank-you

### 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>

### PARISH B-POINT QR



SCAN ME



**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

**PLEASE NOTE:** During the recent days of lockdown our parish finances suffered. 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.

**Giver Envelope #39:** would the owner of this envelope number please contact the parish office to register their details. Parish office 4782 2804 Many thanks.



**SUNDAY MASS:** Live streaming of the Sunday 10am masses at St Canice's will continue. The live feed will be via our parish YouTube page as per usual. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtj55rsvGDQqCDN7mldNQ>.



**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



**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. Only rostered may attend at this time.

**CHRISTMAS SEASON NOTE:** The chapel will be open and running as normal through Christmas and the new year. Please find a replacement adorer if you will be away for any of your rostered hours.



**ANNOINTING MASS AT BODINGTON:** The third Wednesday of the month at 10:30am. Recommencing in December. ( We Hope! )

**MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** MARGARET GRANT, MARK GLASHEEN, EILEEN NOLAN, TASHINA SALMON-GRIFFITH, MARY ANDREWS, DAWN FITZPATRICK, MARIA CHRISTENSEN, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY.

**SICK LIST:** Steve Harrison, Tony Hogan, 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 Nantonton, 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.

### Christmas Mass Times

24 Dec 2021 — Christmas Eve  
12.00 noon — Katoomba  
6.00 pm — Katoomba  
6.00 pm — Blackheath  
12.00 Midnight — Katoomba

25 Dec 2021 — Christmas Day  
8.00 am — Wentworth Falls  
8.00 am — Mt Victoria  
9.30 am — Leura  
9.30 am — Blackheath

26 Dec 2021 — Boxing Day  
8.00 am — Wentworth Falls  
9.30 am — Blackheath  
10.00 am — Katoomba  
5.00 pm — Leura

01 Jan 2022 — Mary Mother of God  
10.00 am — Katoomba  
5.00 pm — Leura  
6.00 pm — Mt Victoria

02 Jan 2022 — Epiphany Sun  
8.00 am — Wentworth Falls  
9.30 am — Blackheath  
10.00 am — Katoomba  
5.00pm — Leura

### Confession Times:

18 Dec — Kat/Bl'heath after 9am Mass  
Leura 4.00-4.45pm  
21 Dec — Leura 4.30-5pm  
22 Dec — Blackheath 6.00-6.30pm  
24 Dec — Katoomba after 12.00 Midday Mass

**OFFICE CLOSED OVER CHRISTMAS:** Until the 4th of January the office will be closed. For all office matters please leave a message on the phone voicemail.



**PARISH FUNDRAISING:** "Christmas Hamper Raffle". Anyone who wants to donate any items towards the raffle donation boxes will be available in the three churches marked Christmas Hamper. Alternatively please ring Barbra on 4784 2473 for further enquiries or to volunteer to help with selling raffle tickets, packing hampers or hamper transport between churches.



**THANK YOU:** Monique Halbur would like to thank all those parishioners who have been praying novenas and rosaries for her recovery. After her recent transplant she is now in full remission thanks be to God!



**BLUE MOUNTAINS EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE + FIESTA 2022:** Celebrate the joy of the Christmas Season with the two-day Blue Mountains Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta! Choose from a classic pilgrimage experience or family adventure pilgrimage on Sunday, Jan 2 then delight in the afternoon and evening festivities including the Feast of the Epiphany Mass, a festive meal, jumping castle, games and movie night for the kids as well as praise, worship and Adoration for youth and adults. Stay overnight at St Finbars, Glenbrook in the hall or camp on site, then continue the celebrations on Monday, Jan 3 with a morning pilgrimage and Mass in the bush. For more information and to register visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org) To follow the journey see <https://www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage/>



**GARDEN GROUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you would like to part of a garden group for St. Canice's church, please contact the parish office. We hope to make our front grass area a welcoming space.



**BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL WEEKEND THANK YOU:** Thank You for Supporting CatholicCare's Houses to Homes Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation and CatholicCare thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support over the last few weeks. Our Bishop's Christmas Appeal raised over \$800.00 which will help CatholicCare's Houses to Homes to provide a loving sanctuary for young mothers in crisis. Thank you for your compassion and generosity. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) We ask you to continue to pray for the Diocesan ministries supported by the Parramatta Catholic Foundation, including CatholicCare's Houses to Homes and the young women and children who find a safe haven in which to build better lives.



## ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS:

We are continuing with our Kinder Orientation and if anyone would like more information they can view this website <https://www.stcaniceskatoomba.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/Tours-and-Events> or call us: 47806800

### MIDNIGHT MASS:

A reminder that Midnight Mass will be held at St. Canice's Katoomba this Christmas. The Mass features a full choir and trumpeter to celebrate the birth of Christ.

It is a beautiful occasion that happens only once a year so please join us at Midnight (Friday night) for this beautiful sung mass and see the infant Jesus be placed in the crib. Families are most welcome.

### 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

TUE: St. Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor.

THU: St. John of Kety, Priest.

SAT: Christmas Day.

NEXT SUN: The Holy Family.

### ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS

SAT and SUN: 4:10pm, Leura.

MON: after 10:00am Mass, Katoomba.

TUE: 4:30pm D-Mercy, Rosary, 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 after, Katoomba.



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...it's time  
we had  
a talk

Thomas Brownjohn  
Proprietor

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## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

**ENTRANCE** Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a saviour.

### FIRST READING Micha 5:1-4

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure,  
for from then on he will extend his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

**RESPONSE** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

### SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.

You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said,  
just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,  
'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and

then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

### ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia!

### THE GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45.

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



**COMMUNION** Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.