



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

Parish website:

bluemountainscatholic.org.au

Parish Facebook: [facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic](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

USUAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Leura 5pm (Saturday)

Wentworth Falls 8am

Katoomba 10.30am

Leura 5pm

USUAL WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

MON: 9:30am Katoomba

TUE: 5:15pm Leura

WED: 9:30am W-Falls

THU: 5:15pm Leura

FRI: 12pm Katoomba (with Benediction)

SAT: 9am Katoomba

USUAL CONFESSION TIMES

TUE 4:45-5:05pm Leura

FRI: After 12 pm Mass Katoomba

SAT: 9:30-9:50 Katoomba

SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura

NOTE: Confessions are always available upon request.

KATOOMBA ADORATION CHAPEL

10:00am Monday - 6pm 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)."

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR C | 4 September

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

Once again we have a rather 'hard' saying from Jesus in our Gospel for this Sunday.

"If anyone comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife children, brothers, sisters, yes and one's own life too, that one cannot be my disciple.

Anyone who does not carry one's cross and come after me cannot be my disciple".

And so we are challenged by the words of Scripture to look at our intentions in three areas of our lives:

1. our material goods

How important are they to us? Are they more important than people, especially those in need?

2. our dearest bonds of affection

Where is Jesus Christ in our family life? Do we strive to follow Christian principles within our family? Or do we relegate the Lord to 'mass-on-Sunday', if even that?

3. our own life

When we stand before the Lord, will we truly be able to say that everything we said and did was for the Lord and his Gospel? Can we say that 'you increased in my life, Lord; I decreased'?

My friends, too often we find ourselves rejecting all that does not fit into our neat little picture of Jesus Christ, God, the Church, Christian ethics... We can reject the difficult areas of our Faith and its Practice, preferring the 'reasonable' religion of mediocre discipleship.

But this Gospel text among others calls us back to the heart of our Christian beliefs, encouraging us to be heroic in our following of the Lord in a world dominated by practical materialism, and by the contemporary idols of power, sex and money.

Let us recommit ourselves to taking up the challenge that Christ offers us once again, and strive to place the Lord first in all aspects of our lives.

1. As we have our annual Fathers Day Collection for the retired and sick priests and deacons of our Diocese, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity once again.

Please give what you can; and if you wish to take the envelope home with you and bring it back next week, that's fine too.

And a happy Father's Day to all the fathers within the parish!

2. Please continue to pray for the younger members of our parish communities who are preparing for Confirmation in a couple of weeks time.

3. And I am pleased to announce that a formal audit of all monies spent on St Francis Xavier's church has now been completed. And everything is in order. Please see the summary of the audit in the bulletin. Once again we thank Bernie Turner and his team for all the hard work and time spent on this church.

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 4 September

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY 5 September

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 6 September

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 7 September

Mass 9:30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 8 September

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 9 September

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Adoration, confession

SATURDAY 10 September

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

Soup to Warm the Heart

The Uniting Church Blackheath

Govetts Leap Road

Each Monday between

11:00 and 12:30

Join us and enjoy a bowl of soup and fellowship and chat with friends in our community. A joint enterprise between Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Blackheath Uniting Church. All are most welcome!

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: FR JAMES PAGE, EDNA SWEENEY, PATRICIA ETHEL O' HALLORAN, RYAN JAMES GRANT, GRAHAM COHEN, BETTY WADDELL, RAYMOND JOSEPH GALE, THOMAS GALE, PAUL TURNBULL, MARYLIN STONE AND GABRIELA, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY.

SICK LIST: Gerard Wolthers, Judy Skipper, Millie Robinson, Maureen O'Halloran, Eleanor Russell, Andrzej Krawczyk, 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 Morphett, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Pat Wolthers, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heininger, Julie Wulss, Edwin Wulff, Maud Hunt

EMBRACE THE CALL TO GLOBAL MISSION

American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in and share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these [Mission opportunities abroad](#) and mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared and supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.

[Enquire online](#) or Ph: 0422 742 567 and [Register](#) for a Webinar on Saturday September 24th at 11:30am where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our [13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16th to 28th](#).



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 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.



SUNDAY MASS: Live streaming of the Sunday 10.30am 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/UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ>.



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 Catherine on 0420 337 033 to register your details.

PARISH B-



SCAN ME



Palms Australia

BISHOPS FATHERS DAY APPEAL this weekend 3/4 September

Our parish is proud to support the Clergy Support Foundation's Bishop's Father's Day Appeal. Your gifts will support our 21 retired clergy and those who are in ill-health.

Your donations will enable our Clergy Health and Wellbeing team to provide our ageing clergy with the personal, professional, and practical care and guidance needed to transition to a dignified and well-deserved retirement. Ongoing assistance includes independent retirement living, aged care, or nursing home accommodation for frail priests; meals, transport and medical care as needed.

Please care for those who have cared for you and give generously via the giving envelopes which will be on the pews next weekend. [Alter-natively you can go to the following link parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](https://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or use the attached QR code to make your donations direct by credit card.



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 4-10 September 2022

Every Child in Every Community Needs a Fair Go. This week begins Child Protection Week across the country. During this week we are reminded that:

Children benefit when we bring people together to create connected communities.

Children and young people thrive when they grow up safe, connected and supported in their family, community and culture. They have a right to grow up in environments that support them now and into their future. [From: <https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-theme/>]

Our Parish life is known by its connectedness and by its shared beliefs and values to be Christ-like in all we do. At our very heart we want our Catholic Parish to be inclusive and safe for all to come and worship and to share their baptismal gifts for the good of all – especially for our children and for adults who may be at risk.

There are many things we can do to create a supportive Parish environment and show that we do give a fair go for all the children of our faith community! As volunteers in Parish Ministry, have each of us completed our Mandatory Safeguarding Training? If you would like to complete the training independently clicking on this link: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au> or email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org.



ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS:

We are still taking enrolments for next year. Interested families can call the office on 02 4780 6800 for more information.

Independent Audit of Restorations, Repairs and Maintenance of St Francis Xavier's Church, Wentworth Falls. 18 August 2022

"I have reviewed all the \$50,490.00 costs of the above mentioned restorations, repairs and maintenance of the above named Parish Church. I am satisfied that the costs associated these restoration etc have been properly carried out in accordance with the requirements of the supplied bequest of \$50,000.00 plus an anonymous gift of \$490.00.

These costs incurred have been approved and authorised by the Finance Committee and where necessary for building maintenance plus audits directed by the Diocese.

I am of the opinion, that the repairs and maintenance so carried out are in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Diocese of Parramatta (Property and Buildings Maintenance Audit Program) for the maintaining of buildings and constructions on Church properties... My review, as requested, has been performed independently of the Diocesan Audit Programs which occur each financial year..."

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

ENTRANCE You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

FIRST READING (Wisdom 9:13-18)

Who indeed can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and people been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

RESPONSE In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

SECOND READING (Philemon 9-10, 12-17)

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Luke 14:25-33)

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any one comes to me without hating their father, mother, wife or husband, children, brothers, sisters, yes and their own life too, they cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry their cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if you laid the foundation and then found yourself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of you and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless you give up all your possessions.'

COMMUNION

I am the light of world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

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
THU: Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
FRI: St. Peter Claver.
SAT: BVM.

NEXT SUN: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS
SAT and SUN: 4:10pm, Leura.
MON: 9:00am before Mass, Katoomba.
TUE: 4:30pm D-Mercy, Rosary, Exposition, Leura.
WED: before 9:00am Mass, Wentworth Falls.
THU: 4:30pm D-Mercy, Rosary, Leura
FRI: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.
FRI: 5.30pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.
SAT: 8:30am before Mass and after, Katoomba.

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TR BROWNJOHN MEMORIAL HOME
...it's time we had a talk
Thomas Brownjohn Proprietor
Phone (02) 4782 2613
73A Lurline St. Katoomba 2780
Also Springwood and Lithgow

St Vincent de Paul Society
good works
An Invitation!
This Friday, September 9, is the feast of Bl. Frederic Ozanam. Mary MacKillop, Katoomba Conference of St Vincent de Paul, is celebrating with a Mass to be celebrated by Fr John at the usual Friday Midday Mass at St Canice's.
We would like to extend an invitation to all our friends and supporters in the parish to join us at this Mass. We would like to thank you for all the support you offer us during our two Appeals each year in Winter and at Christmas. Also for all the generous food donations left in the bins at the entrance to our churches, and monies in the Poor Box, donated between our Appeals.
Please join us to celebrate our Founder - Sept. 9, Midday Mass!