



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/](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

Blackheath 9.15 am

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

FRI: 4.00pm Megalong(3rd Fri of the month)

SAT: 9am Katoomba

SAT: 6.00pm Mt Victoria

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)."

2nd Sunday of Advent

YEAR A 4 December

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In our Second Reading for the Sunday of Advent (A) St Paul writes: "Everything that was written long ago in the Scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope... from the examples Scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God".

Hope is a Christian virtue! It is one of the three things that last (with Faith and Love). It is that virtue in life which allows us to keep on going even when the going is difficult. And Paul continues that God will help those who do not give up!

Tolerance is essential to the person of Hope. Christ was tolerant; on the Cross he prayed: "Father, forgive them..."

And so we must also be tolerant with one another; and lift up our voices in praise of the God who helps us when trials come.

John the Baptist did not give up his proclamation of the coming Christ; and Isaiah offered a vision of tolerance: "they do no hurt, no harm on all my holy mountain".

In the week ahead let's strive to be people of Hope who do not give up when trials come; let's be tolerant of others, so that we are united in praise of our loving God at all times and in all circumstances!

Give us Hope, O Lord, give us Hope!

1. Second and final Servers Session after 10:30 mass today (4/12) in the Church.

2. PLEASE NOTE: Wednesday 7/12 mass at 9.00am as the priests of the Diocese have a reflection day from 10.00am.

3. Alan Skofic will be ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in St Patrick's Cathedral next Saturday at 10:30am. Please keep him and his wife, Jaclyn, in your prayers at this time. Alan will minister in our 2 upper mountains parishes afterwards.

4. Pilgrimage meeting next Sunday (11/12) after 10:30am Mass in St Canice's Hall.

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 December
1st Sunday of Advent

MONDAY 5 December
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 6 December
Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura
Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 7 December
Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 8 December
Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 9 December
Mass 12pm Katoomba
Confession after Mass

SATURDAY 10 December
Mass 9am Katoomba
Confession 9:30am Katoomba
Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura



COUNTERS REQUIRED to count the weekly Sunday parish collections. Fortnightly roster. Day/time negotiable. Training provided. Please contact Fr John
john.mcsweeney@parracatholic.org or alternatively call parish office: 4782 2804 to volunteer. **PLEASE HELP US!**

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-



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

“The purpose of a holy hour is to encourage a deep personal encounter with Christ. The holy and glorious God is constantly inviting us to come to Him, to converse with Him, to ask for such things as we need and to experience what a blessing there is in fellowship with Him (Ven. Fulton Sheen).”



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.

RECENTLY DECEASED : BETTY O'CONNOR, ANNE ALLFREE, MIKE THOMPSON, JENNY JOHNSON, AMANDA DAY

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: MARK GLASHEEN, MIKE NOLAN, EILEEN NOLAN, EVELYN RUSSELL, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY.

SICK LIST: Margaret Aboud, Patricia Walters, Michael Josephs, Libby Harrison (Mary's daughter) Gerard Wolthers, Judy Skipper, Millie Robinson, Maureen O'Halloran, Eleanor Russell, Andrzej Krawczyk, Eleanor Hagor, 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 Heining, Julie Wulss, Edwin Wulff, Maud Hunt



SIXTY YEARS OF VATICAN II: Dignitatis Humanae part 4: “On his part, man perceives and acknowledges the imperatives of the divine law through the mediation of conscience. In all his activity a man is bound to follow his conscience in order that he may come to God, the end and purpose of life. It follows that he is not to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his conscience. Nor, on the other hand, is he to be restrained from acting in accordance with his conscience, especially in matters religious. The reason is that the exercise of religion, of its very nature, consists before all else in those internal, voluntary and free acts whereby man sets the course of his life directly toward God. No merely human power can either command or prohibit acts of this kind. The social nature of man, however, itself requires that he should give external expression to his internal acts of religion: that he should share with others in matters religious; that he should profess his religion in community. Injury therefore is done to the human person and to the very order established by God for human life, if the free exercise of religion is denied in society, provided just public order is observed.”



BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S ASSISTANCE WITH CARE AND HOUSING SERVICE No one should be homeless or without support. Your Christmas gift today will enable Catholic Care to give homeless people practical and emotional support, and a safe place to call home. Please give generously via the Bishop's Christmas Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code.

2023 EPIPHANY PILGRIMAGE + FIESTA

Once again, the parishes of the Blue Mountains Deanery will host the Epiphany Pilgrimage from 2 – 8 January 2023. You can be part of the celebrations and help welcome the pilgrims to our beautiful mountains by:

- *Participating in the full pilgrimage or otherwise joining for one or more days of bushwalking Praying and celebrating with them at the Blue Mountains parishes along the way.
- *Assisting with the festive meal when they visit us at St Canice's on Sat, Jan 7 2023.
- *Writing prayer intentions for the pilgrims to pray on your behalf (see prayer box at the church entrance).

Children are welcome to join the fun: Day 1 (Mon, Jan 2) is a family-friendly pilgrimage walk finishing with a jumping castle and fiesta at St Finbars, Glenbrook!

To register for the pilgrimage and for more information, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org

To assist with the festive meal at St Canice's, contact Barbara: 0417 490 103



Vinnies' Christmas Appeal



Katoomba Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will again this year be providing Christmas hampers for needy families in our community.

We are seeking your help with donations.

Suitable food items for Hampers, cash and "Tap-and-go" Donations will be accepted at Masses next week the Third Sunday in Advent, 10 - 11th, December.

St Vincent de Paul Members will be at Masses next Weekend. Food donations may also be left at any time in the St. Vincent de Paul bins at the Church door.

We appreciate that times are difficult, so whatever small offering you can make will be greatly received.

Draw near to God through works of charity.

Pope Francis 08.01.15 Holy Mass, Santa Marta



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.

PARISH BULLETIN

For reasons of Covid safety, please take your bulletin home with you to read after Mass. Thank-you for your cooperation.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:

Thank you to everyone who was involved. The generous people who donated gifts and made hampers and for the wonderful support. The winners for the raffle: Jenny Ingram, Fr John, Elaine Smith, Lily, Christine and Jeremy.

Christmas 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
Leura 5pm
Blackheath 6pm

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
Katoomba 12am Midnight
Wentworth Falls 8am
Blackheath 9:15am
Katoomba 10:30am

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 5

Tue 6 Saint Nicholas, Bishop

Wed 7 Saint Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor

Thu 8 The Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Fri 9 Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Sat 10 Our Lady of Loreto

NEXT Sun 4 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

ENTRANCE O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to snare the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 11:1-10)

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse,
a scion thrusts from his roots:
on him the spirit of the Lord rests,
a spirit of wisdom and insight,
a spirit of counsel and power,
a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.
(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)
He does not judge by appearances,
he gives no verdict on hearsay,
but judges the wretched with integrity,
and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.
His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless,
his sentences bring death to the wicked.
Integrity is the loincloth round his waist,
faithfulness the belt about his hips.
The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion feed together,
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.
That day, the root of Jesse
shall stand as a signal to the peoples.
It will be sought out by the nations
and its home will be glorious.

RESPONSE Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING (Romans 15:3-9)

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 3:1-12)

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

COMMUNION

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from Christ.