



# 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/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](mailto: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)."

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

YEAR A 11 December

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Third Sunday of Advent is a day of Rejoicing, as we have reached the 'halfway' point in our preparation for the celebration of the Lord's First Coming at Christmas.

However, in today's Readings, another theme is very much present: the idea of Christ's Coming bringing Salvation for all.

Isaiah speaks of the Coming of the Lord: 'Look, your God is coming...He is coming to save you'. Pointing the way to the First Coming of the Messiah, this text offered hope in the midst of difficulty to a suffering Israel.

And Matthew's text speaks of John the Baptist's message concerning the completion of the old order and the ushering in of the new: Prepare the way of the Lord, the One who will save the people from their sins.

As Church, as the new People of God, we are to imitate the OT Prophets and John the Baptist. They proclaimed the First Coming of the Lord, brought to fruition on that first Christmas Day. We are to proclaim His Second Coming, which will bring all things in creation to completion, offering Salvation for all.

St James picks up this idea, as we heard in our Second Reading: "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's Coming...the Lord's Coming will be soon..."

So, as we joyfully wait to celebrate the Lord's Coming to us once again at Christmas, let us also pray for the Second Coming of the Lord. Perhaps, as last week, we could use a petitionary mantra in our times of prayer:

Lord, come and save us!

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1. The Gathering for all going on Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is today (11/12) after the 10:30am Mass in St Canice's Hall from 11:30am.

2. There will be two School Masses in St Canice's Church this week: Wed 14/12 at 9:30am for the whole school; and a Year 6 Graduation Mass on Thursday 15/12 at 10am.

3. There will be Mass at St Joseph's, Church, Megalong Valley, on Friday 16/12 at 4pm. All welcome.

4. Sacred Heart Parish will have its Parish Christmas dinner of Friday 16/12 from 6-8pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

5. Our newly ordained Permanent Deacon, Rev. Mr Alan Skofic, will exercise his diaconal ministry for the first time at the 10:30am Mass next Sunday (18/12).

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 11 December

1st Sunday of Advent

### MONDAY 12 December

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 13 December

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

### WEDNESDAY 14 December

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### THURSDAY 15 December

Mass 5.15pm Leura

### FRIDAY 16 December

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Confession after Mass

### SATURDAY 17 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](mailto:john.mcsweeney@parracatholic.org) or

alternatively call parish office: 4782 2804 to

volunteer. **PLEASE HELP US!**

**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 Heininger, Julie Wulss, Edwin Wulff, Maud Hunt



**SIXTY YEARS OF VATICAN II:** Dignitatis Humanae part 5: "When He sent His Apostles into the world, He said to them:

"He who believes and is baptised will be saved. He who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). Taught by

the word and example of Christ, the Apostles followed the same way. From the very origins of the Church the disciples of Christ strove to convert men to faith in Christ as the Lord; not, however, by the use of coercion or of devices unworthy of the Gospel... Like Christ Himself, the Apostles were unceasingly bent upon bearing witness to the truth of God, and they showed the fullest measure of boldness in "speaking the word with confidence" (Acts 4:31) before the people and their rulers.

With a firm faith they held that the Gospel is indeed the power of God unto salvation for all who believe... they preached the word of God in the full confidence that there was resident in this word itself a divine power able to destroy all the forces arrayed against God and bring men to faith in Christ and to His service... they did not hesitate to speak out against governing powers which set themselves in opposition to the holy will of God: "It is necessary to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29) This is the way along which the martyrs and other faithful have walked through all ages and over all the earth."

## 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-



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 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/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

"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.



**Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life**

If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards that reflect real items that support vulnerable communities around the globe. Visit [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.

**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 bush-walking 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](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org) To assist with the festive meal at St Canice's, contact Barbara: 0417 490 103

**Marriage Preparation Courses in 2023**

Getting married in 2023? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit [www.parracatholic.org/pmp](http://www.parracatholic.org/pmp) to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email [met@parracatholic.org](mailto:met@parracatholic.org) or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Mari-sa on 0412 280 017.

**Palms Australia – Roll up your sleeves, make a difference overseas**

Do you require professional renewal, or are you seeking a retirement challenge? Communities in countries such as American Samoa, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tanzania and Timor-Leste are asking for qualified and experienced Australians to mentor their people in education, health, administration, agriculture and more. Embrace one of the Palms Australia mission opportunities abroad by visiting [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au), or by calling (02) 9560 5333 or 0422 472 567



**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 2022*

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS**  
 Leura 5pm  
 Blackheath 6pm

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

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A**

**ENTRANCE** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**FIRST READING** (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10)

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

**RESPONSE** Lord, come and save us.

**SECOND READING** (James 5:7-10)

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers and sisters, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers and sisters, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** (Matthew 11:2-11)

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the one who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you.

'I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'



**COMMUNION**

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**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.

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**SAINTS THIS WEEK**

Mon 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Tue 13 Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr  
 Wed 14 Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor  
 Thu  
 Fri 16  
 Sat 17 17 December

NEXT Sun 18 4TH 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