



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)

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)."

4th Sunday of Advent

YEAR A 18 December

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Within the hustle and bustle of a contemporary Australian December's preparations for Christmas, the Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent remind us of a great Truth: **GOD LIVES WITH US!** God is very much in our midst! He is **EMMANUEL**.

Too often we forget this; and we miss Him!

History missed the first Christmas. Within the context of our history as a planet, as humanity, the birth of Jesus and His subsequent life is no more than the blink of an eye.

Gone before it is noticed... almost....

And in the last week there have been moments when Jesus has been present to us, and we missed Him! We were too busy to talk, to sit, to listen, to be still - and we missed the opportunity to allow Christ to be born in us, to encounter the Lord within.

In the days of Advent that are left to us, let's do all we can to encounter the Lord. We can't stop the rushing demanded of us at this time of year, but we can make certain we take a few moments to recognise the presence of the One who will save all creation; we can, indeed, take a few minutes out of our busy-ness to acknowledge that God is truly 'with us'; that He is Emmanuel... that our God lives within...

We wish everyone a joy filled Christmas celebration with friends and family.

Please note the Mass Times for next weekend in the Bulletin.

May the coming Christ-Child give you all many blessings at this time!

Fr John



Christmas Eve Mass
Leura 5pm, Blackheath 6pm

Christmas Midnight Mass Katoomba

Christmas Day Sunday 25 December
Wentworth Falls 8am
Blackheath 9:15am
Katoomba 10:30am

****NO AFTERNOON/EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY****



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 18 December

4th Sunday of Advent

MONDAY 19 December

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 20 December

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 21 December

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 22 December

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 23 December

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Confession after Mass

SATURDAY 24 December

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

Christmas Eve Mass

Leura 5pm, Blackheath 6pm

Christmas Midnight Mass Katoomba

Christmas Day Sunday 25 December

Wentworth Falls 8am

Blackheath 9:15am

Katoomba 10:30am

NO AFTERNOON/EVENING MASS ON

CHRISTMAS DAY



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.

RECENTLY DECEASED : PETER TIMBS, 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 Morphet, 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 6: "Among the things that concern the good of the Church and indeed the welfare of society here on earth-things therefore that are always and everywhere to be kept secure and defended against all injury-this certainly is preeminent, namely, that the Church should enjoy that full measure of freedom which her care for the salvation of men requires. This is a sacred freedom, because the only-

begotten Son endowed with it the Church which He purchased with His blood. Indeed it is so much the property of the Church that to act against it is to act against the will of God. The freedom of the Church is the fundamental principle in what concerns the relations between the Church and governments and the whole civil order." "In order to be faithful to the divine command, "teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19-20), the Catholic Church must work with all urgency and concern "that the word of God be spread abroad and glorified" (2 Thess. 3:1). Hence the Church earnestly begs of its children that, "first of all, supplications, prayers, petitions, acts of thanksgiving be made for all men.... For this is good and agreeable in the sight of God our Saviour, who wills that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1-4)."

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>



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 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 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 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 or phone Karin on 0403 305 431 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

BUILDING SAFE PARISHES TOGETHER IN 2022: An Update from the Office for Safeguarding. New Year's Dash: Face-to-Face Safeguarding Training Opportunities to Kick Off the New Year! Have you had a chance to complete your Safeguarding Training yet? April 2023 will mark the first two years of our Mandatory Safeguarding Training Program. This year over 700 people across the Diocese have completed their training in face-to-face sessions.

For those who are yet to complete their initial Mandatory Safeguarding Modules, we are offering a 'New Year's Dash' Package of Training Opportunities in readiness for ministry in 2023.

Contact the Parish Office to find locations, days of the week and times of Training Packages that best suit you.

You can register for these by emailing: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Of course, you are still most welcome to 'sign up' to our online Safeguarding Training Platform at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

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 19

Tue 20

Wed 21 Saint Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor

Thu 22

Fri 23 Saint John of Kęty, Priest

Sat 24

NEXT SUNDAY Sun 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

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.



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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

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 (Isaiah 7:10-14)

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:

are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us."'

RESPONSE Let the Lord enter, he is king of glory.

SECOND READING (Romans 1:1-7)

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God who, according to the human nature he took was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;

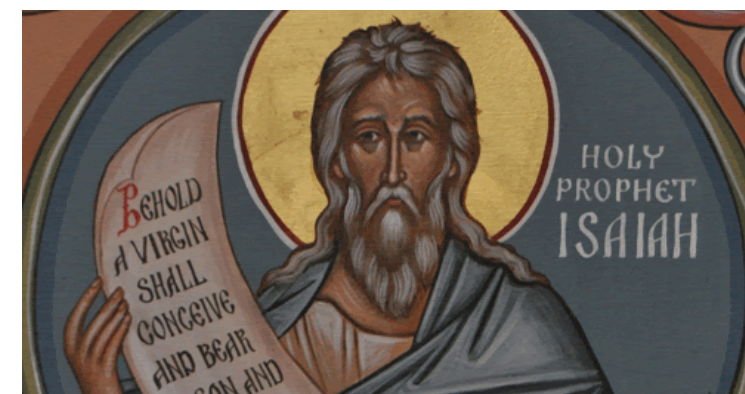
His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 1:18-24)

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us.' When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.



COMMUNION

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



Home Care Packages with Buckland Aged Care Services

Our services include:


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- Domestic Assistance
- Home Maintenance
- Transport Services
- Social Support services
- Meal and food services

homecare@buckland-rv.com.au
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Contact: 1300 300 369
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www.abaxkf.com.au



...it's time we had a talk

Thomas Brownjohn
Proprietor

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