



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

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)."

The Nativity of the Lord

YEAR A 25 December

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today we celebrate the great Feast of our Saviour's Birth.

Christmas is a beginning - the beginning of our Faith journey to Easter and beyond!

Although we all get caught up in the fun of tinsel, presents, food and drink (and so we should!) - there is another dimension to our Christmas celebrations. It is a clarion call to all people of goodwill to make certain that we do not get so caught up in our own self-centredness that we forget to be there for others. And not just those who are there for us, but for all who may need whatever we have to offer.

It's worth reflecting on the fact that Christ's Birth will lead to Calvary.

And for all thinking and reflective people who are both compassionate and generous, our Christian living will ultimately invite us to walk our own road to Calvary.

Although our human nature shies away from this path, it is only this road that will gift us with New Life!

And so, as we come together for Christmas 2022, all those things that are precious to us come to the forefront of our minds, and they encapsulate our celebrations: family, peace, gifts, and especially New Life!

Have a Blessed Christmas, everyone.

And let's pray that 2023 will see and end to the pandemic and a new beginning of peace and security for all.

On behalf of Fr Abraham, Deacon Alan and our Parish Secretary Christine Burke may I thank you for your generosity and support of our church communities in the Upper Mountains parishes during this past year.

May the Lord bless you in all that you do and say!

For pastoral reasons the readings for all Christmas Masses will be the readings from Midnight.

Parish office closed during week of Christmas and will re-open Wednesday 4th January.

The normal bulletins will recommence from the first Sunday of February. In the meantime there will be shortened versions, that will offer the Readings as well as mass times and basic information.

Fr John



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 25 December

Christmas Day

MONDAY 26 December

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 27 December

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 28 December

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 29 December

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 30 December

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Confession after Mass

SATURDAY 31 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 7/7: "In the formation of their consciences, the Christian faithful ought carefully to attend to the sacred and certain doctrine of the Church. For the Church is, by the will of Christ, the teacher of the truth. It is her duty to give utterance to, and authoritatively to teach, that truth which is Christ Himself, and also to declare and confirm by her authority those principles of the moral order which have their origins in human nature itself. Furthermore, let Christians walk in wisdom in the face of those outside, "in the Holy Spirit, in unaffected love, in the word of truth" (2 Cor. 6:6-7), and let them be about their task of spreading the light of life with all confidence and apostolic courage, even to the shedding of their blood. The disciple is bound by a grave obligation toward Christ, his Master, ever more fully to understand the truth received from Him, faithfully to proclaim it, and vigorously to defend it... the charity of Christ urges him to love... those who are in error or in ignorance with regard to the faith. All is to be taken into account-the Christian duty to Christ, the life-giving word which must be proclaimed, the rights of the human person, and the measure of grace granted by God through Christ to men who are invited freely to accept and profess the faith."

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/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.

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>



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.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY FORMATION COURSES 2023:

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence next year in February. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at <https://officeforworship.org.au/>

DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

MASS: 11 FEBRUARY 2023: A Mass for the World Day of the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Saturday 11 February 2023 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2022 to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD YEAR A

ENTRANCE The Lord said to me: You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 9:1-7)

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as people rejoice at harvest time, as people are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the foot-gear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

RESPONSE Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

SECOND READING (Titus 2:11-14)

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Luke 2:1-14)

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to people who enjoy his favour.'

COMMUNION

The Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory.



"Every mother, when she picks up the young life that has been born to her, looks up to the heavens to thank God for the gift which made the world young again. But here was a mother, a Madonna, who did not look up. She looked down to Heaven, for this was Heaven in her arms (Fulton Sheen)."

Merry Christmas

<p>OUR THREE PARISH CHURCHES</p> <p>ST CANICE'S KATOOMBA: Katoomba St.</p> <p>ST. BONAVENTURE'S LEURA: Railway Pde & Hartley Esp.</p> <p>ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S WENTWORTH FALLS: Day St.</p>	<p>SAINTS THIS WEEK</p> <p>Mon 26 ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR Tue 27 ST JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST Wed 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS Thu 29 ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR Fri 30 THE HOLY FAMILY Sat 31 ST SILVESTER I, POPE</p> <p>NEXT SUN: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</p>
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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