



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)."

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A 12 February

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Continuing on from last Sunday's reinterpretation of Mosaic Laws from a position of seeing to the heart of the law, Jesus of Nazareth again challenges his Disciples to go beyond the 'letter of the law' to the 'spirit of the law'.

Firstly, the law of retaliation ('eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth...') helped control acts of revenge in primitive societies. But as humanity has progressed so a more mature ethic is needed. For, if we act out of strict sense of justice alone, then we can quite easily be guilty of injustice ourselves! Our so-called 'righteousness' can become a sin itself. Rather, our condemnation of wrongdoing needs to be tempered with mercy and forgiveness - in imitation our our merciful God!

Secondly, Jesus deliberately develops the concept of neighbour, moving from only those within our own group to all human beings. The parable of the Good Samaritan surprised his fellow Jews with its embrace of a Samaritan as a neighbour to all! The Lord wants his Disciples to be loving and caring to all people - NO MATTER WHO THEY MAY BE!

And so He summarises all these teachings with the line: "Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect". Thus 'perfection' is not about keeping rules; rather it refers to the Disciple of the Lord as one who imitates the mercy and unconditional love of God towards all.

1. Lent commences on 22/2 with Ash Wednesday. Masses will be at 9:30am (Wentworth Falls); 6pm (Katoomba); and 6:30pm (Blackheath). Please remember that this is a Day of Fast for those between 18 and 60; and a Day of Abstinence for those over 14. It is not a holy day of obligation.

2. After 10:30am mass next Sunday (26/2) there will be a brief opportunity for any Reader or Server who didn't get to attend the recent updates for Upper Blue Mountains parish to receive some training in these two ministries.

3. If anyone would like to volunteer their time for our parish, please fill in the sheets available. We really need more members of our community to offer help to all in our church communities through those ministries and services that are listed on the sheet.

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 12 Feb
5th Sunday of the Year A

MONDAY 13 Feb
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 14 Feb
Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura
Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 15 Feb
Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls
6.30 pm Blackheath

THURSDAY 16 Feb
Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 17 Feb
Mass 12pm Katoomba
Confession after Mass

SATURDAY 18 Feb
Mass 9am Katoomba
Confession 9:30am Katoomba
Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

SUNDAY 19 Feb
6th Sunday Of the Year A



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.

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.

BUILDING SAFE PARISHES TOGETHER: 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>

Fr Bob Sheridan's 90th Birthday Lunch

Where: Blackheath Golf Club : When: Sunday 19th March: Time: 12pm : Cost: \$30 p.p.

If you would like to pay direct you will just need to put your name in the reference section of you banking.

Bank details: BSB 067-950 Account No. 00000230

If you choose to pay cash the final date for payment and numbers is 12th March for catering purposes.

If you need any further information, please contact:

Marilyn Rowe 0414536601 marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au or Diane Stewart 0401269956 mdstewart21@bigpond.com



MASS FOR EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS 6:30pm Friday 17th February St Patrick's Cathedral Parramatta. This Mass is an opportunity for us to come together as an international community and to offer our support and love to those who have suffered from this disaster.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

Project compassion boxes are available in our churches from NEXT week. . Don't forget to take a Project Compassion box or set of envelopes next weekend in advance of our Lenten Season of Penance

DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF THE SICK MASS: 11 FEBRUARY

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 to hannah.portelli@parracatholic.org

KATOOMBA ADORATION CHAPEL:

Perpetual Eucharistic adoration is our response to Jesus' love for us. God loves you and when you adore the Lord, He grants many special blessings of His goodness, grace, love and mercy. We would like to increase Eucharistic adoration at our parish. At least one adorer needs to be scheduled and present for every hour. An Adoration Invitation Sign-Up will take place at all the weekend Masses this weekend or alternatively please call Catherine on 0420337033 to register your details. Please sign-up for a weekly holy hour with Jesus.

GLENBROOK PARISH SHROUD OF TURIN PRESENTATION AND TALK: 21 FEBRUARY:

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a presentation by local parishioner and former journalist William West on the Shroud of Turin on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm. William will discuss the history of the Shroud, which he explores in his book Riddles of the Shroud – Questions Science Can't Answer. Entry is via gold coin donation. To RSVP, please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au

RECENTLY DECEASED :

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

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

Tue 14 Saints Cyril, monk, and Methodius, Bishop
Fri 17 The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
Sat 18 BVM
NEXT SUNDAY: 7TH 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.



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.

LENTEN GROUP WEDNESDAYS

Commencing Ash Wednesday 22/2. Morning group 10.30am and Evening group 7.00pm. Location: 3 Easter Street Leura. Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson. Please contact Barbara for more information. Lenten Programme participant books will be available. Suggested donation \$5 per book to help cover costs.

GOSPEL OF SAINT MATTHEW:

You are invited to join Dr Laurie Woods, spiritual writer and Scripture scholar, for an interactive exploration of: Living the Spirituality of Matthew's Gospel in 2023. Saturday 25th February, 9am-12.30pm Parish Hall, Emu Plains. RSVP 18 February to Jim Potts 0421 125 722.

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

ENTRANCE Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING (Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20)

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Humanity has life and death before us; whichever one likes better will be given one. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of a person. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

RESPONSE Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord.

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 2:6-10)

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of humanity, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 5:17-37)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the one who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother or sister will answer for it before the court; if someone calls their brother or sister "Fool" they will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if someone calls them "Renegade" they will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother or sister first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with them, or they may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

COMMUNION

God so loved the world that he gave his Only Begotten Son, so that all who believe in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Wentworth Falls 9:30am
Katoomba 6pm
Blackheath 6:30pm



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Contact: 1300 300 369
info@abaxkf.com.au
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..it's time we had a talk

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