



# 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)

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)."

## 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A - 19 February 2023

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 19 Feb

### MONDAY 20 Feb

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 21 Feb

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

### WEDNESDAY 22 Feb

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

6.30 pm Blackheath

### THURSDAY 23 Feb

Mass 5.15pm Leura

### FRIDAY 24 Feb

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Confession after Mass

### SATURDAY 25 Feb

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

### SUNDAY 26 Feb

1st Sunday of Lent 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](mailto:john.mcsweeney@parracatholic.org) or

alternatively call parish office: 4782

2804 to volunteer.



**A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:** ACN is the Pontifical Foundation dedicated to supporting the suffering and persecuted Church. Aid to the Church in Need is still supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine in its commitment to stay on the ground and keep serving its flock in the face of material and economic war. ACN is helping priests and religious, who are working across the country in parishes, with refugees, in orphanages and homes for the elderly. The main cities where we are sending immediate help are Kyiv, Zaporizhyya, Odessa and the region of Donetsk. We are doing everything we can to assist our Ukrainian brothers and sisters to be strengthened in their faith so that they may continue to be a light in Ukraine. ACN needs your help to continue this mission. To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/ukraine> or scan the Qr code.



**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



**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.

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](mailto:marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au) or Diane Stewart 0401269956 [mdstewart21@bigpond.com](mailto:mdstewart21@bigpond.com)



Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and *For All Future Generations*. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.

**STAMP OUT POVERTY WITH USED STAMPS** Mary Mackillop Today (MMT) recycles used stamps to raise urgently needed funds to fight poverty. Your used stamps will GIVE disabled children an education in Papua New Guinea; FUND training programs for poor women to learn life skills in Peru; PROVIDE vital health care to poor communities in Timor-Leste. You used stamps will be sold at auctions to collectors in Sydney. The money raised will go directly to Mary Mackillop Today (MMT) in Sydney. For more info please call John Altham 0455 205 804 or email [johnaltham@gmail.com](mailto:johnaltham@gmail.com)

**ADORATION CHAPEL WEEKEND THANK YOU** many thanks to all who helped out the promotion weekend. We are very grateful for your support.

**24 HOUR FOR THE LORD EVENT AT SCHOENSTATT, MULGOA**

Come and spend some time with Our Lord and Our Lady in the Schoenstatt Shrine: Friday 17 March 6pm Mass, then Reconciliation 7:15 – 10.00pm. On Saturday Reconciliation 10am-12pm, and 3-4.45pm with a Vigil Mass at 5pm. The Shrine will be welcoming people for prayer for the full 24 Hours. Groups to lead prayer are welcome. Contact [paulandramani@gmail.com](mailto:paulandramani@gmail.com)

**RECENTLY DECEASED :**

**MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** GRAHAM WILSON LAW ,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, 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

**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 21 Saint Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor  
Wed 22 ASH WEDNESDAY  
Thu 23 Saint Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr  
  
NEXT SUNDAY: 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

**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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASS**  
Wentworth Falls 9:30am  
Katoomba 6pm  
Blackheath 6:30pm

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..it's time we had a talk  
Thomas Brownjohn  
Proprietor  
Phone (02) 4782 2613  
73A Lurline St. Katoomba 2780  
Also Springwood and Lithgow



**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.

**LENTEN REMINDERS:**  
\*The days and times of penance for the universal Church are each Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.  
\*Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.  
\*The law of abstinence binds those over 14 while the law of fasting binds those between 18-60.

**7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A**

**ENTRANCE** O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

**FIRST READING** (Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18)  
The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the children of Israel and say to them:

“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.  
“You must not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart. You must openly tell your neighbour of his or her offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”

**RESPONSE** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**SECOND READING** (1 Corinthians 3:16-23)  
Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy them, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of yourself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then you must learn to be a fool before you really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise people's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** (Matthew 5:38-48)  
Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked person no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer them the other as well; if someone takes you to law and would have your tunic, let them have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with them. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be children of your Father in heaven, for God causes his sun to rise on bad people as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest people alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers and sisters, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

**COMMUNION**  
I will recount all your wonders,  
I will rejoice in you and be glad,  
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

**Pat McGloin – Rest in Peace**  
Many in our Upper Mountains Catholic Community and in the St Vincent de Paul Community will be saddened to learn that Pat McGloin passed away peacefully on Monday night – after a prolonged illness. Pat had a lifelong commitment to the works of the St Vincent de Paul Society – he was an active member of our Blackheath Conference as well as the Katoomba Conference. Our deepest sympathy and Prayers are extended to Pat's wife Kathy and to the daughter Sally and her family. Arrangements for a Celebration of Pat's life will be advised when known