



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)."

1st Sunday of Lent

YEAR A - 26 February 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

All three texts from Scripture for this First Sunday in Lent (A) speak of the need for everyone to TRUST in the Lord, OBEY his commandments of Love, and remain FAITHFUL to God's Will at all times.

The First Reading speaks of the DISOBEDIENCE of humanity (symbolized by Adam and Eve) in failing to listen to God's commandments; and so, as St Paul writes in the Second Reading from the Letter to the Romans, "as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience, many will be made righteous". It is Christ who redeems us from the results of Original Sin, the Sin of Humanity.

The Three Temptations of Christ after his Baptism highlight the ways in which the Lord Jesus overcame the Tempter, and remained in right relationship with the Father: by refusing to misuse the gifts given to him, Christ waited trustfully for the Father's help; by refusing to misuse God's gift of protection, Jesus remained obedient to God; and by refusing to take the easier options and gain worldly glory, the Lord continued faithful to God's Will for him.

Similarly, we must try to follow in the footsteps of our Master through...

our TRUST in God's unshakeable care and concern for us

our OBEDIENCE to God's law of Love

our FAITHFULNESS to God's Will for us and all humanity.

During our Lenten season this year, let's imitate Jesus Christ, who fought and won against all temptation and won the Victory, thus gaining for us the prize of everlasting Life!

1. After 10:30am Mass today at Katoomba, there will be a final opportunity for Readers and Servers to have an 'update' regarding their liturgical ministries.

2. On Friday 3 March at 1.30pm at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath, there will be the ecumenical World Day of Prayer Service. All welcome!

God Bless you all this Lent.

Fr John



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 26 Feb

MONDAY 27 Feb

Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 28 Feb

Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura

Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 1 March

Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

6.30 pm Blackheath

THURSDAY 2 March

Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 3 March

Mass 12pm Katoomba

Confession after Mass

SATURDAY 4 March

Mass 9am Katoomba

Confession 9:30am Katoomba

Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

SUNDAY 5 March

2nd 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 or

alternatively call parish office: 4782

2804 to volunteer.

RECENTLY DECEASED :

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

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, Zaporizhya, 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.



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.



Project Compassion

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.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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 available from your parish, by visiting 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

LAUNCHING CHILDREN'S LITURGY

In partnership with St Canice School our parish is launching Children's Liturgy! And we need your help!

Time: During the 10:30am Sunday mass

Place: St Canice Katoomba, Children to leave from the church hall and activities run in the parish hall

Launching: Sunday the 12th of March

What: We will share the mass readings, gospel reflections and Children activities with material approved by the diocese

Registration: None required, but a roll will be taken

Organiser: Jeremy Brown.

Who? We need you! Law requires that Children's liturgy must have two volunteers. If you wish to cater for young families and enjoy sharing the gospel Children please call Jeremy on 0428 174 999. Training and support provided.

MINI RETREAT AT ST PATRICK'S CHURCH, LITHGOW SAT 18TH MARCH 9AM-4PM

TOPIC: ADORING GOD WITH MARY.

An interactive retreat drawings on Scripture, Sacred art, music. and the writings of priests, religious, scholars and saints, we explore how to love Jesus with the heart of Mary and in return to love Mary with the Heart of Jesus. Enquiries to Marie Morrison 0417150240



ST. CANICE'S
SCHOOL NEWS:

St Canice's Open Day 8th March 2023
From: 9.30am-11.30am. For More information pls call 02 47826800

MORNING TEA INVITATION

All parishioners are warmly invited to attend MORNING TEA on Sunday 5th March, after the 10.30 Mass, in the hall at Katoomba. Should you wish to contribute a small item of food to share it would be greatly appreciated

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

LENTEN GROUP TUESDAYS

Lenten program is running through Lent every Tuesday at 9 am Leura Catholic Church

LENTEN GROUP WEDNESDAYS

Morning group 10.30am and Evening group 7.00pm. Location: 3 Easter Street Leura. Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson. Please contact Barbara for more information. 0417490103

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.

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT A

ENTRANCE When he calls on me, I will answer him. I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

FIRST READING (Genesis 2:7-9,3:1-7)

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

Now the serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

RESPONSE Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

SECOND READING (Romans 5:12-19)

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man,

Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL (Matthew 4:1-11)

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: One does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

COMMUNION

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

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 27 Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church)
Sat 4 Saint Casimir
NEXT SUNDAY: 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

ST CANICE'S PRIMARY KATOOMBA
OPEN DAY
8 March
9:30am - 11:30am
ENROL NOW www.stcaniceskatoomba.catholic.edu.au

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Also Springwood and Lithgow