



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)."

3rd Sunday of Lent

YEAR A - 12 March 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Our Scripture texts for this third Sunday in Lent (Year A) all contain the
imagery of water.

Moses strikes the rock in the desert so that the People of Israel could
quench their thirst. And the Psalm speaks of the People's putting God to
the test when they hardened their hearts against Moses

The Gospel contrasts ordinary water (that from a well) and living water
(that from a spring or river): and thus speaks parabolically of the contrast
of limited human existence and the divine gift of eternal life through the
action of the Holy Spirit, the true 'living water' of the spiritual life.

And St Paul realizes that this 'living water' or the gift of the Holy Spirit
has been 'poured into our hearts' through our baptism.

In the week ahead, let's meditate on the word of God, reflecting on our
Christian living at this time. And let's be like the villagers in the Gospel
who readily accepted the words of Jesus, partaking of the 'living water'
he was offering. Let's not be like the People of Israel in the desert who
demanded that their thirst was quenched in a limited way.

They had to leave the rock in the desert and continue towards the
Promised Land. Rather, we must hold firm to Jesus, our Rock, our eternal
source of grace, thereby remaining ready to the needs of all in response
to the Gospel demands flowing from our Baptism.

It is with great joy that I can now announce that Fr Abraham's
replacement will be Fr Peter Lamont, at present PP of Rydalmere.

Fr Peter will be residing in Blackheath Presbytery; and will celebrate
Masses in our two parishes from the 22-23 April.

I'm sure you will make him welcome when he arrives among us.

1. Next Friday (17/3) is St Patrick's Day. There will be a Mass at 4pm in St
Joseph's Church, Megalong Valley, on that afternoon.

2. There is a luncheon next Sunday (19/3) to celebrate Fr Bob Sheridan's
90th birthday. If interested in attending please contact Marilyn on

0414 536 601

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 March

MONDAY 13 March
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

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

WEDNESDAY 15 March
Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls
6.30 pm Blackheath

THURSDAY 16 March
Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 17 March
Mass 12pm Katoomba
Confession after Mass

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

SUNDAY 19 March
4th Sunday of Lent Year A

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

RECENTLY DECEASED :

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: GRAHAM WILSON LAW ,JOAN 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, Emiliania 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 Heininger, Julie Wulss, Edwin Wulff, Maud Hunt

UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Holy Thursday: 7.00pm (Katoomba).

Good Fri Stations of the Cross: 9.00am (Wentworth Falls);

9.30am (Leura); 10.00am (Katoomba)

Good Friday: 3.00pm (Katoomba)

Easter Vigil: 7.00pm(Katoomba)

Easter Sunday: 8.00am (W/Falls)

Easter Sunday: 9.00am (Leura) No evening Mass

Easter Sunday: 10.30am (Katoomba)

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.

SACRED HEART BLACKHEATH

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

HOLY Thursday: 7.00pm

Goof Fri Stations of the Cross: 10.00am

Good Friday: 3.00pm

Easter Vigil 7.00pm

Easter Sunday: 9.30am

Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal Next Week 26 and 27th March for our Holy Spirit Seminarians Our Holy Spirit Seminary in Harris Park is preparing men who have been called by God to be good shepherds to serve His people. Will you support our seminarians to humbly serve our faith community? Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Shepherd Appeal at yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal or scan this QR code. Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their spiritual journey to become priests.



Glenbrook Christians Ecumenical Meal Sharing: From 5 March

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, invite you to their ecumenical neighbours sharing soup and bread for Lent gatherings with their Baptist and Uniting Church neighbours. Join them for a meal and chat on Sunday 5 March at St Finbar's, Sunday 19 March at Glenbrook Baptist and 2 April at St Andrew's Uniting Church. Donations raised will go to the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group.

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

TOPIC: ADORING GOD WITH MARY.

An interactive retreat drawing 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

Easter Raffle

PARISH FUNDRAISING: "Easter hamper raffle". Anyone who wants to donate any suitable Easter items towards the raffle please ring Barbra 0417490103

Project Compassion



Zimbabwe is experiencing an intense drought, exacerbated by climate change. With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops and started poultry farming to support her family during the current food crisis.

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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413. or Scan the QR



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT A

ENTRANCE When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands; and I will pour clean water over you and cleanse you from all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord..

FIRST READING (Exodus 17:3-7)

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?'

Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' the Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the children of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

RESPONSE If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

SECOND READING (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8)

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. And this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL (John 4:5-42)

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father

Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his children and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside them, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

At this point his disciples returned, and were surprised to find him speaking to a woman, though none of them asked, 'What do you want from her?' or, 'Why are you talking to her?' The woman put down her water jar and hurried back to the town to tell the people. 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did; I wonder if he is the Christ?' This brought people out of the town and they started walking towards him.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, do have something to eat; but he said, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples asked one another, 'Has someone been bringing him food?' But Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest?'

Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

COMMUNION

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in them a spring welling up to eternal life.

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

Fri 17 SAINT PATRICK, BISHOP, MISSIONARY
Sat 18 Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Doctor

NEXT SUNDAY 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)
NEXT MONDAY SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Solemnity

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

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