



# 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)."

## 4th Sunday of Lent

YEAR A - 19 March 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Today we read again from the Gospel of John. Just like the woman at the well last week, the blind man goes through stages of discovery to finally see who Christ really is and believe. The Woman at the well first called Jesus a Jew, then she identified him as a prophet and finally as the Messiah. Likewise, the blind man at first refers to Jesus as a man, then a prophet and finally believes that He is the Lord.

The blind man is a new creation through Christ. Christ makes up a paste from spittle and the soil of the earth. Living water and the soil of the earth. Just like in Genesis when God brings forth Adam from the soil of the earth, Christ now creates a new man. He removes his limitations, he opens his eyes, he brings him to faith. Even more magnificent than the restoration of physical sight is the opening of the man to the graces that God is offering.

The Pharisees couldn't see. They were blinded by the things that they clung to, their status, their, influence and their image. They only saw Christ as a threat to their established order and hid behind structures that protected them, though they could see signs that they should have looked at things differently. Structures that blocked their view.

Last week we heard that we need to worship God in Spirit and in truth. This week we in Ephesians that we need to discover what God wants from us. We need to open ourselves to the Spirit. It's not what we do but why we do it. Let's examine ourselves so that we do everything for the right reason, for the "other" not ourselves.

May God bless you all

Deacon Alan.

- Please Note that the mass on Thursday 23rd March at Leura has been cancelled

## THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH

Monday 20th March

9:30am Mass at Katoomba



## THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Saturday 25th March

9am Mass at Katoomba.



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



## WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY 19 March

MONDAY 20 March  
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 21 March  
Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura  
Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 22 March  
Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls  
6.30 pm Blackheath

THURSDAY 23 March  
Mass 5.15pm Leura (No Mass as Funeral  
Mass for Fred Pateman 11am Katoomba)

FRIDAY 24 March  
Mass 12pm Katoomba  
Confession after Mass

SATURDAY 25 March  
Mass 9am Katoomba  
Confession 9:30am Katoomba  
Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

SUNDAY 26 March  
5th 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 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

### UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS CATHOLIC PARISH

#### HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Holy Thursday: 7.00pm (Katoomba).  
Good Friday 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 (Wentworth 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  
Good Friday Stations of the Cross: 10.00am  
Good Friday: 3.00pm  
Easter Vigil 7.00pm  
Easter Sunday: 9.30am

## BISHOP'S GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL THIS WEEK: 26 AND 27 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](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you for accompanying our seminarians on their spiritual journey to become priests.



## Easter Raffle

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

## Mission: One Heart, Many Voices Conference: 3-5 May

Catholic Mission and Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) invite you to save the date for the sixth biennial national Mission Conference. Three days of professional and personal development focused on mission.

Date: Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May 2023.

Venue: SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney.

For more information, visit [www.mohmv.com.au](http://www.mohmv.com.au).



## ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS:

For More information pls call 02 47826800

## Project Compassion Fifth Sunday of Lent

Project Compassion brings together Australian schools, parishes and supporters to raise funds for people in vulnerable communities across the world. This year, we introduced you to the story of four inspiring people whose lives have been transformed with your generous support: Laxmi, Tereesa, Priscilla and Thu. Today, they are creating a better world for their families, their communities and for all future generations. 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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or by calling 1800 024 413.



## PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES 2023:

Please return on Palm Sunday in preparation for Holy Thursday offertory. They can be handed in after Mass to the sacristans or at the parish office Tuesday Wednesday and Friday 10am-3pm.

## 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT A

**ENTRANCE** Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be Joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

## FIRST READING (1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13)

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him: God does not see as people see: people look at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

**RESPONSE** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

## SECOND READING (Ephesians 5:8-14)

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.

That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## GOSPEL (John 9:1-41)

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to people who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of someone who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

## COMMUNION

**The Lord anointed my eyes:  
I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in 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 20 SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Solemnity  
Thu 23 Saint Turibius of Mongrovejo, Bishop)  
Sat 25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE  
LORD Solemnity

NEXT SUNDAY: 5TH 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.



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