



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)

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)."

5th Sunday of Lent

YEAR A - 26 March 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

There are times in our lives when we believe and trust in God, but still hesitate to accept all that is offered to us. And yet, deep down, we know that the only way forward is to accept what the Lord is asking of us. We need to put out into the deep and embrace the unknown.

In today's gospel from John, Jesus tries to move Martha from her traditional belief in the Resurrection at the end of time to a new way of thinking which sees Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life NOW!

And, like with Martha, if we can embrace the unknown that is offered to us by a compassionate and understanding God who is pure Love, then we will also hear the words spoken to the bystanders in today's text of the Raising of Lazarus: 'Unbind him/her; let him/her go free'!

1. Congratulations to Fr Bob Sheridan on the occasion of his 90th Birthday!

A great luncheon occurred last Sunday to celebrate this important milestone.

2. Please note that this weekend we are having our first Catholic Foundation appeal for 2023. Please give generously to this tax-deductible collection for the Diocese's charitable works. Also, feel free to take the envelope home and bring it back with your donation next week.

3. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday. There will be Processions prior to 9:15am Mass at Blackheath and prior to 10:30am Mass at Katoomba.

4. Please remember that Daylight Saving Time ends early Sunday morning. Yay!

God Bless you all as you enter into these final weeks of 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 March

MONDAY 27 March
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 28 March
Confession 4:45-5:00pm Leura
Mass 5:15pm Leura

WEDNESDAY 29 March
Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls
6.30 pm Blackheath

THURSDAY 30 March
Mass 5.15pm Leura

FRIDAY 31 March
Mass 12pm Katoomba
Confession after Mass

SATURDAY 1 April
Mass 9am Katoomba
Confession 9:30am Katoomba
Confession 4:30-4:45pm Leura

SUNDAY 2 April
Palm/Passion Sunday

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: FRED PATEMAN

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, Emiliana 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 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)

PARISH B-



SCAN ME

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/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 Seminarists. 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 seminarists 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 seminarists 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.

ST CANICE PARISH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SCHOOL ARE LAUNCHING CHILDREN'S LITURGY!

When: During 10:30 Sunday mass, exit after the opening pray, return by offertory procession, during the school term.

How: With material approved by the diocese, including readings, the gospel reading in cartoons, reflections and colourful activities.

Are parents welcome? Of course.

Organiser: Jeremy Brown

Who? We need you! Children's liturgy must have two volunteers per Sunday. If you wish to cater for young families and enjoy working with Children please call Jeremy. on 0428 174 999

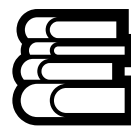
SUNDAY LUNCH AND THE SACRED SCRIPTURES REMINDER

As a conclusion to our Lenten preparation for Easter ,why not attend the Sacred Scripture Lunch on Palm Sunday at Lawson?

It's at 12noon at Our Lady of Nativity Catholic School Hall. Our Keynote speaker about forgiveness in the Scriptures is DR LAURIE WOODS. You are assured of faith building experience

A reminder to bring your own lunch and a drink . As we now no longer need to know the numbers for catering purposes the RSVP has been extended until 31st March . However, it would be appreciated if you could please RSVP

Maureen Ryan maureenpr8@gmail.com as soon as possible .Maureen Ryan Chair, Deanery Pastoral Council



ST. CANICE'S

SCHOOL NEWS:

For More information pls call 02 47826800. We are still enrolling students.

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, 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.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT A

ENTRANCE Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

RESPONSE With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

SECOND READING (Romans 8:8-11)

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL (John 9:1-41)

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day? People can walk in the daytime without stumbling because they have the light of this world to see by; but if they walk at night they stumble, because there is no light to guide them.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of

Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas – known as the Twin – said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though they die they will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

COMMUNION

Everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever, says the Lord.

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
NEXT SUNDAY: PALM SUNDAY

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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TR BROWNJOHN MEMORIAL HOME
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