



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/](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)."

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

YEAR A - 2 April 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

When we read the Gospel, we often see the Pharisees referred to as "the Jews". This is a deliberate reference to highlight that they are not Israel. Christ says of these Pharisees and people like them that they worship God with their lips but their hearts are far from Me (Mat 15:8)

Israel is not defined by religious observance or national identity.

The State of Israel is not the Israel of the Bible.

Israel is the people of God. The people who are related to God because they hear His word and do His will (Luke 8:21). This is what is meant to worship God in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23).

Now it's Palm Sunday and this is what confronts us. Are we Israel or are we like the Pharisees and the other Jews?

The people of Jerusalem called out "Hosanna to our King" but they wanted a King who would obey them. Do what they wanted. Be the person and ruler they wanted. They wanted things their way. They hadn't been listening to Christ, His message, the message of a New Heaven and New Earth which was dawning.

Likewise, the Pharisees didn't want any other authority, except their own. Their very self-identity was at stake as well as their wealth, influence, and prestige.

That's why they crucified Christ, the Lord of Life.

Now as we enter Holy week let's really look at what is most important to us. What do we think about most. What would hurt us most if it wasn't there.

Let's walk with Christ this week. He is not going to reject us or judge us. His Judgement is putting things back in order in our lives. Healing, restoration, and renewal. Let's spend time in prayer with Him. Let's run to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and enthrone him Christ our King.

May God bless you all

Deacon Alan.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta, has released his video message for Easter 2023.

You can view on YouTube channel at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33lB11hZSWo>



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 2 April

MONDAY 3 April
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

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

WEDNESDAY 5 April
Mass 9.30am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 6 April
Holy Thursday Mass 7pm Katoomba
7pm Blackheath

FRIDAY 7 April
Confessions after stations of the cross
Good Friday 3pm Katoomba
3pm Blackheath

SATURDAY 8 April
Easter Vigil Mass Katoomba 7pm

SUNDAY 9 April
Easter Sunday Mass 8m (Wentworth Falls)
9am (Leura), 9.30 Blackheath and 10:30am (Katoomba). No evening Mass at Leura.

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-



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.

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 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

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)

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

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.



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

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.

GLENBROOK PARISH GOOD FRIDAY MUSIC AND MEDITATION: 7 APRIL

St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook, is hosting a performance of the music of J.S. Bach and special meditations and reflections on Good Friday, 7 April, from 7.30pm in the parish church. Offering choral and organ music of J.S. Bach together with special readings and meditations, this annual service will feature several of the wonderful chorale settings from the Passions according to St John and St Matthew. Suggested donations for entry are \$15 for adults, \$10 for concessions. Any enquiries, please contact 0421 105 017.



ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS:

St Canice's School invites you to join us for our Easter Liturgy commemoration of Holy Week, to be held at the school on Wednesday 5th April at 9.00am. Everyone is welcome to attend

Project Compassion

Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people go hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water.

With your generosity, Caritas Australia has been able to help millions of vulnerable people around the world, through the Project Compassion appeal.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world to lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

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, or visit caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phone 1800 024 413.



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

Thu 6 HOLY THURSDAY

Fri 7 GOOD FRIDAY

Sat 8 HOLY SATURDAY

NEXT SUNDAY 9 EASTER 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**

...it's time we had a talk

Thomas Brownjohn
Proprietor

Phone (02) 4782 2613
73A Lurline St. Katoomba 2780
Also Springwood and Lithgow

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD A**

FIRST READING (Isaiah 50:4-7)

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

RESPONSE My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING (Philippians 2:6-11)

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave
and became as people are;
and being as all people are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying
on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and
gave him a name above all other names.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

GOSPEL (Matthew 27:11-54)

PART OF TODAY'S GOSPEL

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying: 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He puts his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God.'" Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' That is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. The rest of them said: 'Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a 'son of God.

COMMUNION

Father, if this cup cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.