



# ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

## PARISH CONTACTS

Fr. John McSweeney (Parish Priest)  
Fr. Peter Lamont (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://facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)  
Parish YouTube: [@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic](https://youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic)

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)  
Mt Victoria 6.00pm (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

## 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 Easter

YEAR A - 7 May 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

St Peter's Easter Proclamation in today's Second Reading is addressed to us on  
this Fifth Sunday of Easter...

'You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set  
apart to sing the praises of God, who called you out of the darkness into his  
own wonderful light'.

# We are...

a chosen race - the new People of God, the new Israel, chosen to be God's very  
own

a royal priesthood - a priestly people, sent to lead others to God

a consecrated nation - a holy people, called to consecrate our lives for others

a people set apart - a people who live in the world, but do not model our lives  
on the secular ethics of this world.

# We follow in the footsteps of our ancestors in the Faith, and we gather every  
Sunday (the Day of Resurrection), and often on other occasions, to sing the  
praises of God, to worship and serve our Loving Creator.

# And we do this because we wish to respond in gratitude to the God who  
called us out of the darkness and ignorance of not knowing the joy that Faith  
offers us; and who has called us to be a part of His wonderful Light, the Light of  
Christ.

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An Introduction to the Bible...

I will be offering a brief introduction to the study of the Bible on three  
successive Saturday afternoons, commencing on 13 May (the others being 20/5  
and 27/5).

All will be held in St Bonaventure's Church, Leura, from 3:15-4:30pm.

All are welcome.

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 8 May

MONDAY 9 May  
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 10 May  
Mass 5.15 Leura

WEDNESDAY 11 May  
Mass 9.30 am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 12 May  
Mass 5:15pm Leura

FRIDAY 13 May  
Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 14 May  
Mass 9:00am Katoomba

SUNDAY 15 May  
6th Sunday of Easter

### Pope's Prayer Intentions

For May 2023.

For Church movements and groups.  
We pray that Church movements  
and groups may rediscover  
their mission of evangelization each  
day, placing their own  
charisms at the service of needs in  
the world



**SAVE THE DATE:** Listening Consultation on **Saturday 20 May**. We are all invited to attend a  
special gathering in **Springwood** for the whole Blue Mountains Deanery (Emu Plains to Black-  
heath Parishes) on Saturday 20 May from **7:30-9:30pm**.

Venue: The Presentation Space, St Columba's College, 168 Hawkesbury Rd Springwood.

This gathering is being held in preparation for a **local Synod** to be held in the diocese of Parramatta. This is  
an initial opportunity for us all to have a voice. **Bishop Vincent**, will attend the gathering, and he is keen to  
hear from **everyone**. Since his installation as Bishop, he has wanted to build on the previous pastoral plan.

Please consider attending and sharing your stories, reflections and experiences of your community at St.  
Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish, Upper Blue Mountains. .

Kindly **RSVP by 16 May** by registering on this link [https://parracatholic.org/synod\\_getinvolved/](https://parracatholic.org/synod_getinvolved/) and click  
on "Attend your Deanery Consultation". For more information about the Synod vis-  
it [www.parracatholic.org/synod2023](http://www.parracatholic.org/synod2023)

**DIRECTIONS:** Do not use a GPS. Drive from Springwood, along Hawkesbury Road. Turn left at the second  
set of lights into the long driveway. Drive past St Thomas Aquinas church, school and hall which are on the  
right of this driveway. The college entrance is 1km at the end of the driveway. There is ample parking.

You are welcome to come earlier (from 6:30pm) to have some fellowship and a snack which will be provid-  
ed.

### 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.

Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal next weekend 20 & 21 May 2023 for Aboriginal Catholic Care at Emerton.

Will you be the face of Christ for our First Nations people in need? Your compassionate generosity and prayers will support a welcoming place where Aboriginal people can express their identity, share their culture and knowledge within our community, access practical support and development opportunities, and make social connections. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at [yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal](http://yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you for being a Good Samaritan to our First Nations people

#### MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS PROCESSION -- 20 MAY

Join The Servants of Mary Help of Christians for their annual procession ahead of the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia on Saturday 20 May. Mass will commence at 10am at St Peter's Surry Hills, followed by a street procession through to St Mary's Cathedral and Mass at 12pm. All are welcome to attend.

#### FEAST OF PENTECOST

Our parish will mark this year's Pentecost Sunday (May 28th) with a celebration of a diversity and culture of our parishioners. After 10:30am Mass at St Canice's Katoomba we will be celebrating the day with a wide variety of ethnic flavours from all the various backgrounds of our parishioners with a selection of foods to enjoy in the parish hall. Entry by donation. We will also be offering Prayers of the Faithful in the native languages of our parishioners to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and Christ's message for all peoples. If you would like to read a prayer of intercession in your native language or contribute a dish of food to the event after Mass please contact Barbara Davidson on 0417 490 103. Barbara will speak at all the Sunday Masses on 20/21 May to promote the event. Help us mark this important feast day with a celebration of our parish's rich diversity and please join us for the extravaganza of foods after 10:30am Mass.

RECENTLY DECEASED: WANDA HEFFERNAN, LLOYD STOERMER, FRED PATEMAN

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: STEPHANNIE MURPHY, 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: John Brell, 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, 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 Heininger, Julie Wulss, Edwin Wulff, Maud Hunt.



**ST. CANICE'S  
SCHOOL NEWS:**

' We already knew that St Canice's is a great little school , but now, our kindergarten teacher, Kellie Clark, has officially been acknowledged as one of Australia's best 50 teachers in Saturday's Telegraph.'



For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office 02 4780 6800

#### Biggest Morning Tea

The Combined Churches of Blackheath will be hosting a Biggest Morning Tea fundraiser on **Thursday May 25 commencing at 10:00am until 12:30pm in the RSL sub branch hall, Bundarra St, Blackheath.**

Save the date on your calendar and join us for a delicious morning tea raising money for cancer research.

#### 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

**ENTRANCE** O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

#### FIRST READING (Acts 6:1-7)

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

**RESPONSE** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

#### SECOND READING (1 Peter 2:4-9)

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and those who rest their trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring people down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.  
**Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL (John 14:1-12)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, they will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

#### COMMUNION

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in them, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.



#### WHY DO WE NEED ANOTHER SYNOD?

Bishop Vincent acknowledges that we have already been consulted through the Australian Plenary Council to share our promptings of the Holy Spirit about the future of the Catholic Church in Australia. Some of us have also participated in Pope Francis' Synod. However, this Synod is all for our own Diocese.

"I invite you to walk with me as we discern a further framework by which we can revitalise our Church in the Diocese and discover together a path of renewal for all of us" says Bishop Vincent.

So we are encouraged to share in this process of Praying, Listening, Reflecting and then Sharing.

So, please consider joining with Bishop Vincent, the Deanery Pastoral Council members and the Catholic people of Emu Plains and the Blue Mountains at our Deanery Listening Consultation in Springwood.

#### 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

Wed 10 Saint John of Ávila, Priest, Doctor  
Fri 12 Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs  
or Saint Pancras, Martyr  
Sat 13 Our Lady of Fátima  
Sun 14 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

#### 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.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Saturdays 13, 20, 27 May - St Bonaventure's Church Leura, 3:15-4:30. Offered by Fr. John.



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Contact: 1300 300 369  
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