



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
Parish website:
bluemountainscatholic.org.au
Parish Facebook: 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

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)."

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The second readings says: *"always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have"*

The answer is not that we will not have difficulties and suffering in our lives. The miracles that Phillip performed in Samaria impressed the people. It opened their eyes to another reality but that's not where it stops. The people needed the Holy Spirit which would transform them from thinking in human terms to understanding in God's way.

Yes, it's true that God wants suffering, oppression, tyranny, poverty and death to end but it has to end through humanity. Why, because humanity is created in the image and likeness of God the Creator but this identity can only be realised, only become reality by people's desire to be one with God in His selfless love. If God of His own power sets everything in order without humanity's role, then humanity is excluded. We would be cut off because there would no opportunity for us to respond in love to God.

As the Gospel tells us, that's not God's plan. We are to be in relationship with God. An extremely close relationship. It's not a community, otherwise Christ would have said: "On that day you will understand that I *am with* my Father and *you with me* and I *with you*".

But Christ said: On that day you will understand that I *am in* my Father and *you in me* and I *in you*. God wants us in communion with Him.

It's the "in" that is our reason for hope. God so loves all creation that He wants us part of Himself, drawing peace, life and love from Himself but being "in" we must reciprocate, we must let God draw from us our lives, our love so that we become one with Him. Like all real relationships it's a relationship of mutual giving. The more we give of ourselves the more God can give of Himself to us.

How we relate to people, especially the most different and alienated to us manifests this giving of ourselves. We are all created in His image and likeness, we are to be in God and God in all of us.

May God bless you all

Deacon Alan.



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 14 May

MONDAY 15 May
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 16 May
Mass 5.15 Leura

WEDNESDAY 17 May
Mass 9.30 am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 18 May
Mass 5:15pm Leura

FRIDAY 19 May
Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 20 May
Mass 9:00am Katoomba

SUNDAY 21 May

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

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>



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.



Be part of the journey towards our **DIOCESAN SYNOD!**

Have your voice heard and listen to how the Holy Spirit is guiding us here in the Diocese of Parramatta.

You're invited to the **Blue Mountains Deanery Listening Consultation on Saturday 20 May from 7:30pm to 9:30pm**, at Springwood. Since Bishop Vincent's installation as pastor of our Diocese he has wanted to build on the previous pastoral plan and "chart a new pathway for the Diocese."

We are very pleased that Bishop Vincent will be attending the Blue Mountains Consultation on 20th May.

Please RSVP by 16th May by registering on this link https://parracatholic.org/synod_getinvolved/

Click on "Attend your Deanery Consultation" . For more information about the Synod visit www.parracatholic.org/synod2023

Building Safe Parishes Together in 2023: An Update from Safeguarding (People & Culture)

Safe Parishes Week 2023 – Safeguarding Renewal Mandatory Training Opportunities!

Did you complete your 6 points of mandatory training in 2021? Are you due for renewal training?

Would you like to complete the renewal training Face to Face? Our Renewal Training Package (Cycle 2 – 4 points) consists of:

Module 4: Understanding Safeguarding, the Child Safe Standards & Working with Adults at Risk
Module 5: Legal Compliance: Risk Of Significant Harm & Reportable Conduct

Please register for the renewal modules on the day of your choice at: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.edu.au These renewal mandatory modules will also be available online by August 2023.

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email Maria Kervin, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org .

**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 or scan this QR code. Thank you for being a Good Samaritan to our First Nations people. There will be giving envelopes on the pews next week.



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.

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. Rising money for cancer research.



**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

COMMUNITY REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Information session facilitated by Catholic Care
Sunday 21 May 2023 commencing at 2:00pm
Mamre House and Farm
181 Mamre Rd Orchard Hills
OR via ZOOM –
Please register at:
rita.hakkoum@catholiccarewsbm.org.au
Or telephone Rita – 0477952024

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

ENTRANCE Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

FIRST READING (Acts 8:5-8. 14-17)

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet the Spirit had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSE Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

SECOND READING (1 Peter 3:15-18)

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (John 14:15-21)

Jesus said to his disciples:
'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love them and show myself to them.'

COMMUNION

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.




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, 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 Morphet, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heinger, Julie Wulss, Edwin Wulff, Maud Hunt.

<p>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.</p>	<p>SAINTS THIS WEEK Thu 18 Thursday before Ascension Sunday Saint John I, Pope, Martyr Sat 20 Saint Bernadine of Siena, Priest NEXT SUNDAY 21 THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD Solemnity</p>	<p>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.</p>
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INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE
Saturdays 13, 20, 27
May - 3:15-4:30pm.
St Bonaventure's Church, Leura.
Offered by Fr. John.



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