



# 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://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)  
Parish YouTube: [youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic](https://www.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)."

## Ascension Sunday

YEAR A - 21 May 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Readings for our Feast today tell us two things concerning The  
Ascension:

1. They give us an image that describes in a spatial way the experience of  
Jesus Christ leaving this earthly existence and coming to a new and  
eternal existence beyond this finite world;
2. The Scriptures also tell us that this change of existence is essential -  
that Christ's bodily existence would be a hindrance to his presence with  
us to the end of time; hence his new spiritual existence.

And the point of all this is that Christ is now present to us in new and  
unique ways: although vanished from human sight, He is present now in  
a way so efficacious that everything is now filled with His Presence!

And for us, Christ being with us forever demands a response from us: we  
must now do what He did while on Earth. Indeed, we can do nothing else  
but tell the world in our words and our actions how much the Father  
loves his creation, his children!

And if we remain in close contact with our Risen and Ascended Lord,  
then one day - after a life well-lived in obedience to the Gospel - we, too,  
will rejoice forever... for where He is, we also will be!

1. Next Saturday (27/5) will be the third and final session of the  
Introduction to the Bible lectures. In June-July I hope to introduce you to  
the Gospel of Matthew.

2. Even if you missed attending the Deanery Pastoral Council session on  
20/5 concerning our Diocesan Synod, there is still an opportunity for  
anyone to fill in the questionnaire online. See the notice in our bulletin  
for details.

3. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal this  
weekend; all monies will support our Diocese's First Nations ministry.

God Bless you all! Fr John

Mass at Katoomba will revert to 10.am from the First Sunday of JUNE.  
Also, Blackheath will revert to 9.30am on the same weekend



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



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

### SUNDAY 21 May

MONDAY 22 May  
Mass 9:30am Katoomba

TUESDAY 23 May  
Mass 5.15 Leura

WEDNESDAY 24 May  
Mass 9.30 am Wentworth Falls

THURSDAY 25 May  
Mass 5:15pm Leura

FRIDAY 26 May  
Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 27 May  
Mass 9:00am Katoomba

SUNDAY 28 May  
Pentecost

### 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>

### 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/UCHtj55rsvGDQqCDN7mldNQ>.



**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.

### Building Safe Parishes Together in 2023: An Update from the Office for Safeguarding

Safe Parishes Week – Safeguarding Mandatory Training is Due Now!

Are you new to Parish Ministry this year and have not completed your Safeguarding Training?

Are you an existing volunteer and have not yet completed  
your 6 points of mandatory Safeguarding Training?

Under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and the NSW Child Safe Standards all volunteers in parish ministry are Mandatory  
Reporters and are required to have completed their Safeguarding Training. The Office of the Children's Guardian expects all  
volunteers in parish ministry have now met this Standard.

In the Diocese of Parramatta we have a zero tolerance of abuse. We therefore commit to keeping children safe as well as all  
adults at risk.

You are now required to register for the Mandatory 6 points of Safeguarding Training to complete Cycle 1: Register for the  
Mandatory Training during Safe Parishes Week on:

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am - 2.30pm

at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Marion Street Blacktown

Please register for this mandatory training at: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)

If you would like to complete your 6 points online, 'sign up' NOW at: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au>

Any questions about this, email Maria Kervin, at: [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org) . .

**BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL THIS 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. There will be giving envelopes on the pews next week.



**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:**

For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office 02 4780 6800

**21 DAYS BACK TO GOD.**

Journalist Bob Cameron has written a deeply personal account of his return to the Church. Titled *21 Days Back to God – After 40 Years of Running Away*, his book is an inspiring step-by-step spiritual guide for others considering the pilgrimage of return. It is \$18.95 per copy at [coventrypress.com.au/index.php?route=common/home](http://coventrypress.com.au/index.php?route=common/home) Or ordered from Catholic bookstores such as: [orders@paulinebooks.com.au](mailto:orders@paulinebooks.com.au) and [sanctuscatholicgifts@gmail.com](mailto:sanctuscatholicgifts@gmail.com)



**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD YEAR A**

**ENTRANCE** Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

**FIRST READING (Acts 1:1-11)**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**RESPONSE** God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

**SECOND READING (Ephesians 1:17-23)**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Go and teach all people my gospel.  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL (Matthew 28:16-20)**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**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 Morphett, 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><b>OUR THREE PARISH CHURCHES</b> <b>ST CANICE'S KATOOMBA:</b> Katoomba St. <b>ST. BONAVENTURE'S LEURA:</b> Railway Pde &amp; Hartley Esp. <b>ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S WENTWORTH FALLS:</b> Day St.</p>	<p><b>SAINTS THIS WEEK</b> Mon 22 Saint Rita of Cascia Wed 24 OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS Thu 25 Saint Gregory VII, Pope Saint Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi, Virgin Saint Bede, Priest, Doctor Fri 26 Saint Philip Neri, Priest Sat 27 Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop NEXT SUNDAY: PENTECOST</p>	<p><b>ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS</b> 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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**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

**COMMUNION**

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.