



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/](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

[bluemountainscatholic](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

Parish YouTube: [youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic)

[@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

USUAL SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Leura 5pm (Saturday)

Mt Victoria 5pm (Saturday)

Wentworth Falls 8am

Blackheath 9:30am

Katoomba 10am

Leura 5pm

USUAL WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

MON: 9am Katoomba

TUE: 9am Leura

WED: 9am Blackheath

THU: 9am Wentworth Falls

FRI: 12pm Katoomba

FRI: 4pm Megalong (3rd Fri of the month)

SAT: 9am Katoomba

USUAL CONFESSION TIMES

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

9.30am 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)."

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A - 16 July 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The great Parable of the Sower and the Seeds in our Gospel Reading from Matthew for today encourages us to keep on striving to sow the message of Christ in soul that will bear fruit in abundance. And the fruitfulness of that soil will vary at different stages of our life: one hundred fold, sixty, thirty...

But, overall, despite thorns, birds, and rocky paths... we must keep going forward, never giving up, never despairing.

In prayer and times of reflection, let's open our hearts and minds to God, so that the Word may take root in us and help us grow in Faith and Love all our days!

And we have the words of St Paul in our Second Reading to encourage us in this endeavour: "I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet I revealed, which is waiting for us."

And indeed, the words from Isaiah in our First Reading are a call to conversion which underlines the effectiveness of the Word of God which brings about in the end what it was sent to do:

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

I hope you all have a good week, and that the good Lord blesses you and your families and friends with abundant Joy.

Fr John



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

14th Sunday Ordinary Time 9 July

Mass 8am Wentworth Falls
Mass 9.30am Blackheath
Mass 10.00am Katoomba
Mass 5pm Leura

MONDAY 10 July

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 11 July

Mass 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 12 July

Mass 9.00 am Blackheath

THURSDAY 13 July

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 14 July

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 15 July

Mass 9:00am Katoomba
Mass Vigil 5pm Leura
Mass Vigil 5pm Mt Victoria

14th Sunday Ordinary Time 16 July

Mass 8am Wentworth Falls
Mass 9.30am Blackheath
Mass 10.00am Katoomba
Mass 5pm 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-



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 10.00am 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.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

For funerals, weddings and other music organ/singing music ministry requirements. Stasia Very wishes to make it known that she is available to arrange music playing as approved by Fr John PP for personal discussion (as to content and best choice of music (solo, duet or other or additional instrument).)

Stasia Very plays for 10.00 am Mass at St Canice every 4th Sunday and has been a long standing member of this parish in previous years as one Parish musician.

Stasia Very – Ph 0425 286649.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Thank you!

Thank you to parishioners in all three churches for your response to our Winter 2023 Appeal. Through your generosity we raised sufficient funds to meet the demand in calls for assistance.

A special thank you also to those most generous of you who make regular donations to the 'Poor Box' or who are leaving ongoing donations of food in our Donation Bins at the Church entrances. These donations help us manage between Appeals.

Poor Boxes and our bins are at the church doors should you wish to donate between our Appeals.

Our continued prayers for you and your families.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Your next packet of Planned Giving envelopes for the coming financial year (commencing at the start of July) is now available to be collected at the church entrance. Each person's name is on the top of the packet of envelopes. Please note that your envelope number might have changed. Do not use the old envelopes. If you consider switching from Envelopes to Direct/credit card Debit we would be grateful. We thank each and everyone for your contributions.

BECOME A CATECHIST! - CATECHIST TRAINING COMMENCING IN AUGUST

AT ST FINBARS, GLENBROOK

Sharing the gospel with students in our public schools is an important ministry at our parish. It may sound daunting but it is very rewarding spending time with young people sharing our faith. You'll be joining a supportive team and curriculum materials and ongoing training are provided. We'd love to see you there. To enquire/enrol speak to your Parish Catechist Coordinator Jody Noppert or email ccd.training@parracatholic.org with your details.

DIOCESAN SYNOD SUBMISSIONS



Diocesan Synods primarily focus on matters related to pastoral care, evangelisation, and the specific needs of the local diocese. They may discuss and provide recommendations on pastoral strategies, local policies, and initiatives to address specific challenges within the diocese. However, any decisions made by a Diocesan Synod must be in harmony with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Bishop Vincent has invited us all to be a part of the process for our local Synod:- "The Time is now, here in the Diocese of Parramatta, for us all to go into the deep (Luke 5:4) and step into the future that awaits us..."

Please submit a response as an individual adult or young person, as a family or a group to: www.parracatholic.org/synod2023 The final submission date is 31st July



ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS:

For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office 02 4780 6800

<SCAM ALERT

The scam involving purported text messages from Fr John McSweeney is back. If you receive an out of the ordinary message saying it is from Fr John, be very careful. It may say that he is in a meeting and ask you to respond to him. Any message like this - delete immediately. Do not respond.

Based on a recent experience from two Blackheath parishioners, it is possible that the scammers have also expanded into texting using the names of other people you may know in the Parish. Adopt the same approach if you receive such a text - delete it.>

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: FRANCIS BEDE MURPHY, BERNARD & HAZEL GLASHEEN, 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: Aniline Crisostomo, Abbey De Guzman, 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 Heininger, Julie Wulss, Edwin Wulff, Maud Hunt.

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 20 St Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr
Fri 21 St Laurence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor
Sat 22 ST MARY MAGDALEN Feast

NEXT SUNDAY: 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS

SAT and SUN: 4:10pm, Leura.
MON 8.30am before Mass, Katoomba.
TUE: 8.30am before mass, Leura.
WED: 8.30am before Mass, Blackheath
THU: 8.30am before Mass, Wentworth Falls
FRI: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.
FRI: 5.00pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.
SAT: 8:30am before Mass and after, Katoomba.

SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Lovely, fully furnished house in quiet street in Mt Victoria to share with one other person. Mature woman preferred.

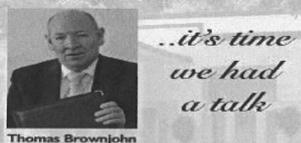
Rent \$275pw and shared cost of all utilities.

Contact 0458 001 537 for more information.



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73A Lurline St. Katoomba 2780
Also Springwood and Lithgow

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSE The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING (Romans 8:18-23)

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his children. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the Sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 13:1-23)

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched

and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and they will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But blessed are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy ones longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in their heart: this is the one who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the person who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But they have no root in them, they do not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and they fall away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so they produce nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it; they are the one who yield a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

COMMUNION

The sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.