



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://facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

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

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

[@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 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)."

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A - 23 July 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The three parables about the Kingdom of God from Matthew's Gospel in today's Liturgy speak to us a message that encourages us to reflect on our attitudes towards others as well as our own needs to be open to God's action in our lives.

1. It is only at the end of one's life that good and evil can be separated and judged, just as the wheat and darnel are separated at harvest time; in the meantime, we remain open to the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the lives of those around us. God can always convert even the most hardened of sinners!

2. We are asked to trust that God will always triumph in the end! Like with the smallest of seeds becoming the biggest of shrubs, so unpromising beginnings - through the Spirit's intervention - can lead to triumphant conclusions.

3. As the leaven helps the whole loaf grow, so God can use what can be seen as evil for good; sinfulness is never a blockage or barrier to God's Plan for humanity. Indeed, we are all sinners, yet God is leading each and every one of us to be fruitful messengers of the Gospel!

And so, my friends, let's read the whole of Chapter 13 of Matthew's text in this coming week... last week we heard the parable of the Sower; and next week we will conclude this chapter on the Parables of the Kingdom.

Let's allow the Word of God to penetrate our hearts and minds, enabling us to reflect on ways that we can try to live up to the message that Jesus has for each of us in our own time.

May the Lord continue to 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

16th Sunday Ordinary Time 23 July

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

MONDAY 24 July

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 25 July

Mass 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 26 July

Mass 9.00 am Blackheath

THURSDAY 27 July

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY 28 July

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 29 July

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

17th Sunday Ordinary Time 30 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.

Listening with Aunty Carol Cooper OAM

We are invited, by the Leura Uniting Church, to join in the “Listening with Aunty Carol Cooper” gathering this Sunday afternoon, July 23, at 3pm at the Leura Uniting Church, corner of Grose and Megalong St, Leura.

It is an opportunity for us to listen to Indigenous voices in our community, to make connection and share. A simple meal (soup and bread) will follow the Listening time. You are invited to bring a donation towards Aunty Carol's work in the community. To assist with seating and catering please message your name/s to Julie O'Keeffe 0413 119 649 by Friday if you wish to attend.

World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal

The young pilgrims in the Diocese of Parramatta thank you for your prayerful support of their pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal. You can follow their journey. Sign up to receive updates on the pilgrimage from the Diocese of Parramatta at catholicoutlook.info/WYD23New



MOVIE SCREENING AT THE EDGE

Local Catholics are hoping to get the film NE-FARIOUS screened at the Edge cinema in Katoomba. At last count 20 more tickets need to be sold by 27 July before the screening can proceed.

From the producers of God's Not Dead and Unplanned, Nefarious is a gripping movie centred around two characters, a criminal who thinks he's possessed, played by Sean Patrick Flanery and a sceptical psychiatrist played by Jordan Belfi.

It has a 96% audience approval rating on rotten tomatoes and parallels with C S Lewis' Screwtape Letters. The film is rated MA.

The actual screening is Wednesday night 6pm 2 August. You can book a ticket via the link below. <https://fan-force.com/screenings/nefarious-katoomba-edge-cinema/>

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

Mass at St Joseph's in the Megalong Valley this Friday July 21 at 4pm

Mass is on this Friday afternoon at 4pm at St Joseph's historic church in the glorious Megalong Valley. Come along to share the Eucharist, enjoy a cuppa and conversation following the Mass and take in the stunning sunset on the way back up through the valley.

Although the road condition has improved, allow yourself extra time for the drive from the railway crossing at Blackheath as there are some stop and go signs still in place. When parking at the church please ensure the gate into the property of Euroka is kept clear- thank you!

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, Emili-ana 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

Mon 24 Saint Charbel Makhlof, Priest

Tue 25 SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE Feast

Wed 26 Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sat 29 Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

NEXT SUNDAY: 17th 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.

Children's liturgy

Returns for Term 2!

When: Returning Sunday 23rd, during 10:30am Sunday mass, exit after the opening pray, return by offertory procession.

Are parents welcome? Very much.

Organiser: Jeremy Brown

We need you! Under NSW law, Children's liturgy must have two volunteers. Even one Sunday a term will help. If interested, please call Jeremy on 0428 174 999



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

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with my willing heart, and praise your name, Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING (Wisdom 12:13, 16-19)

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous person must be kindly to one's fellow human beings, and you have given your children the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

RESPONSE Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING (Romans 8:26-27)

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 13:24-43)

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where

does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

COMMUNION

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.