



# 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 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)."

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

It's a matter of conscience!

You may well ask: what is a matter of conscience?

Our life of faith: that is our day to day lives, minute by minute are all a matter of conscience. It's where our true identity is determined, whether we are Christian, members of the body of Christ or not.

Our conscience is where God speaks to us. Our conscience is the voice of God in the depths of our being. It is where God is closer to us than we are to ourselves and where we encounter our true selves.

That's why the Church teaches that we must always act in accordance with our conscience. We are to be self-governing Christians.

But our conscience needs to be formed.

We need to know what the teachings of the Church are and the reasons behind the teachings. We need to have a healthy spirituality so we can listen for the word of God. The Word of God which reveals to us wisdom beyond the grasp of human intellect. This is what the second reading is saying.

Then we can enjoy the freedom of the children of God.

The Church does not want us to put our consciences aside and follow rules. If the Church was to override conscience it would be putting our relationship with God into a secondary position. Our relationship with God is primary and the establishment of that relationship is the mission of the Church. The rules are there as guides and they should never be rejected, neglected or overlooked, but they will not be truly effective in the complexities of life without a discerning conscience to interpret and apply them.

Then like Peter, who came to understand something the other disciples didn't, because it was revealed to him in the depths of his being, we will be able to become living members of Christ's body, and what we decide on earth will be valid in heaven because it will be divine wisdom applied to daily life. Practical solutions to complex real-life situations derived from a connection and knowledge of God.

Deacon Alan.



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

## 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A - 27 August 2023



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

### 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 27 August

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

### MONDAY 28 August

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 29 August

Mass 9.00am Leura

### WEDNESDAY 30 August

Mass 9.00 am Blackheath

### THURSDAY 31 August

Mass 9.00am W/Falls

### FRIDAY 1 September

Mass 12pm Katoomba

### SATURDAY 2 September

Mass 9:00am Katoomba  
Mass Vigil 5pm Leura  
Mass Vigil 6pm Mt Victoria

### 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 3 September

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>



**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.

## Building Safe Parishes Together in 2023:

### An Update from the Office for Safeguarding

Face – To – Face Training at the parish of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop's Katoomba.

The date for the 2023 face-to-face session:

Saturday 28th October 2023.

Start from 10.00am – 3.00pm Finish.

Please contact the Parish Office to register for the Face-to-Face Training.

Volunteers across the Diocese are asked to participate in this training to ensure our parishes are inclusive and safe for children and adults at risk. We are very grateful for the commitment already demonstrated within the Parish by those who have already completed their 6 points of Safe-guarding training online. If you completed this in 2021 you are now ready to renew this training.

or you can complete the training independently on our online training platform if you wish. You can start these modules at any time and complete them at your own pace. You can sign up on the platform by clicking on this [link: https://learning.safeguarding.org.au](https://learning.safeguarding.org.au)

If you do have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email me directly at [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org) .

**YOU ARE PETER (Petros) AND ON THIS ROCK (petra)  
I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH (ekkesia).**

In Koine Greek (the dialect of Greek used by the authors of the New Testament), petros and petra are masculine and feminine forms of the word rock. St. Matthew in today's text uses the less common masculine form for Simon Peter's new name as he is of course a man. To illustrate the he is the true rock on which Christ will build His Church he then uses the more common feminine form. Petros (Rock) is where we get the English name Peter.

In Aramaic, the common language spoken at the time, there were no masculine-feminine forms like Greek and so Jesus would have simply said Kepha... kepha. This is confirmed in John 1:42 where we read "you shall be called Cephas". Cephas is the Greek transliteration of Kepha and used by St. Paul in his Epistles.



**NO MASS CHANGES:**

There will be no changes to mass while Fr John is away.  
The mass will be as follows:  
Wednesdays: 9.00 am Blackheath  
Thursdays : 9.00 am W/Falls  
God bless:  
Fr Peter Lamont

**BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND 3RD SEPT: CARING FOR THOSE WHO HAVE CARED FOR US**

Envelopes are available on the pews.



Our priests never stop giving their lives in service to our community. They dedicate themselves to carrying out God's ministry for as long as they are able. This Father's Day, let us show our thanks and appreciation for our priests' lifelong gifts of faithful service. Your compassionate donation will help our Clergy Support Foundation to care for our priests, and provide them with personalised health and wellbeing support. Please give generously to the Bishop's Father's Day Appeal at [parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal](http://parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal) or scan this QR code. Thank you.

**NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR PAPAL, CIVIL AND DIOCESAN AWARDS**

Until Thursday 7 September 2023, you can nominate an outstanding individual who has contributed to the Catholic Church and society for a Papal Honours Award, Civil Award or Diocesan Award. Please visit [parracatholic.org/awards](http://parracatholic.org/awards). The Awards Ceremony will be held in November. More details to come.

**THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOSEPH :**

They have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry. I am happy to answer any questions and provide an itinerary and application form, and may be contacted at [national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au](mailto:national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au) or on 89124818.

**MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** FRANCIS BEDE 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:** Sarah Kiely, 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 Hagar, 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 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 28 Saint Augustine, Bishop, Doctor  
Tue 29 Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

**September**

Fri 1 Friday of week 21 in Ordinary Time  
Sat 2 BVM

NEXT SUNDAY: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS**

SAT and SUN: 4:20pm, 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:** During 10:00am Sunday mass, exit after the opening pray, return by offertory procession.

Are parents welcome? Very much.

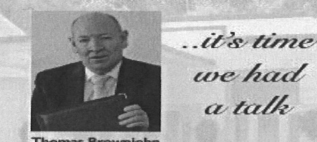
**Organiser:** Jeremy Brown

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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[info@abaxkf.com.au](mailto:info@abaxkf.com.au)  
[www.abaxkf.com.au](http://www.abaxkf.com.au)



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



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

**ST CANICE'S OPEN DAY 4 AUGUST**

For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office 02 4780 6800

St Canice's school community has a long record of supporting people in need in Katoomba, through our Mini Vinnies activities. The children are bringing in lots of much needed items of food. They are also helping to raise funds for St Vincent De Paul's winter appeal. They have had a PJ day to help them better understand what it would be like not to have a warm home and clothes in winter, and are also having a winter games night in the hall on Friday.

**MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Mandatory Modules 1-3:  
St Canice's Church, Katoomba  
Saturday 28 October, 10am-3pm.  
Please contact the parish office to enroll 02 4782 2804.

**21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**ENTRANCE** Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**FIRST READING (Isaiah 22:19-23)**

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.  
I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

**RESPONSE** Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

**SECOND READING (Romans 11:33-36)**

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL (Matthew 16:13-20)**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

**COMMUNION**

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise them up on the last day.

