



# 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: [youtube.com/@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)."

## 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A - 30 July 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

With today's Gospel passage from Matthew we come to the end of Jesus' Discourse in which he describes the Kingdom of Heaven by means of various parables. From this point onwards in this first of the Synoptic Gospels Jesus moves towards Jerusalem - and towards his Passion and Death...

And having offered two parables that speak of the possession of the Kingdom as being of more value than everything else in life (The Treasure Hidden in the Field and The Pearl of Great Value) as well as the Parable of the Dragnet (which speaks of the reality that the Kingdom (on Earth the Church) is a mixed bag of good and bad (fish), Jesus concludes his Discourse with the question: Have you understood all this?

The Disciples answer in the affirmative; and we are encouraged to do the same. Christian Life (gifted to us at Baptism) is something overwhelming and passionate.

Or, it should be!

Anyone who wants to follow Christ must 'sell everything' and avoid all compromise in living out the demands of the Gospel.

Although we may think this is too hard, we need to realise that it is not all up to us: the Lord is present with us, supporting us always; and gifting us with Joy.

This Christian Joy comes from discovering our purpose in life; it is the joy of feeling caught up in the adventure of holiness; it is a joy that only Christ can give; and it is something that never ends!

And so, my friends, as this week unfolds, let us recommit our lives to the Gospel, putting aside anything that prevents us from attaining that true Treasure which is the Kingdom of Life and Light, of Joy and Peace, the pearl of immense and indescribable value: Jesus Christ our Lord!

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I will be on Annual Leave for two weeks from Monday 31/7, returning for the week commencing 14/8.

After my celebration of 40 years of Priesthood at the 10am Mass on 20th August, I will be on Long Service Leave until 1/12.

During my absence on LSL, Fr Peter will be appointed Administrator of the two Upper Mountains Parishes.

And Fr Bob Anderson will be appointed as the Sunday Supply priest for the duration of my LSL.

God 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

### 17th Sunday Ordinary Time 30 July

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

### MONDAY 31 July

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 1 August

Mass 9.00am Leura

### WEDNESDAY 2 August

Mass 9.00 am Blackheath

### THURSDAY 3 August

Mass 9.00am Wentworth Falls

### FRIDAY 4 August

Mass 12pm Katoomba

### SATURDAY 5 August

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

### The Transfiguration of the Lord 6 August

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/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.

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

One of the major works of *Aid to the Church in Need* is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/transport](http://www.aidtochurch.org/transport) or scan the QR code to make an offering and learn more.



**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](mailto:ccd.training@parracatholic.org) with your details.

**World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal**

170 young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains have officially taken off to World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal for an experience of a lifetime. Our pilgrimage will travel through some of the most beautiful and sacred parts of Europe and you are invited to follow along from home. We will be posting videos, photos and articles throughout the trip, so you can see and hear what our pilgrims are experiencing. Sign up today by visiting [catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News](http://catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News)

**GET #ACTIVE4VOCATIONS IN THE CITY2SURF: 13 AUGUST**

Join the Parramatta Catholic Foundation #Active4Vocations team. Walk, stroll, jog, or run with our Holy Spirit seminarians, deacons, priests, and community. Scan this QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations](http://tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations) to register or donate. Funds raised support our Diocese's seminarians to become priests. Thank you for getting #Active4Vocations.



**FR JOHN'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

On the 20th August we will celebrate Fr John's 40th Anniversary of his ordination after the 10 am mass at Katoomba. Please bring a plate of food to share on this celebration. Also there is a raffle of 3 beautiful paintings ,tickets will be sold after each mass and will be drawn on the 20th August



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

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

St Canice's school would like to invite you to attend the school's open day on Friday 4th August.

The day will start with a community BBQ at 9.30.

At 10.15 the children will be doing activities in the classroom, for you to see some of the great learning that happens at St Canice's.

At 11.00 there will be a liturgy to celebrate the feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office 02 4780 6800

**17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A**

**ENTRANCE** God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

**FIRST READING** (1 Kings 3:5,7-12)

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

**RESPONSE** Lord, I love your commands.

**SECOND READING** (Romans 8:28-30)

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers and sisters. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

**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 13:44-52)

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from their storeroom things both new and old.'

**COMMUNION**  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and never forget all his benefits.

**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 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 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.

**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 31 Saint Ignatius Loyola, Priest  
Tue 1 Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Doctor  
Wed 2 Saint Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop  
Saint Peter Julian Eymard  
Thu 3 Saint Dominic, Priest  
Fri 4 Saint John Mary Vianney, Priest  
Sat 5 Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary  
Major **NEXT SUNDAY: THE TRANSFIGURATION**


**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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[www.abaxkf.com.au](http://www.abaxkf.com.au)



**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