



# 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)."

## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A - 24 September 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

In the first reading from Isaiah we are told that God does not think the way we do.

We are also told in this reading from Isaiah that we must seek the Lord.

In the Gospel we are confronted by the parable of the workers sent to the Vineyard at different times of the day, but all workers get the same payment regardless of hours worked!

Seems rather unfair until we shift our focus from worldly concerns and see what Christ is talking about.

The Vineyard is the Kingdom of God in which lives the Vine. The Vine is Christ.

The role of the workers in the Vineyard is ultimately to ensure the Vine has the proper conditions to thrive.

We are the workers who are called to work in the Kingdom of Heaven which is being established in this world.

We are meant to create the environment in which the Vine can thrive.

And our reward is to become one with the Vine.

That's why whether we start right at the beginning of our lives or towards the end of our lives the reward is the same.

The reward is to be a branch of the Vine, united with the Vine, drawing life from the Vine. Allowing the sap of the Holy Spirit to infuse and enliven us.

This is the generosity of God. He rewards us with Himself. The Trinity actually draws us into Christ so that we can draw life and share in the communion that exists between the Trinity through Christ.

Therefore, there can be no extra payment, or any part payment. It's a case of being one with the Vine or not. United with the Trinity or not.

So, we need to stop standing around the marketplace, seeing our work and efforts only aimed at material gain. We need to see that we are called to work for the Kingdom of God, serving everyone around us, through whatever talents and gifts we have, and creating an environment where others can see something different in us so that they too can become one with the Vine.

Deacon Alan.



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



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

### 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 24 September

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

### MONDAY 25 September

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

### TUESDAY 26 September

Mass 9.00am Leura

### WEDNESDAY 27 September

Mass 9.00 am Blackheath

### THURSDAY 28 September

Mass 9.00am W/Falls

### FRIDAY 29 September

Mass 12pm Katoomba

### SATURDAY 30 September

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

### 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 October

Mass 8am Wentworth Falls  
Mass 9.30am Blackheath  
Mass 10.00am Katoomba  
Mass 5pm Leura Liturgy of the Word

### Megalong Valley Mass

There will be no mass celebrated at  
Megalong Valley during the Months of  
October and November. Mass will  
resume in December 16.

### 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>



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.

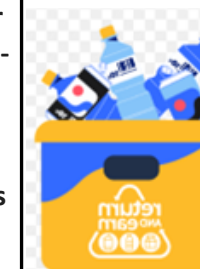
## SAFEGUARDING FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING OPPORTUNI- TIES AT ST CANICE'S CHURCH KATOOMBA

The Diocesan Safeguarding team are organising sessions for  
parish clergy, staff and volunteers to complete their Mandato-  
ry Safeguarding Modules. Renewal Modules will soon be  
available on our online training platform.

Mandatory Modules 1-3: Saturday 28 October at St Canice's  
Church, Katoomba from 10am-3pm.

Please register for these face-to-face renewal modules at:  
[safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org). For further infor-  
mation please contact Maria Kervin at: [maria.kervin@parracatholic.org](mailto:maria.kervin@parracatholic.org)

## We have an exciting New fundraising initiative with Return and Earn!



For every eligible container returned  
you can select "Donate" and choose  
The Blue Mountains Catholic Parish  
and we will receive 100% of the re-  
fund. This means together we will be  
raising money for our historic church's  
in need of maintenance and upkeep.  
Multiple projects are planned to  
enhance the properties and support the  
objective of reducing the environmental footprint of the  
parish. Please help support the parish with your  
donation.

Thank you

## ART & FASHION SALE 2023

When: October long weekend Saturday 30th Sept & Sunday 1st October

Time: Saturday 11am – 4pm

Sunday 9 am – 3 pm

Where: Sacred Heart Parish Hall 165 Wentworth St, Blackheath

Cost of entry: Saturday & Sunday \$5 per person  
(which includes a glass of Champagne or Juice & nibbles)

**NO MORE CLOTHING NEEDED BUT IF YOU HAVE ANY ARTWORK THAT YOU COULD DONATE TO THIS FUNDRAISER IT WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. PLEASE LEAVE IN MEETING ROOM OR RING MARILYN ON 0414536601**

### CATHOLIC CARE CIRCLE OF SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM: STARTS 11 OCTOBER

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains is running an online parenting series via Zoom for parents or caregivers of children from birth to 18 to make sense of what your child is really asking from you, and how to strengthen the parent-child relationship. The sessions will run each Wednesday from 10am to 12.30pm from 11 October to 29 November. The cost is \$105, with discount or free training offers available to eligible families. To register and for enquiries, please call (02) 8843 2500 or email enquiries@catholiccarewbsm.org.au .

### GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Together is an ecumenical prayer vigil being held in Rome on 30 September to pray for the Synod on Synodality. Preparations for the prayer vigil are being led by the Taize community. Prayers will be held around the world and in Australia on the weekend of 29 September to October 1.

The Blue Mountains Taize community has offered to host this special vigil for our Catholic parishes in the mountains.

A specific prayer service has been organized for this vigil and will be used by all Taize communities around the world.

The vigil includes song, prayer, silence and readings and will be held on Sunday October 1 at 5pm at the Leura Uniting Church,

corner of Grose and Megalong Streets, Leura. A cuppa will be available after the vigil.

If you wish to participate in this gathering please text your name and numbers attending to Julie from Sacred Heart Blackheath on 0413 119 649.

**MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES:** NOLA MARGARET HALLIDAY, BERYL VERONICA PEPPER, SALVATORE FIORE, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** ANDRZEJ KRAWCZYK.

**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 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

Tue 26 Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Wed 27 Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

Thu 28 Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr

Sts Laurence Ruiz and his Companions, Martyrs

Fri 29 SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPH-

AEL, ARCHANGELS Feast

Sat 30 Saint Jerome, Priest, Doctor

NEXT SUNDAY: 26th 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

Children's Liturgy will have a break over the Catholic school holidays. Our last day of the program will be Sunday the 17th of September, with the next program on Sunday the 15th of October. We look forward to seeing you there!

We are still needing volunteers from the parish to support us, please contact Jeremy on 0428 174 999 or jbrown\_nat@bigpond.com to express your interest. Thank you and God Bless - Jeremy Brown, coordinator for Children's Liturgy.



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www.abaxkf.com.au

**TR BROWNJOHN**  
MEMORIAL HOME

Thomas Brownjohn  
Proprietor

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



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

For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office 02 4780 6800

### Caritas Australia's Emergency Appeals – Morocco / Libya

Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died, and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water, and medical assistance. Please support Caritas Australia's emergency appeals. Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) Together

## 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

**ENTRANCE** I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.  
Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them and I will be their Lord for ever.

### FIRST READING (Isaiah 55:6-9)

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.  
Let the wicked person abandon their way, the evil one their thoughts.  
Let them turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

**RESPONSE** The Lord is near to all who call him.

### SECOND READING (Philippians 1:20-24, 27)

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL (Matthew 20:1-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The ones who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

### COMMUNION

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.