



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)."

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A - 22 October 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

This Sunday in the first reading we hear God addressing Cyrus, King of Persia and saying that He has given him power so that he can do what God wants done even though Cyrus does not know of God or His plans. God intends all people to know that aside from Him there is nothing. Nothing happens without God willing it or allowing it.

In the second reading we hear of the effect of the Good News on the Thessalonians. The utter conviction made manifest through works of faith and love.

In the Gospel we hear how the Pharisees tried to trap Christ. They had figured out that the parables of the Landowners sons, the wicked tenants and the invited guests who couldn't be bothered coming to the wedding banquet were about them.

Christ's replies to their trick question is quite deep. 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.' What is God's?

Everything.

This message is not only for the Pharisees, its just as much for us.

Everything we are and have has been given to us. Nothing is ours. It has been given to us so that we can bring about the Kingdom of justice, mercy, and love. The Kingdom of God. Just like Cyrus we have been given the opportunity to bring about God's plan.

All the good we have experienced and very much so all the bad are all tools in our hands to go about our work because it is the emotions associated with our memories and experiences that allow us to feel the pain and the hurt, humiliation, hopelessness and rejection of the other. This is the coinage to pay our taxes to God.

When we internalise the pain of the other through our own experience then we unite ourselves with them and can offer a prayer to God the Father through the Holy Spirit, the words of which are the pain and sorrow we feel for the other.

This is us being Eucharistic people, where we allow the hurt of others to gnaw at us so that we can become the conduit through which the help, the grace of God, can come into their lives.

So, in this time of so much bloodshed let's not think about sides and who's right and who's wrong but let us feel the anguish, emotional torment and hopeless of parents who have lost a child, of parents who have no food or water for their children, of children left crippled and orphaned. Those so beleaguered by destructive powers, that are beyond them, that they cry out: My God My God why have you abandoned me. Let us connect with those images and let's pray the Rosary (October is the month of the Rosary) holding that pain in our hearts that the grief of our souls becomes the groaning of the Spirit in a wordless pray to the Father of us all.

Deacon Alan.



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 22 October

Mass 8am Wentworth Falls

Mass 9.30am Blackheath

Mass 10.00am Katoomba

Mass 5pm Leura

MONDAY 23 October

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 24 October

Mass 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 25 October

Mass 9.00 am Blackheath

THURSDAY 26 October

Mass 9.00am W/Falls

FRIDAY 27 October

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 28 October

Mass 9:00am Katoomba

Mass Vigil 5pm Leura

Mass Vigil 6pm Mt Victoria

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 29 October

Mass 8am Wentworth Falls

Mass 9.30am Blackheath

Mass 10.00am Katoomba

Mass 5pm Leura Liturgy of the Word

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.

FUND RAISER FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

JUDY SMALL AM - in concert with The Heathens

THIS SUNDAY- 22 October, 2:00pm to 4:00pm - Blackheath Community Hall

Judy, a retired Federal Circuit Court Judge, enjoys singing about real people and important issues, stating: 'If an audience comes away thinking about issues, it is a worthwhile performance'.

Tickets - \$35 (\$15 children): (humanitix.com/judy-small-and-the-heathens)



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 refund. 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.

CATHOLIC MISSION APPEAL THIS WEEKEND 21 & 22 OCT 2023 Every year on World Mission Sunday weekend we hold our Catholic Mission Appeal. Envelopes will be available on the pews to contribute towards the leaving collection for this appeal. With Timor-Leste's fragile infrastructure, reliance on local health practices, and limited access to medical care, many health conditions only worsen, and sadly can result in death. Next week Catholic mission will offer you the opportunity to partner with the Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sister in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where your gift can help continue life-saving program to help address this reality. Or visit catholicmission.org.au/timor to donate. We hope you will take this next week's opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.

OPEN GARDEN THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many generous people who provided delicious foods, cash donations, items for craft store and there viable time. Especially thank you to all who attended the weekend event. It was an astounding success and \$2,275.45 was raised for our church maintenance.

GARDEN COMPETITION. Voting is open again to vote for Barbara Davidson garden. It is on the [Searles Facebook page](#). Click on the garden competition link, go to the vote section and cottage garden. Look for the pic with St Francis!

Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities at St Canice's Katoomba

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. For further information please contact Maria Kervin at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org

Parramatta Street Feast: 11 November . You are invited to the Parramatta Street Feast, Saturday 11 November 2023. Come and share a meal, company and entertainment with members of our community who are on the margins of society. This free event will be held in a spirit of solidarity and friendship at the Cloister Hall, St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, 10:30AM to 1:30PM. The Street Feast is a collaboration between the Diocese of Parramatta, PAYCE Foundation, Paynter Dixon and St. Merkorious Charity.



ST. CANICE'S SCHOOL NEWS:

For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office 02 4780 6800

CARE FOR CREATION

Yarning and listening to First Nations and Celtic Voices

Tuesday 24 October, 6:00 to 8:00pm. At Junction 142, 142 Katoomba Street Katoomba

Free event but bookings essential:

[HTTPS://EVENTS.HUMANITIX.COM/CARE-FOR-CREATION-GEDUMBA-KATOOMBA](https://events.humanitix.com/care-for-creation-gedumba-katoomba)

WORKING BEE FOR WENTWORTH FALLS CHURCH SATURDAY

28th Oct 2023

Start: Sat 8.00am

We need your helping hands and tools eg: Rakes, brooms, digging tools, Spades, Machete, Chainsaw, wheelbarrow, mob and bucket to mob inside the church. We have a Lawn mower but need help with moving.

Our generous gentleman who used to maintain the grounds and fix other stuff in the church has resigned and we thank him for all the work that he did.

Please call Matalena on 0459 656 657 for further information and to advise if you will be coming.



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: ANNA LEE, MARIANNE HARRINGTON, 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.

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, 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 Heining, 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 23 Saint John of Capistrano, Priest

Tue 24 Saint Antony Mary Claret, Bishop

Sat 28 STS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES Feast

NEXT SUNDAY: 30th 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 resumed 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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**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

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE To you I call;
for you will surely heed me, O God:
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 40:1-5)

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that people may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

RESPONSE Give the Lord glory and honour.

SECOND READING (1 Thessalonians 1:1-5)

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers and sisters, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering the word of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 22:15-12)

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because someone's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

COMMUNION

Behold the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.