



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)."

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR A - 5 November 2023

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Gospel this Sunday deals with status and image.

We all want, and in fact need to be acknowledged and respected. This is normal and it is important.

We need this from our parents, our friends and the people we work with. But we need to work at understanding that respect and recognition must be based on actions and attitudes of genuine merit and value. It is in fact when we actively strive to respect and acknowledge others that we gain the right to respect and acknowledgement.

This is because, what drives us identifies us. The Pharisees were driven by their own self interests. We must be driven by the love of God and love of neighbour, this identifies us as Christians. Wanting ourselves to do the will of God and wanting the best for our neighbour. This turns us outwards.

Remember the old expression: "walk a mile in the other man's shoes"

Let's think about how we acted or talked with another. Let's think about how we think of another. Let's then turn this on ourselves and see how we would feel being treated or talked to, or thought of in that way.

That's a part of being present. Being aware of ourselves and what drives us. What emotions, attitudes and motivations are in us and seeing how we think of others, how we relate to them, how we treat them, if we respect them.

It's like all practices. Let's try doing it once a day during or after a conversation or some other interaction and see what's going on. Eventually let's do it more often.

If there is something that doesn't sit right, that we are a bit uncomfortable with, let's look at it and try not to go down the same path next time.

And for the ability to do these things we need help. To be inwardly focussed is natural to be outwardly focussed needs divine intervention. So, let's pray and contemplate, and when we pray let's talk to Christ and tell Him we need help to see what is in us, what drives us, that we need help to be honest with ourselves and we need help to change. Don't worry He is a gentle guide, and He will take us on a journey that is as easy as possible.

This will transform us. It will transform the way we think, the way we talk, the way we work, and it will bring life to us and to everyone we deal with.

It's this outward focus that is the servanthood Christ speaks of. Servanthood is not about status, it's not about being subservient, it's about actively trying to ensure the best for others. This active drive for the good of the other is the Glory of God. It's in this that we reflect the beauty of God into the world.

What greater honour or glory can a human hope to obtain than to actually manifest in some way the beauty of God. To be adorned by the beauty of God.

Deacon Alan.



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 November

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

MONDAY 6 November

Mass 9.00am Katoomba

TUESDAY 7 November

Mass 9.00am Leura

WEDNESDAY 8 November

Mass 9.00 am Blackheath

THURSDAY 9 November

Mass 9.00am W/Falls

FRIDAY 10 November

Mass 12pm Katoomba

SATURDAY 11 November

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 12 November

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.

DONATE TO CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA APPEAL

Following a series of surprise attacks against Israel by Hamas in early October, Caritas Australia is supporting partner agencies on the ground to provide emergency cash, shelter, and psychosocial support to those affected by the violence. The efforts of these partner agencies are expected to support 17,000 displaced families, representing around 100,000 of the 1 million people displaced. To support Caritas Australia's Gaza Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/ or call 1800 024 413

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

“May those who love you prosper.

May peace be within your walls,
and security within your towers!”

For the sake of my brethren and friends

I will say, “Peace be within you!”

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,

I will seek your good. (Psalm 122:6-9)



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.



NOVEMBER MASS LIST FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

If you would like to have your deceased love ones remembered during the month of November please drop a Mass offering envelope with the deceased names on the front of the envelope, into the parish office in the coming weeks or during the month of November. Unless otherwise indicated the names will be published on the November Mass list including the name of the donor.

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!

PARRAMATTA STREET FEAST: 11 NOVEMBER—YOU ARE INVITED

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 COLUMBA’S CATHOLIC COLLEGE – ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024

St Columba’s Catholic College, Springwood, is accepting enrolments for students commencing Year 7 in 2024.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, or if you would like to find out more about the opportunities available at the College, please visit the website www.stcolumbasspringwood.catholic.edu.au or contact the Enrolments Secretary on telephone 4754 8900.



ST. CANICE’S SCHOOL NEWS:

For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office 02 4780 6800

DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Christians first met in homes. When they were no longer persecuted for their faith, they built beautiful churches. Sometime before the fourth century, a palace owned by a noble Roman family named Laterani had been built. It became the property of the Emperor Constantine who donated it to the Church alongside other buildings on the site. This became Rome’s oldest church. It was dedicated to St. John the Baptist and called St. John Lateran.

It was the center of the Catholic world for many years. Twenty-eight popes are buried there. Although our pope now lives at the Vatican and presides at St. Peter’s basilica, St. John Lateran is considered his cathedral as the bishop of Rome. The dedication of this basilica is a happy occasion for the Church because it reminds us of our beginnings, our unity. It stands as a monument to God and all that God does through the Church.

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: ANNE ALLASREE, 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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: MICK LE BRETON, JOHN MERGAN

SICK LIST: Sarah Kiely, Aniline Crisostomo, Abbey De Guzman, John Brell, Patricia Walters, Michael Josephs, Gerard Wolthers, Judy Skipper, Millie Robinson, Maureen O’Halloran, Eleanor Russell, 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, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphett, 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

Thu 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Feast
Fri 10 Saint Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor
Sat 11 Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop

NEXT SUNDAY: 32nd 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 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

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation.

FIRST READING (Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10)

I am a great king, says the Lord of Hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of Hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. But you, you have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

RESPONSE In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

SECOND READING (1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13)

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 23:1-12)

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they do: since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on people's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one master, and you are all brothers and sisters. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exulted.'

COMMUNION

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.



In November, we are especially encouraged to remember the dead in our prayers.

It is a holy thought to pray for the dead, that they be loosed from their sins. 2 Maccabees 12:46.

...may the Lord grant him [Onesiphorus] to find mercy from the Lord on that Day. 2 Timothy 1:18.

Peter, keeling down, prayed. And turning to the [dead] body... Acts 9:40.

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb [of Lazarus]... And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me..." John 11:38, 41.