



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) Liturgy of the Word

Mt Victoria 6pm (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)."

Australia Day Mass

26 January 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

It is a great pity that there has been too much emphasis put on redemption from sin as the central aspect of our faith rather than creation. It's really focussing on the negative and neglecting the positive. In fact, salvation is about freeing us from sin through changing the focus of our lives which renders sinful behaviour no longer of any interest. With this we become a new creation, for the way we exist changes, we evolve into Christ and heaven and earth are joined.

On Australia day this takes on a special significance for us, the people of this land. The land we live in is a great gift of God to us. A gift to be appreciated, enjoyed and shared. A land into which we must merge just as we must merge into Christ, bridging the created to the divine.

How do we do this?

The beatitudes. Beatitudes comes from the Latin "beatitudo" which means happiness. In living the beatitudes, we will bring about justice and integrity. Justice, not as punishment and retribution but rather as putting everything back in order. Integrity as where there is a unity of good will, and all fall under the protection of the others and share in a bond of mutual care and respect for each other.

The beatitudes are the answer to all the scars and festering wounds this country and its people bear. They are also how we can go forward without causing more heart break, sorrow and injustice. The means through which we start to live in this God given land and realise and enjoy all the blessing it has for us.

And in summary the beatitudes are simply this: living our lives for God.

If only we could feel how much He loves us we would long for nothing else but to live for Him and with Him.

So, let's make Australia great, let's live for God casting pride, prejudice and fear aside and live in the freedom of Christ.

Deacon Alan

PARISH B.POINT: We have introduced a new and easy way of contribution for 2nd collection and 1st collection. Please follow this link: when choosing 2nd collection please note name and envelop No.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/>

[MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains)



SCAN ME



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

Australia Day Mass

ENTRANCE

I will praise you, Lord, among the peoples,
among the nations sing psalms to you,
for your mercy reaches to the heavens,
and your truth to the skies.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 32:15-18)

Once more there will be poured on us
the spirit from above;
then shall the wilderness be fertile land;
and fertile land become forest.
In the wilderness justice will come to live
and integrity in the fertile land;
integrity will bring peace,
justice give lasting security.
My people will live in a peaceful home,
in safe houses,
in quiet dwellings.

RESPONSE The Lord speaks of peace to his
people.

SECOND READING (Romans 12:9-13)

Do not let your love be a pretence, but sincerely
prefer good to evil. Love each other as much as
brothers and sisters should, and have a profound
respect for each other. Work for the Lord with
untiring effort and with great earnestness of spirit. If
you have hope, this will make you cheerful. Do not
give up if trials come; and keep on praying. If any of
the saints are in need you must share with them;
and you should make hospitality your special care.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called children of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 5:1-12)

Jesus began to speak to the crowds. This is what he
taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of
right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and
persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny
against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for
your reward will be great in heaven.'

Mon 27 Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Saint Angela Merici, Virgin

Tue 28 Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor

Fri 31 Saint John Bosco, Priest

Sat 1 Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 2 The Presentation of the Lord

COMMUNION

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

Thank you from the pilgrims!

Thank you to the community of Mary Mackillop Parish
for welcoming the 2025 Epiphany Pilgrims in such a
beautiful way. In particular, a huge thank you to Barbara
and her team of volunteers for preparing such a
wonderful festive meal and to the parishioners who
joined for the celebrations. We felt so blessed by your
generous hospitality and welcome. Thank you! A
selection of photos from the 2025 pilgrimage can be
found at: <https://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org/photos-2025.html>