



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 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)."

The Presentation of the Lord

YEAR B - 2 February 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

One of the key elements in today's Gospel is the repeated line: '(as) the law of the Lord requires'. Being faithful Jews of their time, Mary and Joseph fulfilled the demands of the Mosaic Law— —and 'presented' their first-born to the Lord in His Temple in Jerusalem.

But theirs was a faith that had to go beyond the externalities of the law and remain open to the new thing that God was doing in their lives, the giving of the Son as Incarnate God/man... and everything that was to flow from this new reality.

Similarly we must always go beyond the strict "letter of the law' and remain open to the spirit of God, who leads us into new ways of thinking and acting: who leads us to the complete truth— —a Truth beyond rules for their own sake, a Truth that enlivens and sets us free.

And so on this Feast of the Presentation, let us resolve to move forward in faithfulness' to the Spirit of God!

- It's good to be back with you after a couple of weeks of annual leave(2024). I had very enjoyable and restful time
- As we now move into 2025, and all that this Holy year of Jubilee will offer us, lets resolve to work together to further God's kingdom in all the church communities of the Upper Mountains!
- We welcome our children back to school! Whether at St. Canice's or in our SRE classes, we hope and pray that the younger members of our community may grow in Faith and its practice.

God bless you all. Fr John

Please note that livestreaming will not be taking place for this week 2.2.2025



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



WHAT'S ON IN THE UPPER MOUNTAINS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY (TODAY)

Mass: Wentworth Falls 8am
Mass: Blackheath 9.30am
Mass: Katoomba 10am
Mass: Leura 5pm

MONDAY

Mass: 9am Katoomba

TUESDAY

Mass: 9am Leura

WEDNESDAY

Mass: 9am Blackheath

THURSDAY

Mass: 9am Wentworth Falls

FRIDAY

Mass: 12pm Katoomba
Mass: 4pm Megalong (3rd Fri of the month)

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

Mass: Wentworth Falls 8am
Mass: Blackheath 9.30am
Mass: Katoomba 10am
Mass: Leura 5pm

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 Cenacle
Rosary after, Katoomba.



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>



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: Our parish finances need a consistent income. If you could consider using 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

SAINTS THIS WEEK

Mon 3 Saint Ansgar (Oscar), Bishop
Saint Blaise, Bishop, Martyr
Wed 5 Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr
Thu 6 Saints Paul Miki
and his Companions, Martyrs
Sat 8 Saint Jerome Emilian
Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Sun 9 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



SUNDAY MASS: Live streaming of the Sunday 10.00am Mass at St Canice's this week. 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



OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING: "This is what the Lord asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)." For info: parracatholic.org/safeguarding For Training: parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/



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 or scan the QR code.



"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... (Ven. Fulton Sheen)."

INVITE OUR LADY INTO YOUR HOME



We are offering the chance for parishioners to have our beautiful parish Rosary statue visit you in your home. The statue is of Our Lady Help of Christians, the Patron Saint of Australia.

If you would like to welcome the Blessed Mother in your home for a week and be at prayer with her, please let one of the sacristans after the 10am Katoomba Mass know and they will make arrangements.

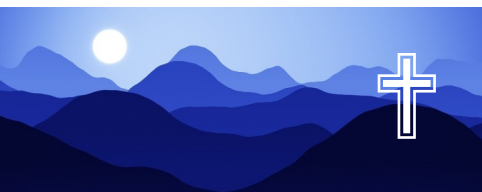
MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: SAMIR YAMMINE, ANDRZEJ KRAWCZYK, LEPULA SALAMASINA ASOVALE, PHILOMENA GABRIEL, RICHARD GALE, RAY GALE, CHAIEL BALCOMBE, CARL ALBERT, JAN MACLEAN, MARIA MANUELA SERNANDES and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY.

RECENTLY DECEASED: CONNIE ADAMS, MARY ROBERTS, PETER GALE, CATHERINE MEISTER, MARY ROSE TOOMEY, JOAN STOERMER

SICK LIST: Susan Sergent, Pat Wolthers, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Joan Gracey, Doreen Kinsella.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THE SICK LIST PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE 02 4782 2804



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.

THE LEGION OF MARY

Did you know that our parish has a Legion of Mary group? We meet Every FRIDAY at 6:15pm in the old adoration chapel at Katoomba. You are most welcome to attend and see what the Legion is all about.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Baptised children who are in **YEAR 3 OR ABOVE IN 2025** will be invited to join the First Reconciliation (First Confession) preparation program to be held in term 4 in 2025. Flyers are available in our church entrance.

SAINT BLAISE

If you are already familiar with St. Blaise, it is probably because of the blessing of throats—a Catholic custom on his feast.

According to tradition, Blaise had been a doctor before he was ordained a priest. He became the bishop of Sebaste (now in central Turkey). During a period of persecution, he fled to a cave where he lived as a hermit. It is said that he cured and tamed the wild animals there. One day hunters discovered him and took him to the governor, who sentenced him to be tortured and killed.

About four hundred years after his death, many stories began to be told about Blaise, and he became a popular saint, especially in France and Germany. One legend says that while Blaise was in prison, a mother brought him her small boy, who was choking on a fishbone stuck in his throat. Blaise prayed over the child, and he was healed. Every year on St. Blaise's feast, two candles tied with ribbon in the shape of an X are used to bless throats. In the prayer the Church prays that those blessed may be delivered from diseases of the throat and from every other illness. Candles are used because of another story: It is said that while Blaise was kept in a dark prison, a woman secretly brought him some candles and food.

Blaise is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, saints who were patrons for almost every aspect of life. People in the Middle Ages showed devotion to these saints as a group.

GARAGE SALE—SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Sacred Heart Parish Blackheath

February 1st & 2nd. 2025

Our annual Garage Sale takes place once again on the first weekend in February.



Please keep these dates free! We have the usual band of workers for this fundraiser but, if you can help in anyway either setting up, selling or clearing away your help is much appreciated.

Start clearing out your cupboards and let's make it the biggest garage sale yet.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

We are looking at volunteers to work on the BBQ on Saturday & Sunday.

We are hoping to put a roster together to share the load on both days. Many thanks, please contact David Buckley on **0400208707** if you can spare a few hours. Many thanks. Marilyn & the Social Committee

DIOCESAN WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK: 11 FEBRUARY

A World Day of Prayer for the Sick, including the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, will be held at 11am on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at St Patrick's Church, Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, Blacktown. All are welcome, including those who may be sick, and those who care for the sick and dying and health care professionals. RSVPs are required by 6 February 2025 via parracatholic.org/world-day-prayer-feb11

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 22-23 February

How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. We give you a chance to spend time together to strengthen and enrich your relationship. The next Engaged Encounter Weekend will be held on 22-23 February, with future dates in May, August and November 2025. For further information visit

www.engagedencounter.org.au



LTRENT
DRIVING LESSONS

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS SPECIAL OCT 1ST - MARCH 1ST 4PM - 8 PM
FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS RESIDENTS

Book a 5 lesson special & get your free lesson on vehicle maintenance.
Pick up and drop off from your location.

BOOK BY CALLING THE BLUE MTNS
LTRENT INSTRUCTOR
MICHAEL MOLE 0412 480 013
Lic# 065 627



ST.CANICE'S SCHOOL
For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office on 02 4780 6800



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31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

ENTRANCE

Your merciful love, O God, we have received
in the midst of your temple.

Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

FIRST READING (Deuteronomy 6:2-6)

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

RESPONSE Who is this king of glory?

It is the Lord!

SECOND READING (Hebrews 7:23-28)

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers and sisters so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the light of revelation to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Mark 12:28-34)

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God, and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

COMMUNION

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you
prepared in the sight of all the peoples.