



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)."

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR C - 16 February 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The First Reading, the Psalm and the Gospel for this weekend highlight the difference between those who follow the way of the Lord versus those who do not.

Couched in language that simply advocates one way or the other, the texts proclaim blessings on the faithful and curses on the unfaithful.

The problem with such a stark comparison is that all of us identify with both positions: for, although we want to be faithful and follow the way of the Lord, we still find ourselves choosing sinfulness over righteousness. We are often weak, and fail to live up to the high ideals of our Faith.

But this is never a cause for despair, for we are assured often (especially in the writings of St Paul) that Christ has won the victory over sin and death by his Rising from the Dead!

So, despite our shortcomings, the unconditional love of God as manifested in the Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ His Son raises us up from our weakness and brings us into New Life with the Lord.

Not only, then, do we give God thanks and praise for His wonderful Forgiveness and Love, but we recommit ourselves to striving to imitate the Master, and be people who forgive others their trespasses against us and who try to live in conditional love of the other!

The meetings of the Mission Enhancement Team (MET) with only the PPC's of Sacred Heart and St Mary of the Cross parishes this Sunday morning are a step in the process of reflecting on the future direction of the church communities in the Upper Mountains. There will be other times for all parishioners to be brought up-to-date; and this will be very soon. Stay tuned!

God Bless you all

Fr John



**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.



<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 support in these difficult times.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

MON 17 THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER
FRI 21 SAINT PETER DAMIAN, BISHOP, DOCTOR
SAT 22 SAINT PETER'S CHAIR FEAST
NEXT SUN 23 7TH 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.

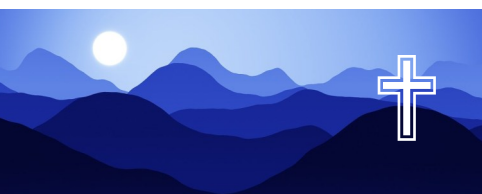
MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: MARGARET WALSH and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

SICK LIST: Susan Sergent, Pat Wolthers, Sandy Mobra, 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.



ST CANICE'S SCHOOL CAR PARK

The car park is open on Sundays from 9:30am for parishioners. The gates will be locked by 11:30am. Thank- you.

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.

MEDITATION GROUP

A meditation group will begin on Tuesday March 11, at Sacred Heart church in Blackheath at 10am each week. It will follow the WCCM (World Community for Christian Meditation) tradition which Father Laurence Freeman, a Benedictine monk is the director.

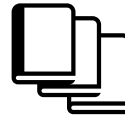
Every great spiritual tradition has known that in profound stillness the human spirit begins to be aware of its own source. The group will meet in the church and will be guided by Marilyn Jones. Marilyn can be contacted on 0401637759 for further information if needed. Everyone is welcome!

Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend: 22-23 February

How prepared are you for marriage? 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

LENTEN GROUP WEDNESDAYS 5 March 2025

Commencing Wednesday 5/3. There are two groups. After-noon 2.00pm and Evening group 7.00pm. Location: 3 Easter Street Leura. Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson. Please con-tact Barbara for more information on 0417 490 103. Lenten Programme participant books will be available at the church Suggested do-nation \$7 per book to help cover costs.



ST.CANICE'S SCHOOL

For enrolments and enquiries please contact school office on 02 4780 6800

SRE W/FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOL

We need two Catechists quite urgently for Wentworth Falls Public School every Thursday morning: 9.35am to 10.40am K-2 9.35am-10.am and year 3-6 10.10am-10.am. Support and resources are provided For further details please contact Regina on 0452 085 098 or the parish office on 02 4782 2804

THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER

Imagine that seven famous businessmen in New York left their homes and careers today to live together in solitude and prayer. The world would be surprised and led to reflect on its values.

Seven wealthy, well-known cloth merchants lived in Florence, Italy in the mid-thirteenth century: Bonfilius, Monaldi, John Bonagiunta, Gerard Sostegni, Bartholomew Amidei, Benedict dell'Antella, Ricoverus Ugucione, and Alexis Falconieri. They found themselves in a society in which many people ignored God's law. Riches and the easy life meant more to these people than the love of the poor and service to the needy. These seven men decided to withdraw from the city and to lead lives of prayer and penance. They chose to turn their lives over to God and give witness to all that is good and true. It took great courage for these men to leave their prosperous businesses and live a life of prayer and penance. They had been leaders in society, so their decision to change their way of living caused a stir and inspired others to rethink their values and make some changes in their lives.

This group of men fostered devotion to the Blessed Virgin, particularly in her seven sorrows. They called themselves the Servants of Mary or Servites. Eventually all the founders but Alexis were ordained. When their order was finally approved, Alexis was the only founder still living.

L T R E N T
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

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6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

ENTRANCE

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!

FIRST READING (Jeremiah 17:5-8)

The Lord says this:

'A curse on those

who put their trust in human beings,
who rely on things of flesh,
whose hearts turn from the Lord.

They are like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, they have no eyes for it,
they settle in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on those who put their trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for their hope.

They are like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

RESPONSE Happy are they who hope in the Lord.

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20)

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been preached, how can some of you be saying that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the most unfortunate of all people. But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
your reward is great in heaven.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Luke 6:17, 20-26)

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How Blessed are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Blessed you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

COMMUNION

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed
in what they craved.