



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/bluemountainscatholic](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

Parish YouTube: [youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic](https://www.youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic)

Parish YouTube: [youtube.com/@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 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)."

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

YEAR C - 02 March 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ...

The Gospel for this Sunday's Liturgy of the Word encourages us to reflect on our words:

Do we speak from 'the store of goodness' in our heart, or do we find ourselves drawing from 'the store of badness'?

Indeed, our First Reading says something similar: 'Do not praise anyone before they have spoken, since this is the test of people'.

So, the tongue (one's words) are a clear indication of inner thoughts.

Most of us find ourselves critical of this or that, this person or that person. We often listen to the negative comments about another rather than see the good that they are trying to do. We can easily condemn and pull down, but struggle to praise and build up. We listen to trolls on social media; we subscribe to those who criticise others on YouTube; we applaud the destructive voices of those narcissistic politicians and leaders who are the scourge of contemporary democracy. And we can blame God for all the things that go wrong in our lives, even if we or other human beings are the true cause of difficulties.

So, my friends, are we going to do something about this? Can we start to cooperate with God's grace and start cleansing ourselves of the 'store of badness' and allow the 'store of goodness' to be uppermost in all we do and say?

Let's conclude with St Paul:

'Never give in, then, my brothers and sisters, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.'

* **ASH WEDNESDAY** is this week, Wednesday 5th March.

There will be TWO masses:

9am in Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath

and 7pm in St Canice's Church, Katoomba

It is a Day of Abstinence for all, and a Day of Fast for those between 18 and 60.

* Mass on Tuesday (4th March) will have to be earlier than normal - at 8:00am (at St Bonaventures's, Leura) as I have a Funeral on the plains at 10:30.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

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: 8am 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](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

TUE 4 SAINT CASIMIR
WED 5 ASH WEDNESDAY
FRI 7 COMMEMORATION OF SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY, MARTYRS
SAT 8 COMMEMORATION OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD, RELIGIOUS

NEXT SUN 9 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



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.

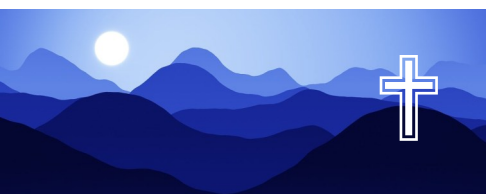
MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

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: GEOFFREY METCALF, DULCIE ELIZABETH NYSSEN, PATRICIA ANN DINGERMANS

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.

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.

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.

NEPEAN CATENIAN GROUP

(in formation)



CATENIANS

Invitation to the Men of the Parishes in the Blue Mountains To join us for a meeting and dinner at Nepean Rowing Club

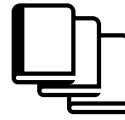
6.45 pm, Tuesday 11th March,

Enquiries and RSVP by 7th March to:

Deacon Alan Skofic 0435139106

Connect with Catenians Catholic men's association:

faith based friendships



ST.CANICE'S SCHOOL

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



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Project Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.



Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code



above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

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. 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!

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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8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

ENTRANCE

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

FIRST READING (Sirach 27:4-7)

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of people appear in their talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of people in their conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged
on the quality of its fruit,
similarly people's words betray what they feel.
Do not praise someone before they have spoken,
since this is the test of people.

RESPONSE Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 15:54-58)

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers and sisters, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL (Luke 6:39-45)

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind person guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like the teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your neighbour's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your neighbour, "Friend, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your neighbour's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good person draws what is good from the store of goodness in their heart; a bad person draws what is bad from the store of badness. For one's words flow out of what fills one's heart.'

COMMUNION

I will sing to the Lord
who has been bountiful with me,
sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.