



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)."

2nd Sunday of Lent

YEAR C - 16 March 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Transfiguration of Our Lord points not only to the Resurrection of Our Lord in His transformed and glorified body but also to our resurrection in our transformed and glorified bodies.

That's what the letter to the Philippians tells us.

But it also tells us to refocus just as the Gospel does. The Gospel tells us the LISTEN to Christ.

This listening is not just hearing and comprehending. It's absorbing the words of Christ. Connecting His words with His actions and living them. Make them our own.

Not following rules but making the values and attitudes of Christ our values and attitudes. Allowing God to write His law on our hearts. This is how we are brought into a new land, not a physical place but a state of existence, a state of being.

This is our transformation which leads to our resurrection.

This is very important for Lent. In this season we are trying harder than ever to deepen our relationship with Our Lord through putting aside our focus on earthly matters and turning our attention to Our Lord.

The means are fasting, abstinence, prayer and alms giving. Alms giving: to see those around us, to take focus off ourselves, fasting and abstinence to take focus away from our wants and desires and use the cravings to focus on why we are denying ourselves, because we want to draw close to our Lord. Prayer to think about our Lord in order to know Him more fully, and come before Him asking for help, that He draw us away from those things that distract us and help us to hear and follow Him.

It's about making Christ the absolute centre of our lives, the connection we most desire and through this becoming part of Him, living in Him and He in us. This is our transformation.

Deacon Alan.



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: 9.00am 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 support in these difficult times.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

- MON 17 SAINT PATRICK, BISHOP, MISSIONARY SOLEMNITY
- TUE 18 SAINT CYRIL OF JERUSALEM, BISHOP, DOCTOR
- WED 19 **SAINT JOSEPH**, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SOLEMNITY
- NEXT SUN 23 3RD 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.

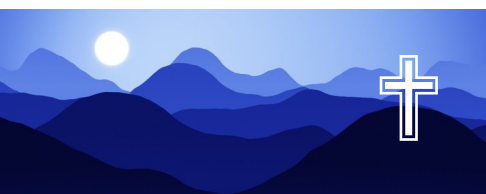
MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

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 NYSSSEN, 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.



ST.CANICE'S SCHOOL

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

St Canice's is now enrolling and excitingly, from 2026, St Canice's will be fee-free for all students, ensuring the school remains accessible to everyone in our community.

St Canice's will hold their Open Day On Wednesday 19th March at 9:30am - 11am. The dedicated staff will be ready to answer your questions and share more information on how to enrol. Everyone is invited to attend to discover all that St Canice's Primary School has to offer.

Please register at [Register for St Canice's Open Day](https://info.parra.catholic.edu.au/open-day/stcaniceskatoomba).
<https://info.parra.catholic.edu.au/open-day/stcaniceskatoomba>

Thank you to all who were able to attend our Opening School Mass and our Commissioning of our School Captains and Year 6 leaders. It was a special day where together we were able to begin our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope'. On Friday 21st March we will be celebrating Harmony Day with Project Compassion, as we raise awareness through 'The Big Water Walk'. If you would like more information or to join us, please see the office. Walking gently with hope. Jo Godsell.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Second Sunday of Lent 15th and 16th of March 2025

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

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



KATOOMBA GARDEN WORKING BEE

There will be a Garden Working Bee for St Canice's on Sat 5/4 from 9:30am after mass for 1-2 hours. Please come along and get everything ready for Easter.

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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2ND SUNDAY OF LENT ORDINARY TIME C

ENTRANCE

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING (Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18)

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

RESPONSE The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING (Philippians 3:17 - 4:1)

My brothers and sisters, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven,

and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and sisters and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL (Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'.

And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

COMMUNION

This is my beloved Son,
with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.