



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)."

3rd Sunday of Lent

YEAR C - 23 March 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The first reading we hear how God identifies Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These fathers of faith are alive as Christ points out in Matthew 22:32.

It is in this light that we need to see what is meant by death in these readings. Death in these readings means **SPIRITUAL DEATH**.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are all physically dead, but yet they are alive.

The people that are described as dead in these readings are spiritually dead. According to the second reading they are dead because they "all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert". This is a warning to us!

This brings us to the Gospel; we don't want to be the fig tree in the Gospel. The fig tree in Scriptures represents the people of Israel. In the Gospel Christ tells the parable of the fig tree that bears no fruit and which will be cut down unless it produces some fruit. This is very important, because it ties in with Christ actually cursing the fig tree, which is full of leaves but has no fruit, on His way to Jerusalem (Mark 11:12-14) saying: "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." This can be seen as a judgement on the people that had many rules, ceremonies, rituals and protocols (the leaves) but no trust in God and consequently no empathy, compassion and love (fruit).

So, let's start digging and manuring to get some fruit going, or more fruit going. Let's contemplate on God's love, see how much He has done and continues to do for us and start to turn our lives over to Him. Turn our lives outwards because we live our life through our Lord.

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](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 25 THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD SOLEMNITY

NEXT SUN 30 4TH 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.

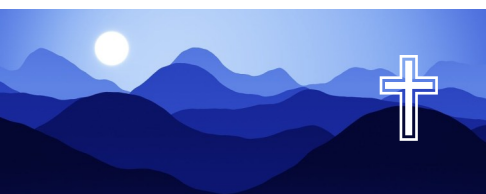
MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

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: THOMAS HICKEY, GEOFFREY METCALF, DULCIE ELIZABETH NYSSSEN, PATRICIA ANN DINGERMANS

SICK LIST: Nathan, 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.



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.

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S CHAPLAINCY SERVICES : NEXT WEEKEND 29 & 30 MARCH

This Lent, will you be a pilgrim of hope to people who may break in the face of suffering? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help our chaplains at Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains offer pastoral care, comfort and Christian companionship that can bring healing and transformation. Please give generously to the Bishop's Good Samaritan Appeal at parracatholic.org/appeal or scan this QR code. Envelopes are available on the pews, Thank you.



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.

"LIVING SPIRITUALLY IN THE LIGHT OF TODAY'S COSMOLOGY"

Twilight Meditative Service Leura Uniting Church
Guest Speaker: Sr. Jacinta Shailer "How can Cosmogogenesis enhance our Spiritual Life"

Where: Cnr. Grose and Megalong Streets, Leura

When: Sunday 23 March, 5 pm

Supper follows.



ST.CANICE'S SCHOOL

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



Third Sunday of Lent
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



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 024 413 413.



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.

OFFICE OF TENEBRAE: 14 APRIL

All are welcome to attend the annual Office of Tenebrae at St Patrick's Cathedral on Monday 14 April at 7:30pm. The Office of Tenebrae is a Holy Week reflection liturgy including Scripture, psalm chanting and motets and will feature the Cathedral Choir. As the Diocese and the global Church prepares for Holy Week, the Tenebrae service is a reminder of the eternal light and hope brought into the world through Christ's Resurrection. Catholics are invited to attend the Office of Tenebrae at least once in their life.



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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

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3RD SUNDAY OF LENT ORDINARY TIME C

ENTRANCE

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING (Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15)

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the children of Israel and say to them, "The God of your ancestors has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the children of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

RESPONSE The Lord is kind and merciful.

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12)

I want to remind you how our ancestors were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and

that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. Those who think they are safe must be careful that they do not fall.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL (Luke 13:1-9)

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

COMMUNION

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
The water I shall give will become in them
a spring welling up to eternal life.