



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS
Under the Patronage of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Acknowledges the Darug and Gundungurra people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our churches are built and we pay respect to elders past, present and emerging

CLERGY

Fr. John McSweeney PP VF
Fr. Peter Lamont (AP)
Fr. Jessie Balorio (AP)
Rev. Alan Skofic (Deacon)

SUNDAY MASSES

Sat: 5pm Leura
Sat: 5pm Lawson
Sat: 5pm Mt Victoria
Sun: 8am Wentworth Falls
Sun: 8.30am Lawson
Sun: 9.30am Blackheath
Sun: 10am Katoomba
Sun: 5pm Leura

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon: 9am Katoomba
Tue: 9am Leura
Wed: 9am Blackheath
Thu: 9am Wentworth Falls
Fri: 9am Lawson
Fri: 12pm Katoomba
Fri: 4pm Megalong Valley
(3rd Fri of the month)
Sat: 9am Katoomba

CONFESSION

Fri: After 12pm Mass Katoomba
Sat: 9:30-9:50am Katoomba
Sat: 4:30-4:50pm Leura
NOTE: Confessions are always available upon request.

Weddings & Church Bookings

For Inquiries:
mmparishubm@gmail.com

Baptisms:

2nd Sunday @ Katoomba 11:00am
4th Sunday @ OLN Lawson 10:30am
Inquiries: 47822804
Email: bluemountains@parracatholic.org

ADORATION CHAPEL

St. Canice's, Katoomba
Mon 9.30am to Fri 6pm
closed at other times.

Christian Meditation

Tuesdays-10am
@Sacred Heart Blackheath



Please mute your mobile at Mass. Let's turn off the technology and turn on to God!

FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE MIST

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 23rd August 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The first reading is a prediction of what was to happen in the Gospel. The parallels are very clear.

The second reading points out how complex and intricate God's plans are. They are beyond what we can conceive or understand but God gives us insight if we have prepared ourselves.



Volunteer's Needed for Sunday's Mass LIVESTREAMING

Training Provided contact Parish office or email: dmoore@abaxkf.com.au

This is what happens in the Gospel. Peter is given the role of leadership of the Church of Christ, but we must be careful to see on what grounds, or what rock Peter was chosen. Peter is singled out because he correctly identifies who Christ is and he does this because God the Father revealed it to him. The rock is the connection with God that allows the reception of guidance from God. This is what Peter has and because of this he can be trusted to lead the Church of Christ on earth. To bind and to loosen based on this connection with God, through which his decisions are guided by the Holy Spirit and because of this the powers of darkness cannot hold out against the Church for the Church is led by God through the Petrine

Ministry. But this highlights something that the successor of St Peter, Pope Benedict the 16th tried to impress on people. We need to be led by the Spirit, each one of us. This means we need to live true to our conscience but very importantly we must first develop our conscience so that we have a real connection through our conscience with God. Our conscience is where God comes closest to us where we can start to perceive the desire of God and so make decisions based on this guiding desire.

For the training and development of our conscience we need guidance and help and this proceeds from the Petrine Ministry. Guidance in the ways of teachings and Encyclicals and help through liturgies and the Sacraments. It won't be flesh and blood or the ways of the world and human logic that trains our conscience. It comes from the Holy Spirit who comes to us through Christ made manifest in His Church.

Deacon Alan

Parish Churches

LAWSON: Our Lady of The Nativity, Somers St; **WENTWORTH FALLS:** St. Francis Xavier's, 3 Day St. **LEURA:** St. Bonaventure's, Railway Pde. **KATOOMBA:** St Canice's, 158 Katoomba St. **BLACKHEATH:** Sacred Heart, 165 Wentworth St. **MEGALONG VALLEY:** St Joseph's, Megalong Rd. **MOUNT VICTORIA:** St Paul, 65 Great Western Highway. * Pictures on this bulletin are taken from the website. Copyright infringement is unintended. Acknowledgment is due.

CONTACT US

Parish Office: 158 Katoomba St, Katoomba 2780.

Postal Address: PO Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780.

Phone: (02) 4782 2804.

Office Hours: 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.

After Hours Emergency Number: 0490814284.

Calls only; no texts please.

Parish email address:

upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org

Parish websites:

bluemountainscatholic.org.au

sacredheartblackheath.org.au

lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Facebook: [facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

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

Lawson Facebook: facebook.com/olncclawson

Blackheath Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076756208721

Parish YouTube:

youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic

SUNDAY MASS

Live streaming of the 10am Sunday 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/UCHtj55risvGDOqCDN7mldNQ>.

MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL HEALING, DELIVERANCE AND EXORCISM

Email: deliverus.caseofficer@parracatholic.org;
deliverance.exorcist@parracatholic.org

Phone/ Call: 0472761879 or

Reached out to the Receptionist of Office of the Bishop or the Chancery.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Canice's Catholic Primary School

Katoomba Street, Katoomba.

Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney.

Phone: (02) 4780 6800.

Email: stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Primary School

Somers Street, Lawson.

Principal: Mr. Matthew Bond.

Phone: (02) 4753 2200.

Email: oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS

If you or your loved ones are sick and would like a visit, please contact the parish office or Barbara Davidson (0417 490 103)

USUAL 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.

First Fri: 7.00pm Benediction Lawson

Sat: 8:30am before Mass and Rosary after, Katoomba.

Notice for Parish Bulletin. If you wish to receive electronically or via email our parish bulletin, please email us on upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org. If you also want to include any items for the weeks' parish bulletin, email us on mmparishubm@gmail.com before Wednesday afternoon.

RCIA For all enquiries regarding joining or coming back to the Church please contact Deacon Alan via the Parish office.

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Dec Alan

John Tweedie (Chair)
Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)
John Grant
Jenny Gannon

Maylin Corros
Marilyn Rowe
Tom Boyd

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Deacon Alan
Matthew Brawn, Katoomba
Paul Gannon, Lawson
John Brell, Wentworth Falls
Maria Dodd, Lawson

Russell Smith (Chair), Leura
Pamela Nash (Deputy Chair), Blackheath
Maria Kells, Mt Victoria
Julie O'Keeffe (Deanery Pastoral Council Rep), Blackheath
Therese Moore, Katoomba
Maria Eades (DPC Rep), Leura
Roger Bowen (Sub)
Ex-officio John Tweedie (Parish Finance Chair)
Diane Steward (Sub)

Thanks to all these generous members of our new Parish for your generosity in serving our Church communities as the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Parish Finance Council (PFC) Members

Finance News
PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Since the 1st of July 2026, we have merged our Parish Banking arrangements for Parish Contributions. Our parish finances need a consistent income. If you consider using Direct payment, we would be most grateful!

Donations thru Bank Transfer:

For 2nd collection (for the support of the Parish) please use **BSB 067 950 Account 000 00594 Name: Catholic Parish of Upper Blue Mountains (Ref: your surname and church eg SmithMtVic)**

For 1st collection (for the support our priests) **BSB 067 950 Account No 00004265 Account Name Diocesan Clergy Reference either the parish Name or the parish code 6038**

From the Finance Chair

To all parishioners who contributed via Direct Bank Transfer to account with BSB 067 950 with an account number: 000 00594, we kindly request you to include both of your surname and church community name (abbreviated if necessary) in the payment reference .

This will assist us in correctly allocating funds to your church community. Thank you for your generous support to our Parish.

Parish BPoint. For both 1st and 2nd collations. When choosing 2nd collection please note name . Please follow this link.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains>



PARISH NEWS

REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH. Our fifth session will be held on Sunday 27th September following Mass in St Canice's Hall, 11am for an 11.30am start. The first presentation and discussion will be **Mary, the Saints and Devotions**, followed by **The Eucharist**. Whether you are deeply rooted in your faith, returning after time away, or simply seeking to grow and understand more... **You are most welcome.**

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL. If you would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill in list, please contact Conor on 0451 461 697 to register your details or scan the QR code. Hours currently available: Tuesday 1-2pm, 5-6pm, Wednesday Noon-1pm, 6-7p; Thursday 11am-Noon, 9-10pm, Friday 1-2pm. If you are a regular Adorer, requesting a roster change to your hour or the person replacing you has not arrived.

Please Contact: Catherine on 0420 337 033



THE LEGION OF MARY The Church's largest lay apostolate. We meet every FRIDAY at 6:15 pm in the old adoration chapel at Katoomba. You are most welcome to attend and see what the Legion is all about.



Christian Contemplation. Meditation takes us to the depths of our being, to our true self and to the pure experience of God in the ground of our being. The World Community for Christian Meditation draws from the wisdom of the Gospel's teaching. In the light of this wisdom we see that the teaching of Jesus on prayer is a contemplative teaching. **Every Tuesday 10:00am-10:45am in the Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath**



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



Recently Deceased: Kevin Medlin, Erika Najjar, Fr Eugene Stockton, Ray Wood, Zac Giles, Terence Teodori, Yudit Kayatsky, Lauren Hall, Mary Marsh, Salwa Jabbour, Marie Perrott,

Death Anniversary: William O'Connor, Andrew Krawczyk, Aiyana, Diane Wood, Mark Bittner, and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Peter Slough, Vlad, John Barclay, Mildred Taft, Charlie Congreve, Malik, Maureen O'Reilly, George and Laura Boffa, Sarah-Jane Hallett, Les Hayward, Chloe Newton, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergeant, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Lan Franco Matteucci. Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennet, Richard Kemmis and All Private Intentions.

NB: Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the permission of the immediate family. Thank you.



VALE TO KEVIN MEDLIN

Funeral Mass for Kevin will be at Our Lady of Nativity Lawson Church on Friday 28th August 2026 at 11:00 AM



CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

within the family group sessions continue with the focus being on the Holy Spirit. The 7 Traditional gifts of the Spirit are prayed for the Confirmation Candidates during the celebration of the Sacrament. They

come from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah. An important thing to remember is that besides being received at the Sacrament of Confirmation, we can all ask for a renewal of these gifts at any time, not only for our own individual needs but for the needs of the Church.

The Gifts of the Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel (right judgment), Fortitude (courage), Knowledge, Piety (reverence) Fear of the Lord (wonder and awe).

EUCCHARIST28

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ.

Amen.



Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains



The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely.

SEASON OF CREATION

(1 September to 4 October)

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL ... ECOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY

INTERCONNECTION OF HUMAN WELL-BEING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALING

There is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face

Join the mountain parishioners and friends for a morning of prayer, discussion and reflection in this Season of Creation. Discover the message of Pope Francis and be inspired by his insights to care for our world.

Date: 13th September

Morning Tea: 10.30am

Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm

Venue: Sacred Heart Church Hall,

165 Wentworth St, Blackheath

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone: Brian Bright – 0401 768 688

Julie O'Keeffe – 0413 119 649

Email – bbright45@bigpond.com

julesongodson@bigpond.com

PRESENTER

Merilyn Hancock
Spirituality Ministry
0421 632 299

Bishop's FATHER'S DAY APPEAL

HONOUR A LIFETIME OF FAITHFUL SERVICE THIS FATHER'S DAY



BISHOP'S ANNUAL FATHERS DAY APPEAL

The annual Bishop Father's Day appeal for the Clergy will run across for four weekends, from 29 -30 August to 19 -20 September 2026 will take place. This year's focus will be on Fr John O'Neill, recently retired Parish Priest of St John Vianney's, Doonside. This appeal supports all the retired priests of the Diocese, and your donations are very much appreciated. Full information will be provided next week, but if you wish to get in early, please visit <https://parracatholic.org/donate/clergy-support-foundation>.

Envelopes are available on the Pews

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY OF NATIVITY CHURCH, LAWSON

7.00 pm | 13 SEPT 2026



254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783
- Deacon Alan Skofic

St Canice's School News. Our School's Vinnies Food Drive is in full swing at St Canice's. Our Vinnies volunteers have been amazed by the generosity of our small school and the groceries being donated to support local families. Each week, our Faith in Action Team gathers the donations, while Vinnies volunteers spend time in our classrooms chatting with students about faith, prayer, helping others and the work they do in our community. These visits are becoming a lovely part of our week... building relationships, bringing our learning to life and showing our students what it means to live Church by putting faith into action

Social Justice Statements and Social Justice Sunday 30 August 2026. In a tradition dating back to 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops release major social justice statements each year in time for Social Justice Sunday. Through this tradition they contribute to the development of local Catholic Social Teaching. The statements encourage the Catholic community to reflect and act on social, economic and ecological issues. They remind us of the social dimension of the Church. **Recent Social Justice Statements** August 2026 "*Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division*" February 2026 "*The Cost of Our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good*" Both statements can be read at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

About the Society ... Did you know?

Did you know that in addition to our Boutique in Waratah St, Katoomba, that Vinnies now has an online pre-loved fashion platform?

"The Australian recommerce market is expected to reach USD \$6.75 billion and is currently growing annually by 9.6%. Shoppers are actively choosing pre-loved items, and they are doing it online. Australia Post's 2025 eCommerce Report found that 65% of Gen Z and Millennials plan to buy more second hand goods over the next 5 years.

The Society NSW saw these trends and acted. **Vinnies Finds** launched in May 2025 and brought quality, character and the community of our shops into the online space.

Since May 2025, the platform has sold more than 47,000 items."

Find out at: vinniesfinds.com.au

From: St V de Paul 'Vision' Magazine, Winter 2026 edition.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding at The Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains



We are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults, in line with the "Parramatta Way."

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to... Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person; Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS



SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY BLACKHEATH

"Yanama Budyari Gumada– Walk with Good Spirit"

DONATIONS: Please see the Parish Finance section for details

Blackheath Vinnies Support phone number:
0490 709 547

Sacred Heart Care Group Helping parishioners in need:
Monica Bright 0420 937 690

WEDNESDAY CUPPA'S TOGETHER IN SACRED HEART HALL! Cuppas" has resumed on Wednesdays. Come for coffee, home made cakes and a catchup with other locals. All members of the community are welcome to come along. Time: 9:30am - 12:00pm each Wednesday. Location: Sacred Heart Church Hall - Wentworth St, Blackheath.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament @ The Sacred Heart Church Community Blackheath every Friday at 4:00 pm– 5:00 pm.

World day of Prayer. Save the date: Tuesday September 1 at 11:00am. To celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. An Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held on Tuesday September 1 at 11am at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath. This year's theme is Living Water-Immersion in Living Water Ezekiel 47:9,12 Please bring a small glass or metal container filled with water for the Living Water prayer. A light brunch will be held in the hall following the prayer service. Everyone is welcome!

WORKING BEE on Saturday 22 August from 8am

Please come along and help Lance and John look after our wonderful grounds. Please bring a hat, sturdy shoes or boots and garden gloves (also eye and ear protection if using mower or similar equipment).



The Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains is a CHILD SAFE ZONE

The Care and Protection of Children is everyone's responsibility. Help us to care and protect your children by always knowing what your child is doing, where he/she is and who he/she is with. Parents /Guardians Always Keep and Eye on your Children.



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OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH LAWSON



SPIT ROAST DINNER AND ELVIS SHOW.
OLON, Lawson's next event is a Spit Roast Dinner & Elvis Presley show on Saturday 7th November, 2026. This event will be held in the St. Canice's

Hall at Katoomba and will cost \$60 pp. The time of the event will be 6pm and dinner served at 6.30pm. There is a vegetarian option available at this event. Please bring your own drinks and be prepared to have a good time. Bring your dancing shoes if you like, the music will be most enjoyable. Tickets will be available on sale the weekend of 15th and 16th August and each weekend thereafter till the end of October. You can purchase your tickets with cash or by the Eftpos machine and you will receive a written receipt for the purchase. Please look for Jenny Gannon or Kate Powell in the foyer after each mass for any enquiries or tickets. Our Lawson Church Community will appreciate and welcome your company and support." Thank you Jenny.

Please look for our updated 2026 Event calendar that displays our up and coming events, such as our morning tea celebration for the opening of our newly renovated meeting room and as a thankyou to Laurie Woods for his service. The date of this morning tea celebration is Sunday 13th September after the morning mass. Please come and join us on this special occasion.

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ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH WENTWORTH FALLS

Music Ministry Needed. We thank Mary for playing the violin everyday Sunday but we badly need to support her by organizing a choir and a music ministry for Wenty Church.

Lectors and Acolytes. If you are willing to read the Sunday's scripture readings as lector and willing to serve as an Acolyte. Please call the Office and trainings will be provided.

Altar Servers. If your kids are willing to serve at the Altar, boys and girls preferably year 4 to 6 who usually attends this mass are welcome. Please call the Office for Inquiries and for future trainings.

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ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

Vigil Masses every **Saturdays at 5:00 pm** . Address-- 65 Great Western Highway, Mount Victoria NSW 2786



ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH LEURA



ST BONAVENTURE'S CCPT

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Two projects recently undertaken.

Completion of the concrete path on the western side of the church leading to the toilet. A handrail is yet to be added.

Replacement of sewer pipes at the rear of the church.

FUTURE WORKS

Internal Water damage. Plumbing and Roofing works and treatment of external Biocide issues.
Painting and Plastering, Carpentry, Electrical and Glazing works.

Now that these issues have been identified, we are now working on prioritising these maintenance issues

Any matters of concern| suggestions or ideas that you would like raised with our team and, or the PPC, please contact one of us at weekend Masses, or leave a message with contact details at the Parish office.

CCPT: Barbara Davidson, Maria Eades, Clive Kanes, Pam LeBreton, Tony Eades, and Russell Smith.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 18th September at 4:00 pm. Address: 1270 Megalong Rd, Megalong Valley NSW 2785

An ideal venue for small and intimate Wedding Celebrations. Book Now ! Call Parish Office.

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ST. CANICE'S CHURCH KATOOMBA

Volunteer Needed for Morning Tea. We are still in need of helpers for the monthly Morning Tea. Please contact the Parish Office with your details and we will pass these on to Tess who has generously agreed to be the morning tea Coordinator.



abaxkf.com.au 1300 300 369

PO Box 7250 1 Cowpasture PI, Wetherill Park NSW 2164



DIOCESE NEWS & BEYOND

THE MESSENGER

Inspired by St Gabriel's mission, this weekly update brings news from across the Diocese of Parramatta for clergy, parishes and agencies

OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING. National Child Protection Week is held from 6-12 September. This year's theme is:

"Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action"

The resources from NAPCAN are now out. You can find information, posters and email tiles here:

<https://www.napcan.org.au/get-involved-2026/> **"Jesus-Christ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow."** You are invited to hear Br Barry Donaghue, Christian Brother from Mulgoa, present a session on "Jesus..." Saturday, 15th August 9:30 am at Hazelbrook Uniting Church Hall. The Church is adjacent to Hazelbrook Shopping Centre where there would be plenty of unrestricted parking. Morning tea is provided. If you need more information, please contact Len at: leonard.usa@me.com



Married Couples' Retreat – Reflect, Renew & Reconnect: 5 September. Married couples are invited to a special retreat day, *Reflect, Renew & Reconnect*, on Saturday 5 September 2026 at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown. The day runs from 8:30am–4.30pm and includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch. Couples will explore topics including Expressions of Love, Living Your Vocation of Marriage, 7 Principles of Making Marriage Work, Creating a Marriage First Aid Kit, and a Couple Prayer and Commitment Ceremony. Cost is \$45 per couple. Places are strictly limited. Bookings are essential. Register now at parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/.

Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary Centenary Jubilee Celebrations at Mount Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. Come join us as we give thanks for the past 100 years and entrust the future to the loving care of the Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen and Victress of Schoenstatt.

Date: Sunday 13th September

Time: Please be seated by 9:45am for a 10am start.

The celebration is to conclude at approximately 3pm. The day will begin with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving with Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP followed by light refreshments and an official program. Parish bus groups are encouraged. An exhibition on the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary will be available for viewing in the Family Hall from 8:30am – 6:00pm. To RSVP and for more information scan the QR-Code or visit: www.schoenstatt.org.au

About Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Supporting the persecuted: Help rebuild a Cathedral in the Philippines. In 2017, Christians in the city of Marawi in the southern Philippines faced brutal persecution from Islamist militants. More than 800 people were killed and thousands of families were displaced. During the five months of violence, the Cathedral of St Mary was bombed, desecrated and destroyed. Nine years on, there is a growing desire for healing and reconciliation. The poor and faithful people of Marawi have asked for our help to rebuild their beloved cathedral so they can once again gather, pray, and be witnesses of Christ in this Muslim-majority region. To learn more or provide your support, please scan the QR code or visit: aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject



Thanks to generous supporters, every contribution during August will be doubled.

Peace Justice News. Join the mountain parishioners and friends for a morning of prayer, discussion and reflection in this Season of Creation. Discover the message of Pope Francis and be inspired by his insights to care for our world on Sunday 13th September after mass at 11.00am – 1.00pm.

There will also be organically grown veggies and jams on sale at our produce stall for the Community Kitchen Garden on this morning to celebrate the Season of Creation and to raise funds for the garden.



Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life and discover what truly matters

Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for **Palms International Volunteering**, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering.

Join Australians across the country supporting Palms' work in the Asia-Pacific.

02 9560 5333 / 0422 472 567

www.simplicityseptember.org.au

SIMPLICITY SEPTEMBER



SIMPLICITY SEPTEMBER

Journeys of St Paul & the Cities of the Book of Revelation



This pilgrimage on the 7th April next year. For more information please contact Harvest Journeys on harvestjourneys.com/pv2601 Free-Call: 1800 819 156 or info@harvestjourneys.com

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 22:19-23)

I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

SECOND READING (Romans 11:33-36)

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia! alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 16:13-20)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will

give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

