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 11am
4th Sunday@ Lawson 10:30am
Inquiries: 47822804 or email
mmparishubm@gmail.com

ADORATION CHAPEL
Katoomba Mon 9.30 to Fri 6pm
closed at other times.

Christian Meditation
Tuesdays 10am @ 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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A. 15 November 2026

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This Sunday's readings tell us two things, firstly we must be productive, secondly, we need to be productive now because we do not know when the Lord will call us. This is not a scare tactic on the part of our Lord. There is truth in this, we need to avoid sin and we are provided with the sacrament of reconciliation where our lives need to be directed outwards otherwise, we are like the poor servant who was afraid of the Master; making sure we don't upset God, so we save our own skins. Remember what Christ said: "those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it." Mat: 16:25. The talents we get are graces. We need to use those graces to build the Kingdom of God in this world. God has created this world, and He created it to be lived in, and it will be lived in (Isaiah 45:18). It's not about escaping this world and going to heaven, it's about recreating this world so heaven and earth are united. With grace, the more we give away, the more come to us. We need to invest our graces into the lives of others so that our investments mature and come back to us with more to give. No, so much from the others but from God who is the source of all graces and decides how and through whom or what graces are to come to us. This is the productivity that is called for. Unused graces don't remain dormant. They fade away and we lose even what we had. Therefore, we must pray for guidance to see how we are investing ourselves into the life of the world. Human efforts will never be truly successful unless guided and empowered by the Spirit. We need to develop our spirituality so we can go out and be the food that gives life to the world. So, we can take Christ, that we receive in Communion, out into the lives of others. Please pray at least once a day for peace in the world (peace: not an absence of violence but genuine respect and care for the dignity of each and every individual) and relief from suffering for those affected by war.

- Deacon Alan

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear friends in Christ,
Some things that are coming up that I wish to highlight for you:
1. **THE NOVUS ORDO LATIN MASS.** Our first ever Latin mass in the new rite will be on the 21st of November 2026 at 9:00 am in St Canice's Church Katoomba. All are welcome!
2. **CHRIST THE KING PROCESSION.** As was mentioned last week, there will be a Eucharistic procession for the Solemnity of Christ the King (22/11), starting immediately after the 10am mass at St Canice's.
3. **PARISH ASSEMBLY POSTPONED**.As already mentioned, the proposed Annual Parish Assembly has been postponed until March next year. There is so much happening at present; and it was thought that postponing this whole parish activity would allow us to prepare well for the occasion.
4. **PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON ON 6TH OF DECEMBER.** Commencing at 11:15am in St Canice's Hall this is an occasion to say 'thank you' to all who serve us in various ministries and roles in our parish and church communities. Please read the full notice from the Events Team of the Parish later in this Bulletin.
5. **Bishop's Christmas Appeal**. Envelopes have been provided in the Church pews. Please give generously to this Appeal which will run on the next two weekends. May God bless you all!

- Fr John

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.
For all Office matters, call 02 4782 2804.
Parish email address:
upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org
Parish websites:
bluemountainscatholic.org.au
sacredheartblackheath.org.au
lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au
K-L-WF Facebook:
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/UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ.

MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL HEALING, DELIVERANCE AND EXORCISM
Email: deliverus.caseofficer@parracatholic.org; deliverance. exorcist@parracatholic.org
Phone/ Call: 0472761879 or reach out to the Receptionist of Office of the Bishop or the Chancery.

Volunteers Needed for Mass livestreaming. All are welcome and training is provided. Contact the Parish Office or email: dmoore@abaxkf.com.au

THE LEGION OF MARY. The Church's largest lay apostolate. We meet every Wednesday at 4:15 pm in the old adoration chapel at Katoomba. You are most welcome to attend and see what the Legion is all about.

CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATION. "The purpose of meditation is to learn to live our lives as fully as possible in the presence of God." Father John Main OSB. **Every Tuesday 10:00am-10:45am in Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath**

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: 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 our parish bulletin electronically or via email, please email upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org. If you also want to include any items for the weeks' parish bulletin, email 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.

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, 6-7pm; 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**

Parish Finance Council Members: Fr. John, Fr. Peter, Fr. Jessie, Deacon Alan, John Tweedie (Chair), Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair), Maylin Corros, Marilyn Rowe, John Grant, Tom Boyd, Jenny Gannon.

Parish Pastoral Council Members: Fr. John, Fr. Peter, Fr. Jessie, Deacon Alan; Russell Smith (Chair), Leura; Pamela Nash (Deputy Chair) Blackheath; Maria Kells, Mt Victoria, Diane Steward (Sub); Julie O'Keeffe (Deanery Pastoral Council Rep) Blackheath; Matthew Brawn, Therese Moore, Katoomba; Paul Gannon, Lawson; Maria Eades (DPC Rep) Leura; John Brell, Wentworth Falls, Roger Bowen (Sub); Len Blahut, Lawson, Maria Dodd, Appointed; Ex-officio John Tweedie (Parish Finance Chair).

Finance News

PARISH CONTRIBUTION

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

Since 1 July 2026, we have merged our parish banking arrangements for Parish Contributions. Our parish finances need consistent income. If you could use direct payment, we would be most grateful!

Donations through Bank Transfer:

For second collection (for the support of the Parish) please use **BSB** 067 950 **Account** 000 00594
Account Name Catholic Diocese of Parramatta.
(Reference your surname and church eg SmithMtVic)

For first collection (for the support our priests)
BSB 067 950: **Account** 00004265 **Account Name** Diocesan Clergy. (Reference either the parish Name or the parish code 6038 Parish BPoint).

From the Finance Chair

To all parishioners who contributed via Direct Bank Transfer to account BSB 067 950 with account number: 000 00594, we kindly request you include both your surname and church community name (abbreviated if necessary) in the payment reference form. This will assist us in correctly allocating funds to your church community. Thank you for your generous support to our Parish.

SCAN ME

PARISH BPOINT

For both 1st and 2nd collection. 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 next session will be held on February 2027. We will revamp the program with a schedule with new dates and topics.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE FOR BLACKHEATH, LEURA AND LAWSON CHURCHES. With the school holidays upon us, we are reaching out to students who may have an hour or two to volunteer some time for tidying up our grounds. A bit of weeding and hedging. Please contact with your availability.
Blackheath Julie O'Keeffe - text 0407248199
Leura Russell Smith - Russell.Smith@vinnies.org.au
Lawson - 0409592055

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2026. A daily reflection for everyone who wants to spiritually prepare for Advent through Christmas. There are two sessions: Wednesday at 2pm and 7pm. The program will start on the 25th of November 2026. The cost of the Advent Book is $5.00. If you are interested in joining, please contact Barbara on 0417490103, or if you cannot attend but would like an advent book, please contact the office or Barabara.

Notice from the Parish Office. November is the month we remember, pray and celebrate mass for our beloved faithful departed, members of our families and friends. Envelopes are in the pews and names will be recorded in our Book of Remembrance which will be on display for the whole month. Masses will be celebrated for them. Please place your envelope in the second collection. Thank you!

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased: Richard Kemmis. Richard Johnson, Zenn Forbes, Vincent Ducrest, Gerry McInerney, Fr. Robert Brogan.

Death Anniversary: Jean Cooke, Frank Joseph Menser, Mary Moran and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Kim, Trish Carey, Pat McAuley, Breda Seamons, Robyn Bogart, 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 Sergent, Sandy Mowbray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverely Bateup, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennet, 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.

ACN

RED NOVEMBER

PRAY • SUPPORT • ACT

FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD



RED NOVEMBER: PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS. Aid to the Church in Need invites all Catholics to remember, pray for and support persecuted Christians throughout Red November. Register Today and receive a free prayer and complimentary pair of Rosary beads, Handmade by Christians in Syria. Scan QR Code.



MEN'S PRAYER

An invitation for men, to meet in Prayer ~

The Sharer's of Christ's Passion and The Blessed Mother

Thursday evenings 7pm-8pm every week.

St Canice's Church Hall. 156 Katoomba St Katoomba

The Sharer's is for men who want to learn to, or continue to, Follow Christ, honour Mary, pray faithfully, love others, serve humbly, seek nothing in return.

Experience prayer with men committed to growing devotion to our GOD.



The Procession of Christ the King is at 11am – 12pm commencing at Saint Canice's Church, Katoomba, before walking North on Katoomba St, West onto Pryor Place, South on Parke St, East on Waratah St and North again on Katoomba St back to the church.

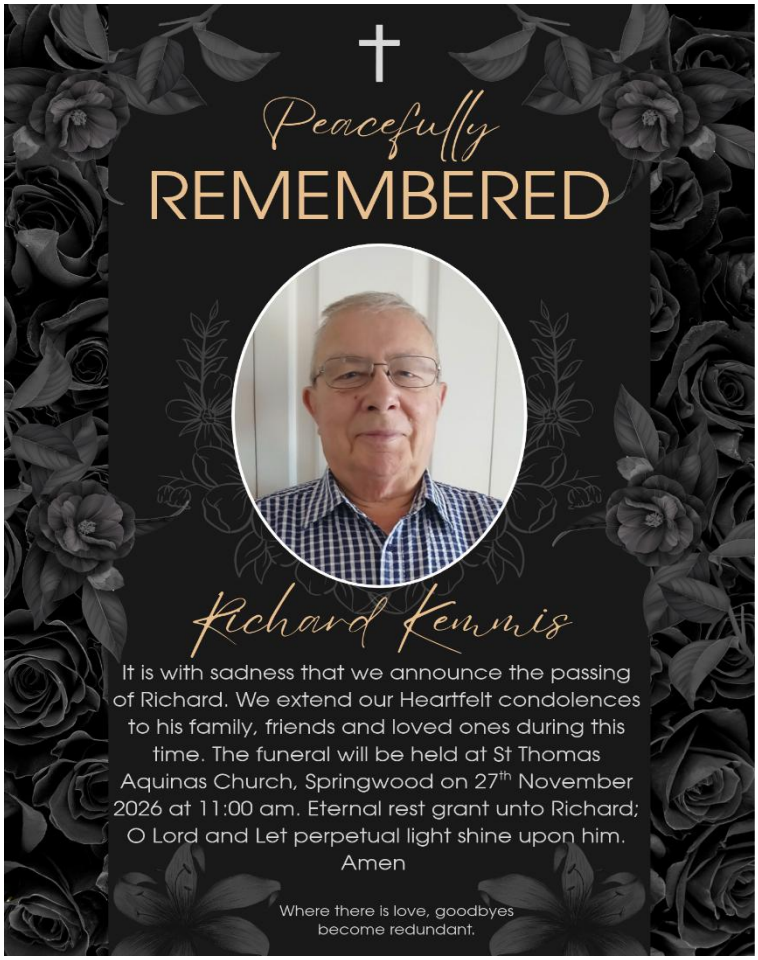
You're Invited!

FATHER PETER'S ORDINATION 40TH ANNIVERSARY MORNING TEA

We are inviting all parishioners to join us for a special morning tea to celebrate Father Peter's 40th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday November 22nd from 11am (following 10am Mass) at St Canice's Hall.

We will also be collecting after our Masses leading up to the event if you would like to contribute a small amount towards a gift we hope to present to Father Peter on this special occasion.

Looking forward to seeing you all there.





CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

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SACRED HEART CHURCH

BLACKHEATH

"Yanama Budyari Gumada – Walk with Good Spirit"

Donations: See the Parish Finance section for details

Blackheath Vinnies Support : 0490 709 547

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

A Quiet Day - Saturday December 5, 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Parishioners and friends are invited to a Quiet Day of Meditations and Reflections based on the writings of Thomas Merton. Guest Speaker will be Linda Chapman. This is a time of spiritual nourishment and renewal and will be held in Sacred Heart Church Hall and grounds. For more information, please contact Marilyn Jones 0401637759.

Sacred Heart Christmas Party. Friday, 4 December 2026 at 6pm at the Church Hall. Bring your own drinks and a plate of food, savory or sweet, to share. Everyone is welcome to this festive celebration!

WEDNESDAY CUPPA'S AT SACRED HEART CHURCH HALL, BLACKHEATH 9:30-12:00 NOON. Join us at the craft-making table from 10am-11am for the next four Wednesdays and create Christmas napkins and Christmas stockings. Materials for the Christmas craft are provided. Everyone is welcome to share in the sewing fun! All members of our parish are warmly invited to come along on a Wednesday morning for a coffee, conversation and the opportunity to meet new people. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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

Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden. On Saturday 14 November, between 10am and 4pm, our Blackheath Community Kitchen Garden will be open as part of the 2026 Blue Mountains EDIBLE GARDEN TRAIL. We are holding a stall at the garden as part of this open day to raise funds for the garden through the sale of produce and plants. If you can help with the stall on the day or donations of plants and products such as jams or relishes, please let Brian know on 0401 768 688. Further information on the trail is available on the Blue Mountains Food Co-op website.

ABAX KINGFISHER
abaxkf.com.au 1300 300 369
PO Box 7250 1 Cowpasture Pl, Wetherill Park NSW 2164
Approved supplier for the NSW Government under the Office and Education Furniture Contract 771



CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE 2026. It's that time of the year again to start preparations for our Christmas Hamper Raffle. As in the past we are asking parishioners to contribute to this **FUNDRAISING EVENT.** There will be a basket left inside the church for your contributions. Also on the noticeboard at the front of church there is a list of goodies required to make this Hamper bigger and better than last year. Please put your name against any of the items you would like to donate. **We are then asking that you then get a book of raffle tickets from Marilyn or Diane and Sell! Sell! Sell!.** Thank you in anticipation for your help with our end of year Fundraiser.

†

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

MT VICTORIA

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

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ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be held on Friday 20th November 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. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH

WENTWORTH FALLS

Lectors and Acolytes. If you are willing to read the Sunday scripture readings as lector or willing to serve as an acolyte, please call the Office and training will be provided.



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY FOR THE PARISH QOUTA AND FOR THE DIOCESE'S SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

†

ST. CANICE'S CHURCH

KATOOMBA

CHURCH COMMUNITY GARDEN. Please feel free to weed out front garden at any time. Our plants need watering on hot days.

†

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH

LAWSON

OLN REFLECTIONS RETURN. Father John, the OLN Church Community Pastoral Team and the Parish Council are very supportive of once again presenting reflections at the Vigil Mass at OLN. The new reflections will take place outside of the liturgy, straight after the commentator welcomes everyone and before the Entrance Hymn. If you would like to know more or if you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office on 47822804 or email the Parish Office on upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org

OLN MEETING ROOM. To book the meeting room, please contact the parish office and leave your details.

DRAWN TOGETHER. Our parish group commences now. Please contact Lorraine Phillips at *try hard artist* with any questions you may have and to just let me know, if you are interested. Email: lorrainemary64@gmail.com. Please know that most people say "I can't draw." Well, it's like any skill... You just have to be shown how.

OLN SENIOR'S SOCIAL GROUP. If you would like to find out more about our Church Community's Senior's group, please leave your contact details with our Parish Office in Katoomba.

MORNING TEA AND SUPPER AT OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY, LAWSON. We welcome all our parishioners to join us for supper on Saturday, November 21 and morning tea on Sunday November 22 after mass.



†

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.

DIOCESE NEWS AND BEYOND

THE MESSENGER

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

WYD27 Pilgrim Endorsements by Clergy. Pilgrims wishing to join Parramatta's pilgrimage to WYD27 are required to fill-out a Form. Endorsements should be required to obtain an endorsement from a priest known to them or a Catholic Community Leader. You may approached a priest to complete an Applicant Endorsement, as this will assist the WYD Leadership Team in selecting pilgrims. Thank you.

Bishop's Good Works Appeal 2026 for Christmas. Our second Bishop's Good Works Appeal for 2026 will support Catholic Care's Houses to Homes program. Helping young mothers and their children who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or escaping violence find safe accommodation and the support they need to begin again. Houses to Homes provide transitional housing, case management and practical support to help families build a safer, more stable future.

Catholic Parish Of the Upper Blue Mountains
Under the Patronage of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop

Christmas Mass 2026

December 24 Christmas Eve Vigil
Thursday Evening

- 5:00 pm Leura - Railway Pd & Hartley Esplanade
- 5:00 pm Lawson - 254 Great Western Highway
- 6:00 pm Blackheath - 167 Wentworth St

Christmas Midnight
Thursday 12:00 am

- 12:00 am Katoomba - 158 Katoomba St

Christmas Day
Friday

- 8:00 am Wentworth Falls - 3 Day Street
- 8:30 am Lawson - 254 Great Western Highway
- 9:30 am Blackheath - 167 Wentworth St
- 10:00 am Katoomba - 158 Katoomba St

NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
NO MASS ON BOXING DAY

Merry Christmas and God Bless Us All!

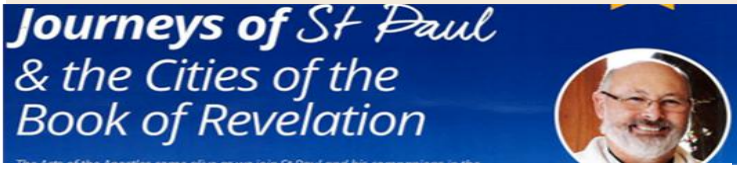
Catholic Parish Of the Upper Blue Mountains
Under the Patronage of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop

Confession Times 2026

Thurs	17 Dec	After Mass from 9:30 am	Wentworth Falls
Fri	18 Dec	After Mass from 9:30 am	Lawson
Fri	18 Dec	After Mass from 12:30 pm	Katoomba
Sat	19 Dec	After Mass from 9:30 am	Katoomba
Sat	19 Dec	4:00 pm to 4:45 pm	Leura
Sat	19 Dec	4:15 pm to 4:45 pm	Lawson
Mon	21 Dec	After Mass from 9:30 am	Katoomba
Tues	22 Dec	After Mass from 9:30 am	Leura
Wed	23 Dec	After Mass from 9:30 am	Blackheath

From The Clergy
From the Parish Staff

Merry Christmas and God Bless Us All!



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**

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon
The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31
A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands.
She sets her hands to the distaff; her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor,
she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm
Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers and sisters, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But, it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers and sisters, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Matthew 25:14-30
Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The one who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The one who had received two made two more in the same way. But the one who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the one with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the one who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and they will have more than enough; but from the one who has not, even what they have will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."'

Communion Antiphon
To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

