



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

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: 6pm 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: Inquire @the Office

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



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

FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE MIST

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year A 29 March 2026

Reflection of the Readings

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
This Sunday really presents us with an extremely fundamental question. Is Christ our King? Does He rule or do we want to rule and have our God serve us?

The Jews were very happy to welcome a Messiah who would expel the Romans, restore their national pride and give their egos a big boost. But Christ's Kingdom was not of this world! His people are those who listened to the Word of God and did the will of the Father. The basic, fundamental difference. Not what we want, but what God wants. We serve Him no matter what the cost. Our example, our shining light is Our Blessed Lady who will walk with Her son to Calvary and stand at the foot of the cross accepting the will of the Father even when her heart was breaking and she didn't know why this was happening. So, when we acclaim Christ as our Saviour and King this Sunday let's remember the cost of citizenship in His Kingdom. Let's contemplate this cost and what it means in our lives this coming week as we walk with Christ towards Calvary on Good Friday.



- Deacon Alan

Bishop Vincent's Easter Message 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you! In this Easter season of 2026, we are all living in very troubled, wounded times. With so much conflict, violence and entrenched hatred, we might even be tempted to occasionally lament: Where is our God? In such chaotic times it is good to be reminded of a wonderful story about St Teresa of Avila. One day the devil appeared to her, disguised as Jesus. St Teresa wasn't fooled for even a second, dismissing the devil. Before leaving, the devil asked her, "How could you be so sure I wasn't Jesus? Teresa replied: "You didn't have any wounds – Christ has wounds!" One of the most striking elements of our Gospel's Resurrection stories is that Jesus is still wounded in all of them. The crucifixion wounds do not disappear. The resurrected body of Christ remains marked by his earthly suffering, forever. It is not until the disciples see the wounds of Christ that they recognise Jesus for who he is. Our Catholic faith, however, refuses to gloss over our own personal wounds - the wounds of our brothers and sisters, and those of our suffering planet, with hollow positive thinking. Instead, our Holy Father Pope Leo urges us to move beyond passivity. Leo challenges us to become peacemakers! And we can all become peacemakers in very simple ways. If only we had the eyes of faith we would notice that peacemaking is all around us. To name only a few examples:

In the quiet, tender care of our nurses and care-givers in our hospitals, especially to the elderly and the dying; In the patient and professional care of our Catholic teachers who generously serve our young people; In the quiet heroism of parents as they sacrifice themselves for the good of their children; In the outreach of our social services like Catholic Care who help the needy; In the lives of ordinary people who refuse to become resentful and instead choose to forgive and love their enemies. Yes, the wounds of such peacemakers do not embitter them but become fountains of peace and hope for others. This Easter let us allow the risen Lord to roll away the rocks of pride, ego and selfishness from our hearts. May we banish all violence from our lives. May the light of the risen Christ that streams from his glorified wounds bring joy, healing and peace to us all. For "By His wounds we are healed". A blessed Easter to you all.

-Bishop Vincent Long, D.D., OFM Conv

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/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>

[UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ).

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL



If you 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.

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)

Weddings & Church Bookings

For Inquiries and Church Bookings of your choice, please call the office.

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 Cenacle Rosary after, Katoomba.

Notice for Parish Bulletin

If you wish to receive electronically or via email our parish bulletin, please email us on

bluemountains@parracatholic.org

If you also want to include any items for the weeks' parish bulletin, email us on or before Wednesday afternoon

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John

Fr Peter

Fr Jessie

Dec Alan

John Tweedie (Chair)

Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)

John Grant

Tom Boyd

Maylin Corros

Marilyn Rowe

--- FINANCE NEWS ---

Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson Meeting Room Rebuild

Our Lady of Nativity Lawson was severely damaged by fire. It has been unusable since then. Restoring the meeting room is seen a priority issue for our new Upper Blue Mountains Parish. And so, we are calling on parishioners to assist in raising funds for this project. We are considering a parish wide fundraiser. We need to raise \$20,000 and some donations have already been made or committed. To ensure your donation is allocated to the rebuild, you include in the reference section. **Donation Rebuild Meeting Room**

Account name: Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity

BSB: 067-950

Account Number: 00000164

Reference: Donation Rebuild Meeting Room

- Fr John McSweeney and John Tweedie, Chair of the Finance Com

Parish Registration/Survey Card If you are a new parishioner or visitor and if you haven't completed one of our New Parishioner Card, we encourage you to register with us and be part of our Parish Community. Our Parishioner cards are available in the foyer.

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

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.

REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH. every 4th Sunday of the month 11:30am @ St Canice's Hall, Katoomba, until November. Come along, bring a friend, and take part in a welcoming conversation grounded in **Catholic tradition, shared faith, and community.** Next meeting **26th April.**

PROPAGATION OF FAITH APPEAL. The Universal Church and Catholic Mission's appeal this year primarily focus to build a school for children in the Diocese of Chikwawa, Malawi. This World Mission Sunday, we would like to appeal to you, help us build this school.



Tel 02 9919 7841

Email dcarson@catholicmission.org.au

PO Box 1668, North Sydney NSW 2059

Free call: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au

Morning Prayer of Landscapes @Blackheath. Join us for this special spirituality session guided by Merilyn Hancock, Parramatta Diocesan Consultant on the powerful symbols in Christian spirituality- mountains are places of encounter, revelation, silence and transformation.

Sunday 19th April 2026– 11:30 am– 1:30 am, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Hall. RSVP on 12th April. Call Julie O'Keefe 0413119649 or Brian Bright 0401768688.

A QUIET DAY OF REFLECTION. Parishioners and friends are invited to a Quiet Reflection Day to be held at Sacred Heart Hall, Blackheath, on Saturday May 2 from 10am-3pm. The meditation is based on Father John Main and Father Laurence Freeman's practice, both Benedictine priests. This will be a time for spiritual nourishment, growth, and renewal. BYO lunch. Morning tea provided. Entry by donation. All are welcome to this day.

RSVP to Marilyn Jones: 0401637 759

marlyn.jones5@bigpond.com for more details.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Ecumenical Service: You're welcome to start your Easter celebrations with this ecumenical community event. A deeply resonating experience of the joy of the Easter journey. Thank you to parishioners who have made donations and purchased raffle tickets to support the cost of holding this free community outreach. Winners will be announced after Easter. May this event inspire hope faith and joy in our local community. **Venue** - Leuralla Amphitheatre, Olympian Parade, Leura **Date:** 5 April 2026 **Time:** 6 am (note : Daylight Saving has time ended) **If wet:** gather at Leura Uniting Church

The Sacred Heart Church Community Pastoral Team met last Sunday and discussed the following items: Easter events, our continued Ecumenical relationship with Blackheath Uniting Church, the 125th anniversary of Sacred Heart Church in 2027 and Church fund raising projects. Your team members are **Frances Huckstep, Julie O'Keefe, Marilyn Jones, Graham Beale and Paul Harris.** Please see any of these people if you would like a matter raised.

Upcoming: National count of Mass attendance. The 6th National Count of Attendance at Mass and Sunday Assemblies will take place in May 2026. Parishes will be asked to provide estimates of the age and sex of attendees and to report the number of online 'views' for streamed Masses or Sunday assemblies. Instructions for conducting the count, along with training materials, will be available over the next 2 weeks. Any questions or assistance required, please contact Alfie Ramirez.



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



Recently Deceased: Kevin Gordon, Maria Christina Vera de Penna, Rebecca Etccl, Stephen Mount

Death Anniversary: John Mifsud & Veneranda Mifsud, Moran William Halliday Paul Nyssen, Bridget Collits, Stephanie Jean Murphy, Dulcie Elizabeth Nyssen, Lenna & Elizabeth, Barbara Connolly, and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Maureen O'Reilly, George and Laura Boffa, Sarah-Jane Hallett, Les Hayward, Chloe Newton, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergent, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella & George Commens, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Kevin Medlin, Lan Franco Matteucci. 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.





CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies 2026

ST CANICE
KATOOMBA

ST BONAVENTURE
LEURA

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
WENTWORTH FALLS

OUR LADY OF NATIVITY
LAWSON

SACRED HEART
BLACKHEATH



Mass of the
Lord's Supper

Maundy Thursday 2 April, 2026

Combined Parish Celebration @ St Canice Katoomba @ 7:00 pm



Stations of
the Cross

Lord's
Passion

10:00 am

9:30 am

9:00 am

10:00 am

10:00 am

3:00 pm

NONE

NONE

3:00 pm

3:00 pm

Good Friday 3 April, 2026



Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 4 April, 2026

7:00 pm

NONE

NONE

7:00 pm

7:00 pm

Easter Sunday 5 April, 2026



10:00 am

8:30 am

8:00 am

8:30 am

9:30 am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON

7.00 pm | 27 March 2026



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

SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY
BLACKHEATH

Landscapes of Prayer

WITH MERILYN HANCOCK,
PARRAMATTA DIOCESAN CONSULTANT

Mountains in Christian
Spirituality

SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026 11:00 AM MORNING TEA
11:30 AM- 1:30 PM

RSVP 12 APRIL '26
JULIE O'KEEFFE - 0413119649
BRIAN BRIGHT - 0401768688

Sacred Heart Catholic
Church Hall, Blackheath
167 Wentworth Street
Blackheath



CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 20th of March at 4:00 pm. Address: 1270 Megalong Rd, Megalong Valley NSW 27



ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

Summer Vigil Masses for Sunday occurs every Saturdays at 6:00 pm. Address- 65 Great Western Highway, Mount Victoria NSW 2786.

EASTER Services and Activities at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath. Together with the Holy Week & Easter Ceremonies advertised in the Parish bulletin, the following activities will take place in Blackheath during Holy Week. **GOOD FRIDAY:** Stations of the Cross in the Forest; **GOOD FRIDAY** Sunset Reflection at Mount Blackheath; **EASTER SATURDAY:** Walk to Walls Cave; **EASTER SUNDAY:** Greeting the Dawn. These are longstanding Easter traditions at Blackheath & everyone is welcome to participate. Please see the attached flyer for detail

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE LENTEN FOODBANK APPEAL Our Sacred Heart Community has been a long time and very generous supporter of the JRS Lenten Foodbank Appeal. **These struggling families desperately need our support! Item below is being sought this week. If you would prefer to support JRS by donating a Gift Card, please check out the Gift Card Flyer or speak with David Buckley (47875105 or 0400208707)**



SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY BLACKHEATH

"Yanama Budyari Gumada- Walk with Good Spirit"

DONATIONS

Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow the link below and make your choice of option. You will be asked to show your name and mobile phone number:

<https://www.bpoin.com.au/pay>

[CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH](https://www.bpoin.com.au/pay)

As an alternative to following the link, please use the attach QR Code.



Blackheath Vinnies Support phone number:
0490 709 547

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

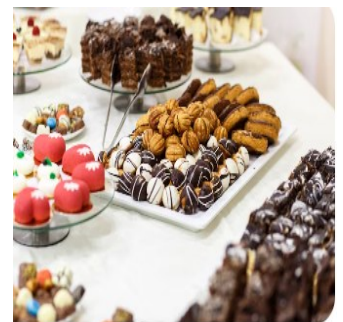
WEDNESDAY CUPPA'S TOGETHER IN SACRED HEART HALL! Cuppas" has resumed on Wednesdays. Come for coffee, home made cakes and a catchup with other locals. All members of the community are welcome to come along. Time: 9:30am - 12:00pm each Wednesday.



Location: Sacred Heart Church Hall - Wentworth St, Blackheath.

CAKE STALL - EASTER SUNDAY

There will be a fundraising Cake & plant stall on the church veranda before and after the Easter Sunday Mass at Blackheath Church. Donations of cakes, plants and home made goodies are gladly accepted. Enquiries to Marilyn Rowe on 0414 536 601



WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK / SAFEGUARDING

We are asking those involved to please update or obtain a Working With Children Check and once obtained send details to the Parish Office Email: upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org so that we may notify the Diocese. Thank you to all those who give their time and talent for the benefit of our Parish here in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

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.





OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH LAWSON

DONATIONS: Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow. Donations can be made to Our Lady of Nativity via direct deposit to the bank account below.

Account name: Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity
BSB: 067-950 Account Number: 00000164

USED STAMPS: Thank you to those who have left their used stamps in the STAMP BOX in the church foyer. These stamps are forwarded to **MacKillop International Foundation** in North Sydney during the year contributing to their fundraising. Used stamps are worth \$\$ so definitely worth recycling for the benefit of the needy. Paula Currie

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED Calling anyone who is willing to help take care of the OLN Church grounds - mainly mowing, occasionally trimming hedges, weeding, etc We are hoping to create a roster of volunteers to keep our Church grounds tidy and presentable. All helpers welcome. Please contact **PAUL GANNON on 0409592055**

EASTER SERVICES ROSTER: So that we are prepared for each of the Easter services, you are invited to participate in whatever way you feel comfortable with. There are some very small parts, all of which can be found on the volunteer roster sheets in the Church foyer. Practice for all services will be an hour before the Celebration. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Words of Wisdom from Dr Laurie Woods

Ego can destroy relationships and be the death of growth to maturity. So much 'self' is wrapped up that it cannot conceive another person being generous and forgiving.

Through all four gospels we get a glimpse of what Jesus means by love as a process- something that has to be worked on to make way for maturity and growth. It needs self-giving. We don't so much fall in love as grow in connection. Love without connection is incomplete. Connection that does not grow in love can be shallow.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH WENTWORTH FALLS

DONATIONS: Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow the link from St Canice's Katoomba. Please follow this link.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY @ ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH Inviting those music enthusiasts and musically incline to form a choir for St Francis Xavier Church Community Mass every Sunday at 8:30 am. Please call the office or let the sacristan know. Practice will be announced as soon as we have you.



ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH LEURA

DONATIONS: Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow the link from St Canice's Katoomba. Please follow this link.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY IN LEURA If you are able to sing at 5:00 pm Sunday Mass in St Bonaventure Church, we would like to invite you to be part of the Choir with **Sarah Nyssen (0488203267)**, or call the parish office. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR. Children who are able to come to the 8.30am Easter Sunday Mass at St Bonaventure's Church, Leura, are invited to be part of a children's choir. Please contact Colleen Bourke, 0415329048, or cbourke5@parra.catholic.edu.au


DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. Devotion will start at 3:00 pm with Confessions and Benediction from 4:00pm to 4:20 pm followed by Mass at 5:00 pm.

With Courage and Quiet Strength

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

 **Sat. 21 March**
9:00am

 **Mary MacKillop**
Spirituality Centre
33Barina DownsRd
Norwest NSW 2153

 **\$20 per person**
RSVP by 17 March

02 9634 2317

In honour of the Feast of St Joseph and the legacy of Mary MacKillop, we invite women of all walks of life to gather for a morning of reflection, nourishment and connection.

Come share breakfast, hear from Sr Virginia Bourke rsj, and rediscover the strength that flows from faith, community and courageous love.

 **REGISTER NOW**

To register:
scan QR code

or head to
<https://tinyurl.com/4pcjv9ef>



BE A PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

If you are year 12 student, a university student or a young professional, male, single and interested to become a priest involved in the Diocese of Parramatta, we invite you to journey with us.

Contact the Vocation Director
Rev Fr Galbert Albino

Galbert.Albino@parracatholic.org

(02) 477 34 321

†
ST. CANICE'S CHURCH
KATOOMBA

PARISH B. POINT: We have introduced a new and easy way of contribution for both 1st and 2nd collections. When choosing 2nd collection please note name and envelop No. Please follow this link.

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

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 Bpoint.

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

SAINT THIS WEEK

Thu 2 Holy Thursday
Fri 3 Good Friday
Sat 4 Holy Saturday
Sun 5 Easter Sunday
NEXT SUNDAY: Easter Sunday

Fr Joseph Lam's New Book. St Augustine on Listening, Humility and Unity. The Augustinian Root of Pope Leo XIV. This book will be launched on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 7:00 pm by Sister Dr Margaret Ghosn. Venue: Parish of Baulkham Hills, 1 Chapel Lane (Downey Room) 2153 Baulkham Hills.



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CATALYST for Renewal Reflection Morning

"Reading the Bible for Contemplation"

Presented by: Dr. Laurie Woods

Dr Laurie is a specialist in biblical studies having taught in that field for 30 years at Australian Catholic University.

Date: April 18, 2026.

Time and Place: 9:30am-12:30pm at Uniting Church Hall. Cnr Gt. Western Highway & Rosedale Ave, Hazelbrook

Parking: Hazelbrook Shopping Centre.

Tea/Coffee Provided: Entry by donation

Enquiries: carol.len.thankyou@icloud.com

Program also on Catalyst for Renewal website www.catalystforrenewal.org.au

This is a discussion about reading the Bible for spiritual insight and deeper engagement. Are you put off by some of the ways the messages of Scripture are delivered these days? The Bible is not about dogma and certainty. It is about the drama and poetry of relationship. Take a dive into the poetry and imagination of the biblical texts and immerse yourself in this mystical masterpiece. 'This is the word of the Lord' – really!

You have heard it or read it...but have you felt it? Have you experienced it? How did it speak to your spiritual imagination? Put aside what you know and call on your inner creativity and spiritual imagination to actually experience the word. Let's tap into the 'underground river,' as Eckhart puts it, of Divine Wisdom.

How does a biblical spirituality transcend creeds and boundaries?

'Creativity wakes people up, and energy flows from that.' Matthew Fox (*Meister Eckhart*).

'We must keep our own amazement, our own eagerness alive.' Abraham Joshua Heschel.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests and religious. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly and religious life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for their work of redemption.

Mother Mary, pray for your priests...

St Therese, pray for all the religious men and women, Padre Pio, pray for your brother priests and religious, All the Angels and Saints in Heaven, pray for holy priests of the Lord. Amen.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

GOSPEL FOR PROCESSION (Matthew 21:1-11)

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village facing you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'.

This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Six days before the Passover,
when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,
the children ran to meet him;
in their hands they carried palm branches
and with a loud voice cried out:
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you,
who have come in your abundant mercy!
O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory!
Who is this king of glory?
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you,
who have come in your abundant mercy!

FIRST READING (Isaiah 50:4-7)

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING (Philippians 2:6-11)

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as human beings are, and being as all people are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
king of endless glory!

GOSPEL (Matthew 26:14-27:66)

...But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit. **All kneel and pause a moment.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

