



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

26TH Sunday in Ordinary Time | Year A 27 September 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

The readings are telling us to get real. Be genuine. The Chief Priest and Elders of the Jewish people are told by Christ that prostitutes and tax collectors are more likely to enter the Kingdom of Heaven than they are. Why? Because they aren't accepting what they are hearing and seeing. Why aren't they accepting? Because they disregard it, claiming it's not true.

Why are they claiming it's untrue? Because it threatens their authority and status. Their egos are putting them at odds with God, so to avoid being like them we must take seriously the words of the second reading.

"If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind... There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing."

Self-effacing. We need to examine our motives. What is driving us. What matters most to us. Not to condemn ourselves, but to take what we find to Christ our Saviour.

To gain a pure heart, a heart with a primary desire, unity with Christ in doing the will of God. This is how we become genuine, willing and fit to work in the Vineyard, united with the Vine and draw life from it.

- Deacon Allan

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL THANK YOU WEEKEND



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 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. "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); Maria Dodd Lawson; Ex-officio John Tweedie (Parish Finance Chair).

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 with BSB 067 950 with an account number: 000 00594, we kindly request you include both of 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.



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.**

Garden Maintenance Assistance for Blackheath Katoomba 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 with tidying up our grounds. A bit of weeding and hedging. Please contact with your availability.

Blackheath Julie O'Keeffe- text 0407248199

Katoomba Russell Smith-Russell.Smith@vinnies.org.au

Lawson Paul Gannon- 0409592055



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

Death Anniversary: Bridget Collits, Nola Margaret, Margaret Mary Kozlowski, Peter Nicholas Aboud, Edna Sweeny, Luke William O'Connor and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: 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 Sergeant, Sandy Mowbray, 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.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday

Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON

7.00 pm | 2nd October 2026



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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

BLESSINGS OF ANIMALS

St Canice's Church Katoomba

AFTER MASS ON SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER
2026@11:00 AM



Taste and See

- Psalm 34:8

JOIN US on October 8th & 22nd, and November 12th. 3 sessions 1pm – 3pm. Sacred Heart Hall -167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath for an afternoon with Merlin Hancock. Refreshments provided.

A time to pause.... A time to be still... A time to notice and reflect on the goodness of the Lord in our everyday lives. Through the simple moments, the people we encounter, the beauty that surrounds us, and the blessings we sometimes overlook, may we taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

To book your place, call, text or email Brian

Bright. Phone: 0401 768 688. Email:
bbright45@bigpond.com



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

St Vincent de Paul. Feast September 27.



St Vincent did not look at Jesus Christ as a Teacher, nor as a Healer, but as the Evangelizer of the people living in deep poverty.

Vincent was born in 1581 in the village of Pouy in Gascony, France, to peasant farmers.

At 15, his father sent him to the seminary, managing to pay for it by selling the family's oxen. Vincent's interest in the priesthood at that time, was largely with the intent to establish a successful career and obtain a benefice, with which he could retire early. However Vincent's thoughts were not God's thoughts!

Vincent's conversion began through his time with and preaching a mission to the peasants on the Gondi estates which opened him to a call that he should direct his efforts to the poor. It was the Countess de Gondi who persuaded her husband to endow and support a group of able and zealous missionaries who would work among poor tenant farmers and country people in general.

Vincent de Paul offers a constant reminder in the twenty-first century, as he offered in his own 17th century world of France that true charity consists not just in assistance that is given but in willingness to relate humanly to those whom we meet and whose needs call for our support.

Russell F Smith, St V de Paul Blue Mountains Regional President.

"SPIT ROAST DINNER & ELVIS PRESLEY SHOW" OLON Lawson is holding a 3-course Spit Roast Dinner & Live Elvis Presley show on Saturday 7th at 6pm at St. Canice's Hall, Katoomba with a cost of \$60 per person. Please note that there is a vegetarian option on the menu. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all other churches to join our fun night to help raise the funds needed for Lawson church's ongoing maintenance. There is a lucky door prize on the night, so you may be the lucky winner! Tickets are available for purchase in Blackheath, Katoomba, Leura and Lawson church foyers after each mass and payment can be made by cash or using the Eftpos machine. Alternatively ring the Katoomba office on 4782 2804 to book a ticket. Ticket sales will continue until the last week of October, but get in quickly to secure your table!

Holy Shroud Exhibition. St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta is hosting the Holy Shroud Exhibition featuring a life-size replica of the Shroud of Turin. From Sunday September 6– Sunday September 13, 9:00 am—6:00 pm. From Thursday September 10—Sunday September 13 September, the exhibition will have extended opening hours from 9:00 am—10:00 pm daily and will be located in the Chapel. Parking Available via Victoria Road. Everyone is welcome. For more details please contact: coordinator@stpatscathedral.com.au

ACBC Social Justice Statement. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Justice Statement Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division explores recent developments in Australia including the Bondi Beach attack of December 2025 as well as the alarming rise in Islamophobia and other forms of racism. If you have any questions about the Social Justice Statement or need support with using it in your parish, please reach out to our Peace, Justice & Ecology Team via met@parracatholic.org

Healing and Support Service offered by the Diocese: Our Diocese offers a Healing and Support Service providing pastoral, therapeutic and spiritual care to anyone who has experienced harm in a Church context. We provide direct support, resources, and pathways to assist individuals in their process of healing and recovery. Our approach is person centered, assisting according to each person's individual needs and circumstances. If you, a loved one or someone you know has experiences abuse in a Church context, you are welcome to contact our Healing and Support Counsellor lorena.portocarrero@parracatholic.org, or for more information visit parracatholic.org/safeguarding/healing-and-support

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

BLACKHEATH

"Yanama Budyari Gumada – Walk with Good Spirit"

Donations: 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 CUPPAS TOGETHER IN SACRED HEART



HALL! Cuppas has resumed on Wednesdays. For coffee, homemade 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.

Season of Creation: This is a special time when we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine action that calls us to love and care for God's abundant gifts of life. The season runs for the month of September and concludes on the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi on October 4th.

A Quiet Day- Saturday December 05 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. Please note the date for this gathering is on **Saturday December 05 10:00 am—2:00 pm**. For more information, please contact Marilyn Jones 0401637759.

CAKE, PLANT AND CRAFT STALL

CALLING ALL BAKERS, GARDENERS AND CRAFTY PEOPLE

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2026

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

ALL DONATIONS OF CAKES, SLICES, JAMS, PLANTS, WORM POO AND CRAFT ITEMS WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

Please Donate, Buy and Support our Church





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 @ St. Canice's Hall at Katoomba and will cost \$60 at 6pm for 6.30pm dinner. Vegetarian option is available. Please bring your own drinks; dancing shoes. Tickets will be available each weekend till the end of October by cash or by the Eftpos machine and written receipt provided. Please look for Jenny Gannon or Kate Powell

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

DRAWN TOGETHER. Our parish group, now known as 'Drawn Together' is planning to commence at the beginning of term 4, 2026. Monday 12 October 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. You only need to bring a couple of drawing pencils (2B and 6B), eraser, sharpener, and A3 drawing Diary. All available at local stores. Even if you have never ventured into art but always longed to, you will fit in perfectly. Please contact Lorraine Phillips at try hard artist with any questions you may have and just let me know that you are interested. Email: lorrainemarv64@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.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH WENTWORTH FALLS

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



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH MT VICTORIA

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



ST. JOSEPH'S 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.



ST BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH LEURA



ST BONAVENTURE'S CCPT

St Bonaventure's has been entrusted to our care.

❖❖ WHAT CAN I OFFER? ❖❖

We need to hear from anyone who would like to work with us in the area of fundraising. Your skills are needed!



Barbara needs assistance with organising and running an open garden at her home in Leura on the weekend of 10/11 October.

CAN YOU HELP?

Contact: Barbara Davidson

Please see the insert for further details of our first fundraising project

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



ST. CANICE'S CHURCH KATOOMBA



Morning Tea. on Sunday 11th October 2026 after the 10 am Mass. Please bring a plate to share.

"A Holy Hour brings Heaven's choicest blessings on those who are faithful to their hour." Pope St Paul VI

DIOCESE NEWS AND 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

PUBLIC TALK. *Nurturing an Australian Spirituality: Pre-Colonisation, Colonisation and Walking Together* with Evelyn Parkin. Sunday, 1 November 2026 • 2.00 pm

About the Speaker. Evelyn Parkin is an Australian Aboriginal Quandamooka woman, born and raised on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island, Queensland. Evelyn is well known for her exploration of the meeting points between Aboriginal and Christian spirituality, drawing particularly on the importance of silence, connection to Country, the natural world and Christian faith. Her published work has appeared in Liturgy News and other publications. She will invite us to consider what it might mean to develop an authentically Australian spirituality—one that listens to the ancient wisdom of First Nations peoples, acknowledges the realities of our history, and seeks a way forward through respectful listening, encounter and walking together.

Mavis Wood Hall, Mid-Mountains Community Centre,
7 New Street, Lawson.

The Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) team is inviting Parishes to participate in the annual *Year 12 HSC Parish Youth Masses* initiative. This is a great opportunity to connect with local secondary schools, and to support our young people. The HSC in NSW begins on Tuesday, 13 October. We strongly encourage you to choose a Mass time on the weekend of 3-4 October. Please register your Parish Mass by completing the form available here. CYP will collate the masses submitted by 9am on 21 September into a poster to be distributed across the Diocese and to Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD). Prayer cards and stress balls for students are available if requested. Any questions, please contact cyp@parracatholic.org

National Police Remembrance Day. All are welcome to attend the National Police Remembrance Day Service. This is a day to remember Australian police officers and others who died on duty.

Date: 28 September 2026 at 2pm

Location: Blackheath Uniting Church, Govett's Leap Road Blackheath

Guest Speaker: Command Inspector Benjamin Hadfield



Pray with Pope Leo XIV: One Million Children Praying the Rosary. From 1-7 October, Aid to the Church in Need invites you to join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics worldwide for the One Million

Children Praying the Rosary prayer campaign for peace and unity in the world. Families, parishioners, prayer groups, and schools are all encouraged to register to take part! For free Rosary resources and to register, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying

“When one million children pray the Rosary, the world will change.” - Saint Padre Pio

About Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Aid to the Church in Need is the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the service of suffering Christians wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. Founded in 1947, ACN is a pontifical foundation and provides vital aid for pastoral projects, religious education, and emergency relief in areas affected by conflict and poverty. For many years we have partnered with parishes to share news of our work in bulletins to let parishioners know about these projects. ACN operates solely on benefactor donations, with no funding from Church or State. Learn more on our website: www.aidtochurch.org

SCHOENSTATT
Couples' Group
ORIENTATION DAY

1926 2026

You are warmly invited to be part of a loving community where couples grow in faith, strengthen their marriage, and build a better world with Mary as our guide.

“ Marriage is a very deep, permanent community of love and life; above all, a community of love! ”
(Fr Joseph Kentenich 1961)

DATE: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

VENUE: Joseph Kentenich House Hall
230 Fairlight Road
Mulgoa 2745 NSW

REGISTRATION: Free

Afternoon Tea provided

PLEASE RSVP:
by 25 September

Derek and Joycelyn Boog
Mobile: 0420 543 364

Sr Luisa Maria
Mobile: 0439537976

Together with Mary,
GROWING IN LOVE AND FAITH.

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



This pilgrimage is 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

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of your
mercy.

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright renounce their integrity to commit sin and die because of this, they die because of the evil that they themselves have committed. When sinners renounce sin to become law-abiding and honest, they deserve to live. They have chosen to renounce all their previous sins; they shall certainly live; they shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first, but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as people 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

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Communion Antiphon

By this we came to know the love of God:
that Christ laid down his life for us;
so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

