



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 2nd Sunday of Easter of Year A Divine Mercy Sunday 12 April 2026

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The first reading describes the first Christian's as have given away all personal property and sharing resources amongst themselves. This is quite important because the root cause of sin is wanting to take control of our lives, our destiny. But the second reading tells us that our destiny is in Christ, in His Resurrection which He will share with us. We are promised immortality in physical form in communion with God through Christ. A destiny so far surpassing anything we can achieve or even comprehend.



So, let's have faith in our God. Live lives subject to His will and share our talents, gift and

resources with those around us. Let us remember all we are, all we have has been give to us. Our intelligence, our health, our environment, our opportunities etc.. It's all given to us to use for the glory of God. Glorifying God is our mission. Just as Christ glorified the Father through His life so too must we glorify the Father through our lives. This is what Christ tells us in the Gospel. But we need the Holy Spirit because we need to be washed clean and have the scars and disfigurements of sin removed so that we can present the Father to the world. We are the image of God, not God, just as a painting is not a landscape but is the image of the landscape. The painting is canvas and wood and paint.

The painter makes it the image of the landscape. We are created beings, more or less from the earth but the Spirit transforms us into the image of God. When we sin, we diminish or lose contact with the Spirit that's why we need to examine our conscience and receive the sacrament of reconciliation so that the Spirit becomes present in us and recreates the Image of God in us so we can present the Father to the world.

---Deacon Alan

FROM THE PASTORS DESK



Dear friends in Christ,

- A marvellous and rather uplifting celebration of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum was experienced by all in our various church communities last week. My thanks to each and every parishioner who worked so hard to bring about all our superb liturgies. The combined celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper was a highlight for me.
- After unsuccessfully trying to get a Retreat for years, I will be heading to the Cistercian Abbey in Tarrawarra on Sunday 12/4, returning 10 days later. I will certainly keep you in prayer during this time.

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.

Parish email address:

upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org

Parish websites:

bluemountainscatholic.org.au

sacredheartblackheath.org.au

lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

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

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

Lawson Facebook: [facebook.com/olncclawson](https://www.facebook.com/olncclawson)

Blackheath Facebook: [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076756208721](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076756208721)

Parish YouTube:

[youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic](https://www.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>.

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

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John	John Tweedie (Chair)	Maylin Corros
Fr Peter	Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)	Marilyn Rowe
Fr Jessie	John Grant	
Dec Alan	Tom Boyd	

---FINANCE NEWS---

Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson Meeting Room Rebuild

Restoring the meeting room is seen a priority issue

We are calling on parishioners to assist in raising funds for this project.

We need to raise \$20,000

Donation Rebuild Meeting Room

Account name: Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity

BSB: 067-950

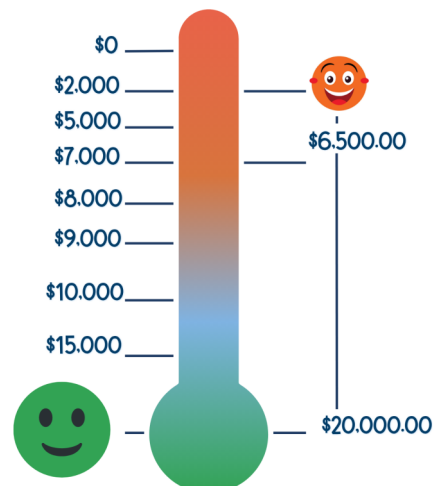
Account Number: 00000164

Reference: Donation Rebuild Meeting Room

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

The Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains
OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH
COMMUNITY RENOVATION

DONATION Meter



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**.

SAINT THIS WEEK

Mon 13 Saint Martin I, Pope, Martyr
NEXT SUNDAY: 3rd Sunday of Easter

PROJECT COMPASSION. Please return your boxes/donation in the next two weeks. Thank you.

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.

The Sacred Heart Church Community Pastoral Team 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.

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.

MASS TIMES:

Sacred Heart Church Community Blackheath @ 9:00 am
St Canice Church Community Katoomba @9:00 am
Our Lady of Nativity Church Community Lawson@9:00 am



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



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

Death Anniversary: Patricia Ducrest, John 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 Sergeant, 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.



THE SEARCH IS ON CAST YOUR VOTE!

Starting this weekend, we will be giving a brief overview of the 5 options for our parish Patron– which will be voted on during all Pentecost Masses. Please pray about each of the suggestions that have come from many different people and groups. The original 13 names have been reduced to the 5 majority options; and we start with St Francis of Assisi this week.

Thanking you.
Fr John

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St Francis of Assisi (c. 1181–1226) has been suggested as a possible patron for our new parish.

Francis is the patron saint of ecology and animals; and our parish is surrounded by a magnificent world heritage listed national park. As such his emphasis on creation, simplicity and humility, aligns with environmental concerns and outreach in our part of the world.

This holy saint is justly renowned for his care for creation and service to the poor, yet he taught the breadth of the Gospel and lived a radical life of poverty. He travelled the Italian countryside urging people to turn away from sin and toward the love of Jesus; and he had an intense devotion to the Holy Eucharist, preaching on the importance of reverencing the body and blood of Christ.

While the prayer “Make me a channel of Your peace” was mistakenly attributed to him (first published in France in the early 20th century) his Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon (All Creatures of our God and King) rings ever true as he urges all created things to give glory and praise to God.



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday
Adoration and
Benediction

OUR LADY OF NATIVITY CHURCH, LAWSON

7.00 pm | 01 MAY 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



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.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOF-SACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH>

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.



Friday 25th Anzac Day. 6am Dawn Service in Blackheath Memorial Park, **10.15am Anzac Day March** starts next to the Victory cafe and proceeds along Wentworth St. to Blackheath Memorial Park, for the **11am Anzac Day Service.**

Afterwards, light refreshments are available for free at the RSL Blackheath-Mt. Victoria sub-branch.

EASTER CAKE STALL. A Big Thank you to all who supported our Easter Cake Stall and we raised \$720.00 in total. Your generosity goes a long way.

- Marilyn and the Team



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 17th of April at 4:00 pm. Address: 1270 Megalong Rd, Megalong Valley NSW 27



ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

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



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**

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

EASTER SERVICES: A **HUGE thank you** to all the **volunteers** who were able to participate in our Easter services, including those behind the scenes. It definitely made it so much easier for those concerned to have the volunteer roles filled before the day. Also, massive "**thank you**" to our **musicians** and choir for leading us with the singing of all the very apt hymns. We are so fortunate to have you in our church community. We must not forget the **flower group** and our **Acolyte Pat**, who this year was a novice in this role. Fr Jessie definitely appreciated your valuable assistance Pat.

CATHOLIC OUTLOOK MAGAZINE for Lent & Easter/Autumn issue is now available in the church foyer. Some articles of interest are: **History of Parramatta Diocese**, which extends from Parramatta/Ermington to Mt Victoria, Dundas Valley to Megalong Valley, Luddenham in the south to Wiseman's Ferry in the north, is celebrating its **40th anniversary**; **the new Catholic Precinct and church for Blacktown**; the Pope honours a Lalor Park parishioner; to name a few. **Collect your copy from the church foyer.**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ASSIST with the projection of the hymns during Sunday Mass??? A great benefit in having more than one operator. If you would like further information, please see Paula Currie after the Sunday Mass. Instruction and assistance would always be available.

2026 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES. We will soon display in the foyer a schedule for fundraising activities for 2026 once the weather is more predictable. We also look forward to supplying both morning teas (Sundays) and suppers for Saturday night mass on the 1st weekend of every month. To support our 2026 Fundraising activities Kate Powell and myself (Jenny Gannon) kindly ask you for donations of any Artwork (paintings or prints) you may no longer need and small empty clean lidded jars. These can be provided to myself or Kate in the foyer after each mass. Or alternatively call Jenny (0428057753) or Kate 0420545275) for any enquiries you may have. We look forward to your support to raise funds for our Church Community throughout 2026. Let's bring our Church community closer with everyone being involved in a common goal.



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.

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.
-Pam

**The Nepean Catenians Invite
Men of the Upper Blue Mountains
To join us for meeting and dinner
at**

**Gaels Club, 75 Richmond road, Kingswood
6.45 pm, Tuesday 14th April 2026**

**Enquiries and RSVP by 13th April
Email :mghtan@tpg.com.au
Phone: 0419279743**

**Connect with
Catenians Catholic Men's Association:
Faith-Based Friendships**



abaxkf.com.au 1300 300 369



P0 Box 7250 1 Cowpasture Pl, Wetherill Park NSW 2164

DIOCESE NEWS & BEYOND



National Count of Attendance for 2026 . The NCA2026 will take place over the first four weekends of May, commencing on the weekend of 2-3 May 2026. This important initiative provides valuable data to support pastoral planning and resource allocation across our Diocese and the wider Church.

Lebanon Emergency Relief Appeal. Thank you once again for your incredible support of Project Compassion 2026. Your compassion and generosity will make an incredible impact in the year ahead. Please continue to bank your donations by May 30. If you have any questions, please email: projectcompassion@caritas.org.au or phone (02) 7254 5120.

Position Vacant: Catholic Chaplain – Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. More details at parracatholic.org/jobs

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 ACU

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.

NOTICE FOR ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER IN THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS IN ANY CAPACITY...

The response of our Catholic Diocese to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse includes very significant protocols for those who wish to serve in our Parish. There is mandatory training for everyone no matter what ministry you may be serve in; and further training modules are required for those who have direct contact with children or vulnerable adults. With the amalgamation of our 7 churches, it is necessary that we make sure that our Parish is compliant with all the regulations set by the Diocese. Thus, we will have a face to face training day on **Saturday 23rd May commencing at 10.00am** hosted by the Diocese’s Maria Kerven and team. The length of this training will be approximately 2 ¼ hours with a break for morning tea. **Everyone serving in our Parish is required to do the Mandatory training and ongoing refresher modules while serving in the Parish.** Although some of you have already done the Mandatory modules some years ago, a refresher program is now due for all. Shortly there will be an Internal Audit in over 20 Parishes in the Diocese. This will examine all aspect of Safeguarding training Please **save the date – Saturday 23rd May 10.00am** This is a very important meeting which will be held in St. Canice’s Hall Katoomba. Please contact Chrissy in the Parish Office if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity and service.

Fr. John Parish Priest

*Be a Priest!
Be the Heart of Jesus
in the Diocese!*

4 STEP ADMISSION

1. INQUIRY
Call the Vocation Director or reach out to your Parish Priest/Parish Office

2. DISCERNMENT
VOCAION STORY
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAM
INTERVIEW
ACCEPTANCE
SEMINARIAN

3. ASPIRANCY
PHILOSOPHY
THEOLOGY

4. PASTORAL YEAR
CANDIDACY
TRANSITIONAL
DEACONATE
PRIESTHOOD

REV FR GALBERT ALBINO
VOCAION DIRECTOR
email: Galbert.Albino@parracatholic.org
mobile: (02)47734321

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.

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

FIRST READING (Acts 2:42-47)

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

SECOND READING (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens.

Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour.

You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; Blessed those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (John 20:19-31)

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me, Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails,
and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

