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

## Solemnity of All the Saints. Year A. 1 November 2026

**Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,**

What is a Saint? It is a person who after this earthly journey is over is in heaven. That is, they are in the presence of God, sharing in His life and experiencing the euphoria that brings. But this means they had a strong relationship with God in this world. This is what the first reading is talking about. The washing of the robes in the Blood of the Lamb is not just a reference to the washing away of sins, it describes people who have immersed themselves in the New Covenant, immersed themselves in Christ through His body the Church, and been filled with the Holy Spirit which burns away sins and allows relationship with God, with people and with all creation. This ties in with what Christ speaks of in the Gospel. The Beatitudes. Blessed are those who espouse these attitudes because they have the Holy Spirit in them. They no longer struggle to obey the teachings of Christ but are driven by a longing for the fulfilment of the promises of Christ not only for themselves but for others and all creation.

So, let's focus on the Resurrection when God will be all in all, and let this knowledge grow into the expectation of eternal joy and peace for all so that we will be drawn to Christ and immersed in the Holy Spirit.

- *Deacon Alan*

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**
**Dear Friends in Christ,**

Four points I would like to highlight this week:

1. **SPIT-ROAST DINNER ON 7TH NOVEMBER.** This weekend is your last chance to purchase the few remaining tickets available for this Fundraising Dinner Dance and Elvis Show. Don't miss out on an enjoyable evening; and help raise some much-needed funds for Our Lady of Nativity Church Community, Lawson.
2. **PARISH PILGRIMAGE APRIL 2027.** After 10am Mass this Sunday (1/11), there will be an Information Meeting commencing around 11:30 in St Canice's Hall. All who are interested in this Pilgrimage or who want to find out more about it are invited to attend. Monica Mansour from Harvest Journeys will lead the meeting.
3. **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: 6TH DECEMBER 2026.** We will be having a WHOLE PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY on Sunday 6th December (appropriately, the Feast of St Nicholas of Myra… the first and true 'Santa Klaus'). It will commence at 11:15am in St Canice's Hall. This occasion is also an opportunity to say 'Thank You' to all who volunteer in our Parish and Church Communities. (This event does not replace any Church Community Christmas celebrations, of course) Could all Church Community social committee members and any parishioners interested in helping with this celebration…. please liaise with Barbara Davidson and her Team about this.
4. **LATIN MASS IN NOVUS ORDO.** We will celebrate, our first Latin Mass ~~in~~in Novus Ordo beginning on Saturday 21st November 2026 at 9:00 am, St Canice's Church, Katoomba. It will be at least once a quarter of the year until further notice.

- *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); Maria Dodd, Lawson; 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 Johnson, Zenn Forbes, Vincent Ducrest, Gerry McInerney, Fr. Robert Brogan.

**Death Anniversary:** Mick Le Breton, Endora Au, Sister Helena Hill, Marguerite Rigby, Craig Lynyard and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

**Pray for the Sick and their Carers:** 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, 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 | 6th November 2026

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

St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

## St V. de Paul Society and Social Justice

**The Affordability Crisis: The New Face of Poverty in NSW**

Advocacy for social justice is a key element of the Good Works of the Society of St Vincent de Paul NSW. We are called to identify and address the structural injustices that cause inequality, poverty and exclusion. We empower the people we assist to speak for themselves and to speak up with them when their voice is not heard or ignored.

So why are people struggling to have a basic standard of living? Why can't they pay their bills for energy, an essential service needed to run any home? What we need to understand is that poverty is driven by systems - not individual choices. A recent survey on the affordability crisis, conducted by the Society found that eight of the ten most identified drivers of poverty are structural and beyond an individual's control.

These pressures build on one another. Rising living costs (including energy bills), a shortage of secure and affordable housing, poor physical and mental health, unpaid caring responsibilities, and debt can push people further into hardship. Effective responses must therefore tackle the systems that create and deepen poverty.

***Reprinted from "Social Justice in Action"***
***Russell F Smith, Regional President, St Vincent de Paul Society.***

## Taste and See

# JOIN US

On Thursday afternoon 22nd October and 12th November 1pm – 3pm for these two sessions with Merilyn Hancock. Choose either one or both sessions. There will be different material presented at each session.

Sacred Heart Hall -165 Wentworth Street, Blackheath. 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 (Psalm 34:8)

**To book your place, call, text or email Brian Bright. Phone: 0401 768 688. Email: bbright45@bigpond.com**

**KIDS' ACTIVITY: ALL SAINTS DAY COLOURING**

**SPIT-ROAST DINNER & ELVIS PRESLEY SHOW. HURRY UP AND PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TO OUR FUN FILLED NIGHT ON 7 NOVEMBER - WE ONLY HAVE ONE WEEKEND TO GO FOR TICKETS**. Our Spit Roast Dinner and Live show is now just around the corner, on Saturday 6pm at St. Canice's Hall, Katoomba. A caterer will be serving a delicious dinner consisting of 3 meats, 5 salads and desert. We are also catering for vegetarian & gluten free options on the night. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our parishioners from all churches as well as their friends and family members. Please consider joining us for an enjoyable night. You may call the office for tickets on 4782 2804 if you do not have a person in your church foyer after mass.

**Parish Peace Justice and Ecology Meeting - Wednesday, 4th November, 1pm - 2.15 pm at Sacred Heart Hall**. The Australian Bishops Conference and the Parramatta Diocese have expanded the area formerly titled 'Social Justice' to include this wider umbrella of Peace, Justice and Ecology. As our seven church communities come together, we look forward to sharing planning and activities in this area of ministry across all seven Communities. If you are interested in finding out more or in being more involved in PJE parish ministry initiatives, you are invited to this planning meeting.

On Saturday 14 November, between 10am and 4pm, the 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 produce 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. https://bmfoodcoop.org.au/

**Remembrance Day – Wednesday, 11th November 2026.** The Committee and Members of the Blackheath & Mt. Victoria RSL sub-Branch wish to invite you to our 2026 Remembrance Day Service**.** The Service commences at 10:45am at the Blackheath War Memorial Arch, Blackheath Gardens. Refreshments follow at the RSL Hall (2 Bundarra St) after the Service where you are also invited to visit our Blackheath "Bunker" Museum. Thank You

# 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

**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.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE 2023.** 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.

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

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## OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH

### LAWSON

**SPIT-ROAST DINNER AND ELVIS SHOW.** OLN, 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 with written receipts provided. Please look for Jenny Gannon or Kate Powell

**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 21st and Morning tea on Sunday November 22nd after mass.

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## 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 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 and willing to serve as an acolyte, please call the Office and training will be provided.

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## ST. CANICE'S CHURCH

### KATOOMBA

"We beseech you to foster devotion to the Eucharist, which should be the focal point and goal of all other forms of devotion. And they should not forget about paying a visit during the day to the Most Blessed Sacrament in the very special place of honor where it is reserved in churches in keeping with the liturgical laws, since this is a proof of gratitude and a pledge of love and a display of the adoration that is owed to Christ the Lord who is present there... **The Eucharist is** reserved in churches or oratories to serve as **the spiritual center of a** religious community or a parish **community**, indeed of the whole Church and the whole of mankind... [May Christians] believe and adore these sacred mysteries of His body and blood with such firm and unwavering faith, with such devotion and piety and veneration." Pope St. Paul VI.

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

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## ST BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH

### LEURA

## ST BONAVENTURE'S CCPT

**St Bonaventure's has been entrusted to our care.**

*Fundraiser Update!*

**Again thank you to all who supported our first fundraising event at Barbara's Open Garden.**
**With totals added from tap-and-go payments, our final total raised just over $3,100. - A huge thank you to all!**
**These much needed funds will be spent on some of the projects here on St Bonaventure's church which have been outlined earlier .**

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**St Bonaventure, Pray for Us.**

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*CCPT:* *Barbara Davidson, Maria Eades, Clive Kanes, Pam LeBreton, Tony Eades, 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

## HOLY TRINITY
WENTWORTH FALLS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Holy Trinity Anglican Church is organizing the 2026 Remembrance Day Service at Wentworth Falls on behalf of the Wentworth Falls Chamber of Commerce and Community. I am coordinating the Laying of the Wreaths on behalf of our senior minister Reverend Zac Miles. We would like to invite you to attend if you are available, or to send a representative from your congregation at Wentworth Falls to lay a wreath or other tribute at the service. The details of the service are as follows:
**Date:** Wednesday 11th November 2026
**Time:** 10:15am for a 10:30am start.
**Place:** Coronation Park, Station Street, Wentworth Falls.

If you are able to attend or send a representative, we would greatly appreciate receiving your response by Friday 30th October, if possible, so that the name of the delegate can be included in the service booklet.
**Lynda Brown**, Administrator | Holy Trinity, Wentworth Falls. Office Hours: Mon & Thurs 11am - 5pm
**W:** htwf.org.au **P:** 02 4757 1516 **E:** office@htwf.org.au

**GENUINE DIALOGUE: A PATH TO PEACE.** In a world that cries out for cohesion across our diverse communities, the Jubilee Year of St Francis deepens our Gospel call to be people of peace and fraternity. St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook is hosting Fr Patrick McInerney and members of the diocesan Interfaith Commission to share insights and reflections with us. Tuesday 3rd November 7:00pm-8:00pm in the Parish Centre, 46 Levy St Glenbrook. Fr Patrick is the Director of the Columban Centre for Christian-Muslim Relations and Consultor with the Vatican Dicastery for Interreligious dialogue. Please register your interest via secretary@stfinbars.org.au/ An opportunity not to be missed! All welcome!

**Palms Timor-Leste Encounter 10-23 May 2027**. Timor-Leste is Australia's closest neighbour. It is also the nation with which Australia has had a complex chequered history. Yet very few Australians have ever been there. An Encounter Tour to is not only an unforgettable holiday – it is an opportunity to get 'behind the scenes' insights into history, culture & the importance of relationships in sustainable development. In a small (max 8 person) group, you will meet Palms international partners and long-term volunteers. Encounters are the ethical option to learn about development and support Australia's oldest lay Catholic international development organization. Book your place on the 14-day Encounter Tour here: palms.org.au/encounters. Volunteers Needed! Catholic Community Connectors needed to assist with the Palms' Simplicity September campaign.

**From Bishop Vincent: Sponsoring parishioners to study theology.** Please see a letter from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv regarding a new partnership with BBI-Taite, in response to one of our Pastoral Plan 'Formation' commitments to "sponsor equal numbers of women and men from the Diocese in studies of ecclesiology, theology, models for pastoral care, leadership and ministry." Please see more information in the attached letter. Applications are now open via our website: parracatholic.org/learn/study-catholic-theology

**WYD27 Pilgrim Endorsements by Clergy** |Pilgrims wishing to join Parramatta's pilgrimage to WYD27 are required to obtain an endorsement from a priest known to them or a Catholic Community Leader. You may be approached to complete an Applicant Endorsement Form. Endorsements should be honest and considered, based on your personal knowledge of the applicant, 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.

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**

# SOLEMNITY OF ALL THE SAINTS

**Entrance Antiphon**
Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

**Revelation 7:2-4. 9-14**
I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

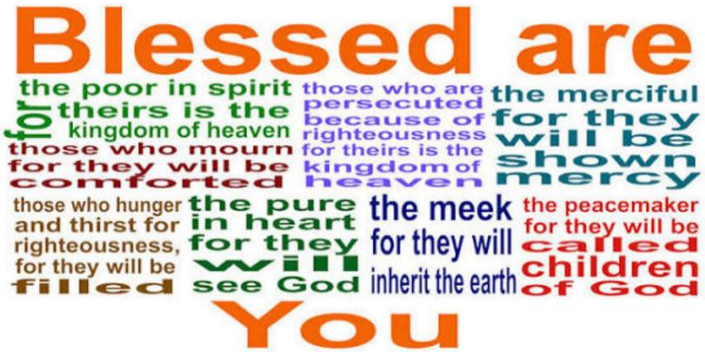
**Responsorial Psalm**
Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

**1 John 3:1-3**
Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed, we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation**
Alleluia, alleluia!
Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.
Alleluia! alleluia!

**Matthew 5:1-12**
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How blessed are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Blessed those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Blessed those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.
Blessed the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.
Blessed the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Blessed the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God.
Blessed those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

**Communion Antiphon**
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.