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

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year A. 22 November 2026

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
This Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King. Christ the King is the Shepherd who looks after His sheep and we as Christ's body share in that responsibility. To neglect this responsibility is to estrange ourselves from Christ. This is why Pope Francis urged the Church to be a Field Hospital for the world- a place where those injured by life can turn for help. A place where they will be brought in, sheltered, cared for, and treated. This is what Christ identifies as criteria for being in relation to him and entry into His Kingdom.

We need to see those who are hungry and thirsty for food and drink, drink like clean water, but also hungry and thirsty for medical care, education, decent housing, job opportunities and reasonable working conditions. Those who are strangers, the person who is estranged from others at work, school or socially because they don't fit in with the "crowd." The person who is estranged because the other is not listening; because the other is too busy with what they want to say; what they want to do and so a wall is created estranging the person- a wall which can turn into a prison- for how often do we put people in prisons, lock them out of our lives because we don't want to associate with them; people who are in some way different from us; have different views or are classified by us as belonging to group that we don't like. This is how people are stripped naked, stripped of their God given and rightful dignity. So, visiting the sick is not just about going to see those physically sick but seeing those who have been psychologically injured, maimed, and disfigured by a heartless, self-centered world.

In the Kingdom of Christ, the citizens look outwards. They look out to spot where someone is in some form of need so they can respond. The citizens do not judge, they do not exclude, they do not refuse entry into the field hospital. They go out into the battle of life and bring the injured in regardless of which side the injured come from. The citizens will be comforted because they mourn for those who suffer, they will be happy because they hunger and thirst for justice, this compassion and longing and the actions driven by these emotions are the admission to the Kingdom.

- Deacon Alan.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear friends in Christ,
Fr Jessie has been granted 10 months to a year Administrative Leave to pursue both further studies and professional development. His last day with us will be the 6th of December. Thus, our Parish Christmas Party on the 6th of December will *also* be a chance to say 'farewell and bon voyage' to Fr Jessie. We hope and pray that he will return to us at the end of this period both refreshed and renewed.

- 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.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP. Every Thursday Evening at 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm- St Canice's Church Hall, 156 Katoomba St. **All are Welcome!**

PARISH SCHOOLS
St Canice's Catholic Primary School
Katoomba Street, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney.
Phone: (02) 4780 6800.
Email: stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Primary School
Somers Street, Lawson.
Principal: Mr. Matthew Bond.
Phone: 4753 2200.
Email: oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS
If you or your loved ones are sick and would like a visit, please contact the parish office or Barbara Davidson (0417 490 103)

USUAL ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS
Sat and Sun: 4:20pm, Leura.
Mon 8.30am before Mass, Katoomba.
Tue: 8.30am before mass, Leura.
Wed: 8.30am before Mass, Blackheath
Thu: 8.30am before Mass, Wentworth Falls
Fri: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.
Fri: 5.00pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.
First Fri: 7.00pm Benediction Lawson
Sat: 8:30am before Mass and Rosary after, Katoomba.

NOTICE FOR PARISH BULLETIN. If you wish to receive our parish bulletin electronically or via email, please email upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org. If you also want to include any items for the weeks' parish bulletin, email mmparishubm@gmail.com before Wednesday afternoon.

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

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL. If you would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill-in list, please contact Conor on 0451 461 697 to register your details, or scan the QR code. Hours currently available: Tuesday 1-2pm, 5-6pm, Wednesday Noon-1pm, 6-7pm; Thursday 11am-Noon, 9-10pm, Friday 1-2pm. If you are a regular Adorer, requesting a roster change to your hour or the person replacing you has not arrived. **Please Contact: Catherine on 0420 337 033**

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

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

Finance News

PARISH CONTRIBUTION

PARISH CONTRIBUTION

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

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

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

From the Finance Chair

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

SCAN ME

PARISH BPOINT
For both 1st and 2nd collection. When choosing 2nd collection please note name. Please follow this link.
https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains

PARISH NEWS

REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH. Our next session will be held on February 2027. We will revamp the program with a schedule with new dates and topics.

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

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

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

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

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

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

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Kim, Trish Carey, Pat McAuley, Breda Seamons, Robyn Bogart, Peter Slough, Vlad, John Barclay, Mildred Taft, Charlie Congreve, Malik, Maureen O'Reilly, George and Laura Boffa, Sarah-Jane Hallett, Les Hayward, Chloe Newton, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergent, Sandy Mowbray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverely Bateup, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennet, and All Private Intentions.

NB: Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

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

Christmas Mass 2026

December 24 Christmas Eve Vigil
Thursday Evening

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

Christmas Midnight
Thursday 12:00 am

- 12:00 am Katoomba - 158 Katoomba St

Christmas Day
Friday

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

NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
NO MASS ON BOXING DAY

Merry Christmas and God Bless Us All!

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

Confession Times 2026

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

From The Clergy
From the Parish Staff

Merry Christmas and God Bless Us All!



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Frederic Ozanam living the option for the poor.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam initiated with others the Confraternity of charity which later became known as the Society of St. Vincent De Paul. Not content to work with the poor, he also wrote in response to the trials of the poor of his day and to the various solutions being put forward in his day.

He saw the divide between rich and poor as the source of conflict, "the battle of those who have nothing and those who have too much; it is the violent collision of opulence and poverty which makes the earth tremble under our feet."

And so when the 1848 revolution hit the streets of Paris and was violently suppressed, Frédéric Ozanam defended the justice of their cause, even as he regretted their violent means. For this he found himself isolated from the more conservative Catholics of his time.

In some ways he expressed the option for the poor that we can find in the Gospels and the early church – and is now central to Catholic Social Teaching. The poor were for him "messengers of God to test our justice and our charity, and to save us by our works."

And so where should the Church be?

> *"The Church would do better to support herself upon the people, who are truly the ally of the church, poor as she, devout as she, blessed as she by all the benedictions of the Saviour."*

In the midst of political campaigns in Australia where will the Church stand? Will we be on the side of the poor, working with them and advocating with them for real justice, for real changes of the systems that oppress them?

Reprinted from John Donaghy,

Walk the Way, *Reflections on events and witnesses of faith and justice.*
With thanks to Peter Hines. ***Russell F Smith, Regional President St V. de P.***

The Mountain Bulletin

VOL. 01, NO. 1 — FR JOHN PP — SPECIAL EDITION

SAYING GOODBYE TO THE ASSISTANT PRIEST!

FR JESSIE BALORIO ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE



After many many months of remarkable dedication, we Express our Heartfelt Gratitude for Your unwavering commitment, thoughtful Assistant Priest, and genuine kindness have made a lasting impact on everyone fortunate enough to work with you. You've inspired many, mentored individuals, and guided us through challenges with patience, clarity, and grace. As you step into this exciting time back in the Philippines, know that your presence will be deeply missed- but your influence, values and example will continue to shape and inspire us. Thank you for everything, and best wishes for the journey ahead.

If You want to Contribute for Fr Jessie's Farewell or to Support for his Education Program. A Leaving Collection will be taken or You can send it to:

Bank Name: CommonWealth Bank of Australia
Account Name: Diocese Stipend
BSB Number: 062-339
Account Number: 10838168
PayID: 0451851610

"YOU'VE SERVE US WITH A HEART."

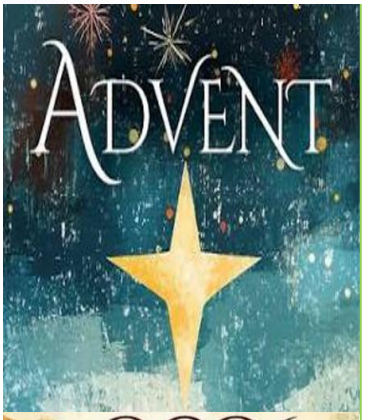
THANK YOU FOR THE LAUGHTER AND WISDOM! YOUR PRESENCE WILL BE TREASURED.

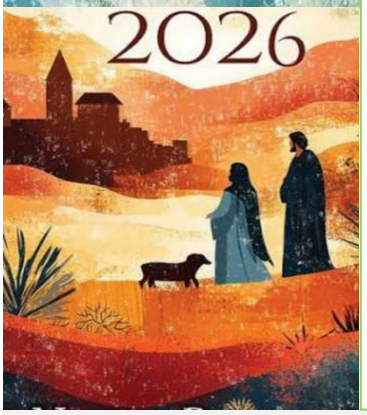
SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION. The Sacrament of Confession will be celebrated during the coming week for a number of our youngters. They and their families have participated in our Parish Based Family Centred Preparation Meeting in small Family Groups and following up with some Home Activities. This preparation ensures the building of our community;s understanding about the forgiveness of sin. This helps us all to forgive each other in our homes and also within our Catholic Communities. This process helps enhance the spiritual relationship between each child and their parent/s. Please pray for all our families as they grow in understanding of God's loving forgiveness and healing over these next few days.

Soul Sorting in the Silly Season

A prayerful women's breakfast to find stillness in the silly season.







Advent 2026 begins on Sunday, November 29, 2026, and runs through Thursday, December 24, 2026 (26 days), leading up to Christmas Day on December 25. **Key Dates & Themes** • First Sunday of Advent (November 29, 2026): Hope (Prophet's Candle)

• Second Sunday of Advent (December 6, 2026): Peace (Bethlehem Candle)

• Third Sunday of Advent / Gaudete Sunday (December 13, 2026): Joy (Shepherd's Candle; traditionally associated with rose)

• Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 20, 2026): Love

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 : 0490 709 547

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

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

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

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

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



GIANT CHURCH & GROUNDS WORKING BEE. Saturday 28th November 2026- we need lots of people to assist with a working bee in the Church and grounds. There are several tasks needing attention inside and out. If you are not able to assist with heavy work, perhaps you would be willing to provide morning tea to the workers. See you there. Thank you!

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



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

†

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

MT VICTORIA

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

†

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be held on Friday 20th November at 4:00 pm. Address: 1270 Megalong Rd, Megalong Valley NSW 2785. An ideal venue for small and intimate Wedding Celebrations. Book Now ! Call Parish Office.

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ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH

WENTWORTH FALLS

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

†

ST. CANICE'S CHURCH

KATOOMBA

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

PODCAST FOR FAMILY
A Majella Podcasts covering many aspects of family life. Check out the topics here. You can also search for 'Figuring out Families' wherever you get your podcasts.

†

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH

LAWSON

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

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

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

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

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

OFFICE FOR WORSHIP
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

Lucy Woodbury
0460 037 795
ofw@parracatholic.org

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2027

Please choose ONE location per session

BLACKTOWN (Mondays 7.00pm) Bede Heather Centre 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown 2148	SESSIONS	PENRITH (Thursdays 7.00pm) St Nicholas of Myra PMR1, Entry Via Higgins St, Penrith 2750
☐ Monday 15th February	Compulsory Introductory Session	☐ Thursday 18th February
☐ Monday 22nd February & 1st March	Ministers of the Word	☐ Thursday 25th February & 4th March
☐ Monday 8th March & 15th March	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	☐ Thursday 11th March & 18th March
☐ Monday 5th April	Communion to the Sick & Dying	☐ Thursday 8th April
☐ Monday 3rd May	Ministers at the Altar	☐ Thursday 6th May



†

ST BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH

Leura

ST BONAVENTURE'S CCPT

St Bonaventure's has been entrusted to our care.

Please Help!

Our fundraising event organised by Barbara Davidson was a great success. However, Barbara would like to take a step back from such work. So we are repeating our call for interested members of our community who could assist us with future fundraising ideas and planning.

We are also in need to the following: -

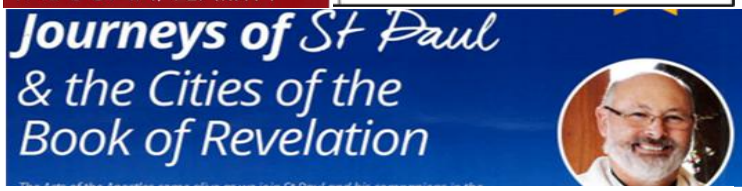
- We are looking for someone with handyman skills.
- Also trades people. **Do you know or can recommend one?**
- anyone who can help us construct a history of St Bonaventures.
- We need information about past things donated to the church in memoriam:
  ... statues, windows, sanctuary furniture, pictures, etc.
  If you or a family member has done so, please contact Russell Smith through the parish office.

St Bonaventure, Pray for Us.

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

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS. All children who love singing and can come to the Christmas Vigil Mass 5pm at St Bonaventure's Church, Leura are invited to be part of a children's choir. The children will need to learn 4 well-known Christmas Carols to sing at this Mass. Please contact the parish office with your details or email Colleen Burke at cbourke5@parra.catholic.edu.au





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**

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

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

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





Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Entrance Antiphon
How worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and divinity,
and wisdom and strength and honour.
To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17
The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.
As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Responsorial Psalm
The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28
Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia!

Matthew 25:31-46
Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate people one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

Communion Antiphon
The Lord sits as King for ever.
The Lord will bless his people with peace.

