



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 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 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 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 12 July 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

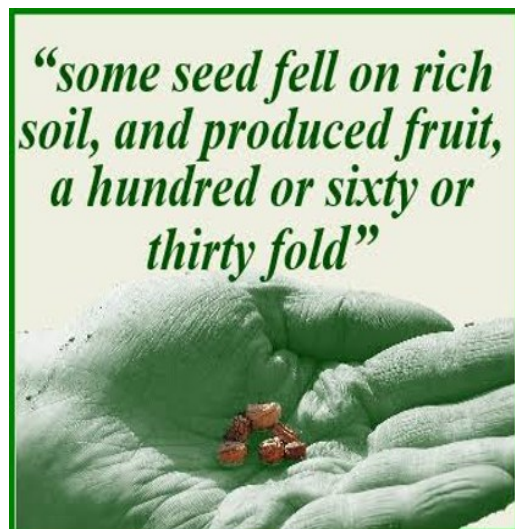
Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

From St Paul we hear that the whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his children. We become children of God by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. The Spirit of adoption received in Baptism. This unites us the Christ,

the Word of God. But this revelation of being a child of God can only come about if the Word of God takes root in our lives so that it can grow and produce it's harvest.

A harvest that will set us free, set all of creation free and allow us to comprehend the joy that awaits us.

The first reading tells us this will happen, because the Word of God does not go forth without achieving what it is meant to do.



The Word of God, Christ came so that through Him we can gain the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit allows us to relate to the Father and the Son. The more alive the Spirit is in us the more alive our relationship with the Father and the Son is, and the more we understand, comprehend and internalise a knowledge of God and His plan, and the less effect the concerns of the world have on our relationship with God. It is through this revelation, this unveiling of the children of God, which were created to be, that the New Heaven and New Earth will be achieved.

So, let us pray passionately to the Holy Spirit to enlighten and enliven us, to bring us into ever closer union with our Lord and to experience the love that God has for us.

- Deacon Alan

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

PARISH ASSEMBLY: You are all invited to our First Parish Assembly as one Parish on Sunday 19th July in St Canice's Hall from 11:15am - 12:30pm. The Parish Finance Committee will give an update on the financial situation of the combined Parish; furthermore, the Parish Pastoral Council and I will give an update on the developments that are occurring already in our Parish, as well as some future directions. There will be an opportunity for questions on both issues. Thanking 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/](https://facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

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

[UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ](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

Reached out to the Receptionist of Office of the Bishop or the Chancery.

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)

USUAL ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS

Sat and Sun: 4:20pm, Leura.

Mon 8.30am before Mass, Katoomba.

Tue: 8.30am before mass, Leura.

Wed: 8.30am before Mass, Blackheath

Thu: 8.30am before Mass, Wentworth Falls

Fri: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.

Fri: 5.00pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.

First Fri: 7.00pm Benediction Lawson

Sat: 8:30am before Mass and Cenacle Rosary after, Katoomba.

Notice for Parish Bulletin. If you wish to receive electronically or via email our parish bulletin, please email us on bluemountains@parracatholic.org. If you also want to include any items for the weeks' parish bulletin, email us on 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.

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Dec Alan

John Tweedie (Chair)
Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)
John Grant

Maylin Corros
Marilyn Rowe
Tom Boyd

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie

Deacon Alan
Matthew Brawn, Katoomba
Paul Gannon, Lawson
John Brell, Wentworth Falls
Maria Dodd, Lawson

Russell Smith (Chair), Leura
Pamela Nash (Deputy Chair), Blackheath
Maria Kells, Mt Victoria
Diane Steward (Sub)
Julie O'Keeffe (Deanery Pastoral Council Rep), Blackheath
Therese Moore, Katoomba
Maria Eades (DPC Rep), Leura
Roger Bowen (Sub)
Ex-officio John Tweedie (Parish Finance Chair)

Thanks to all these generous members of our new Parish for your generosity in serving our Church communities as the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) Members.

Since the 1st of July 2026, we have merged our Parish Banking arrangements for Parish Contributions. Our parish finances need a consistent income. If you consider using Direct/credit card Debit, we would be most grateful!

Donations thru Bank Transfer:

For 2nd collection (for the support of the Parish) please use **BSB 067 950 Account 000 00594 Name: Catholic parish of Upper Blue Mountains (Ref: your surname and church eg SmithMtVic)**

For 1st collection (for the support our priests) **BSB 067 950 Account No 00004265 Account Name Diocesan Clergy Reference either the parish Name or the parish code 6038**

Parish BPoint

For both 1st and 2nd collations.
When choosing 2nd collection please note name and envelop No. Please follow this link.

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



SAINTS THIS WEEK

Mon 13	Saint Henry
Tue 14	Saint Camillus of Lellis, Priest
Wed 15	Saint Bonaventure , Bishop, Doctor
Thu 16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Sat 18	Blessed Virgin Mary

NEXT WEEK: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Liturgical Formation Opportunity

Sr Mary Louise from the Office of Worship will present 2 modules of the Liturgical Ministry Course. Extraordinary Ministers of Communion & Communion to the Sick and Dying on Saturday **25th July @11am in St Canice's Hall**. Other courses in the 2026 program such as Minister of the Word and Ministers of the Altar will be held at the Bede Heather Centre Blacktown, commencing on Monday 7th September. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office.

HELP NEEDED!

COULD YOU HELP US? Now that our bells are in place in the tower, bellringing lessons are well underway. However, we need several small wooden boxes so that those of different heights can properly ring the bells. If you would be willing to make one or more sturdy boxes Fr John has the required measurements.

Please contact Fr John or the Parish Office as soon as possible. Thank you

- The Bellringing Team

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



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



Recently Deceased: Yudit Kayatsky, Lauren Hall, Mary Marsh, Salwa Jabbour, Marie Perrott, Kay Cheevers, Jeannette Rosemary Grimson, John Martin, Veneranda Mifsud, Maria Christina Vera de Penna, Rebecca Etccl, Stephen Mount, Fr David Taylor, Geniveve Ticehurst, Emma & Juliett Verne.

Death Anniversary: Diane Wood, Mark Bittner, Lesley Menser, Bernard Glasheen, Hazel Glasheen, Tochillo (Scott) Brown (27.04.2021), members of Kozlowski, La Roche, Brown, Foley, Roome Families, David Powell, Jan, Miecica & Zyguich Slawek, Patricia Ducrest, John Mifsud, Moran William Halliday, Paul Nyssen, Bridget Collits, Stephanie Jean Murphy, Dulcie Elizabeth Nyssen, Lenna & Elizabeth, Barbara Connolly, Max Dodd and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: 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 Mobray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella, 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, 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.

SPECIAL EO FY / EARLY BIRD GROUP OFFER

Be The Witness

A powerful musical encounter
with the story of Jesus through the eyes of Peter



10–13 September 2026
**Riverside Theatres
Parramatta**



Group
Bookings
10+



Concessions
Available



Limited
Seats

Invite your parish, ministry, family and friends



Scan for
Group Bookings



www.bethewitness.com.au



With the support and
encouragement of
Bishop Vincent Long



Presented by
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,
Blacktown

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

**OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON**

7.00 pm | 09 AUGUST 2026



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

CONFIRMATION

For Years 5 and 6 and above. Confirmation reflects Christ's Words about being baptized in the Holy Spirit and seals young people's faith in Christ and their commitment to following Him.



Katoomba @ St Canice's School
For years 5 and 6 and above

Parent Session
Wednesday Evening 22nd July 6.30pm

Family Group Sessions 6pm
Wednesday Evenings 29th July,
5th, 12th August
19th August 6pm

Lawson@ Our Lady Nativity Church

Parent Session
Thursday Evening 23rd July 7.30pm
Venue : TBA

Family Group Sessions
Sat & Sun 1st/2nd August
8th/9th August
15th/16th August
22nd/23rd August

Times: TBA Venue :TBA



CONFIRMATION

Rehearsal for both Upper Mtns and Lawson at St Canices' Church Katoomba evening of Wed 26th Aug 6pm
Proposed Sacrament of Confirmation for both Upper Mtns and Lawson at St Canice's Church on Saturday
29th Aug at 10am and/or 12pm Now Confirmed by Parramatta Diocesan Office

Christian Contemplation. Meditation takes us to the depths of our being, to our true self and to the pure experience of God in the ground of our being.

The World Community for Christian Meditation draws from the wisdom of the Gospel's teaching. In the light of this wisdom we see that the teaching of Jesus on prayer is a contemplative teaching.

Every Tuesday 10:00am-10:45am in the Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath



Venezuelans often turn to Our Lady of Coromoto during social unrest, economic hardship, and natural disasters. They seek her maternal intercession, consolation, and protection for the nation. She provides

them comfort and strength during difficult times. Amid Venezuela's earthquake devastation, let us ask Our Lady of Coromoto to come to their aid. Our Lady of Coromoto, please pray for and help Venezuela in its time of need!

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.

The next session will be on Sunday the 9th August, 11:00am @ St Canice's Hall, Katoomba, Topics will be- The Holy Spirit & the Church.



Positions Vacant

Parish Secretary - St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
Housekeeper Supervisor - Holy Spirit Seminary, Harris Park
Sacramental Coordinator - St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith

Learn more at parracatholic.org/jobs

CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS



SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY BLACKHEATH

"Yanama Budyari Gumada- Walk with Good Spirit"

DONATIONS: Please 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 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.



125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY. Sacred Heart Church Blackheath will reach its 125 year anniversary in 2027. This will be a special year and we look forward to celebrating this milestone together. It's not too early to start planning for some special events for 2027. Parishioners, who would like to join a working group to coordinate anniversary activities for 2027, are invited to contact a member of the Blackheath Church Community Pastoral Team.

Removal of Vinnies Bin from Sacred Heart Car Park

The St Vincent de Paul Society Retail Division has given notice to the Parish that they will be removing the Vinnies Bin from the Sacred Heart Church car park. They have indicated that more than 80% of donations made through the Bin are not saleable and that the cost of collecting, transporting, sorting and disposing of the items donated through the Bin outweighs the value generated from the small proportion of saleable goods.

Please note that clothing and other materials previously deposited in the Bin can be left at the **Vinnies Shop at 65 -75 Waratah Street Katoomba (ph 4782 1068)**. If you notice that people have left materials on the Church grounds after removal of the Bin, please advise one of the members of the Sacred Heart Church Community Pastoral Team.

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.

The Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains is a CHILD SAFE ZONE

The Care and Protection of Children is everyone's responsibility. Help us to care and protect your children by always knowing what your child is doing, where he/she is and who he/she is with. Parents /Guardians Always Keep and Eye on your Children.





OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH LAWSON

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Parish BPoint

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When choosing 2nd collection please note name and envelop No. Please follow this link.

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



Fundraising ideas. "Both Kate Powell and Jenny Gannon would like to hear from you if you have any Fund Raising or Social activity ideas that you may wish to share with us for consideration to our 2027 schedule. It is best if all Fund Raising events are planned through this committee to avoid events clashing, this would be much appreciated".



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH WENTWORTH FALLS

Donations thru Bank Transfer:

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ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

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



ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH LEURA

Donations thru Bank Transfer:

For 2nd collection (for the support of the Parish) please use **BSB 067 950 Account 000 00594 Name: Catholic parish of Upper Blue Mountains (Ref: your surname and church eg SmithMtVic)**

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ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 17th of July at 4:00 pm. Address: 1270 Megalong Rd, Megalong Valley NSW 2785



ST. CANICE'S CHURCH KATOOMBA

Donations thru Bank Transfer:

For 2nd collection (for the support of the Parish) please use **BSB 067 950 Account 000 00594 Name: Catholic parish of Upper Blue Mountains (Ref: your surname and church eg SmithMtVic)**

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Volunteer Needed for Morning Tea. We are still in need of helpers for the monthly Morning Tea. Please contact the Parish Office with your details and we will pass these on to Tess who has generously agreed to be the morning tea Coordinator.



**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

Persecution & Faith: A Witness of Courage and Forgiveness from Pakistan

Twenty-year-old Akash Bashir was serving as a volunteer security guard at his parish in Lahore, Pakistan, when a terrorist with explosives tried to enter the church. Akash said, "I would rather die than let you in," and then gave his life to prevent a massacre.



In the years since, his parents have offered an extraordinary witness of Christian faith. Asked whether they had forgiven those responsible for their son's death, they replied: "Yes, we have forgiven them and pray that they may find the right path to God." Their example reminds us that the Gospel calls us not only to courage, but also to forgiveness.

Reflection: Where may God be asking you to make a sacrifice out of love, or to forgive an injustice against you? Read more testimonies of faith from *Aid to the Church in Need* at: aidtochurch.org/welcome

OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING. National Child Protection Week is held from 6-12 September. This year's theme is: "Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action" The resources from NAPCAN are now out. You can find information, posters and email tiles here: <https://www.napcan.org.au/get-involved-2026/>

Eucharist28 Update – Renewal has begun! The great gift of the Eucharist is that it is not merely a story remembered over a few sacred days. At every Mass, we encounter the reality itself: we offer ourselves to God alongside Christ, truly present in our midst. For more information and regular updates, please register on the website: eucharist28.org



Invitation to the 8th ACMRO National Conference 2026. Registration is now open for the 8th ACMRO National Conference on Migrant Communities in a Synodal Church. The Conference will be held on 25–26 August 2026 at Mary MacKillop Place, 80 William Street, North Sydney, NSW. For more information on: The [Conference program](#) and [speakers](#), please click [here](#). For registration, please click [here](#).



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



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

Music Workshop on The Importance of Copyright: 21 July. Copyright can be tricky to navigate. Come on 21 July to the Bishop Bede Heather Centre and learn all about your requirements for reporting music used at Mass, the different types of copyright licensing available, and much more. This workshop will be led by MET Music Formation Facilitator Eric Grella. Be sure to bring along any questions you might have. Register parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=office-for-worship

CYP Annual LIFTED Retreat for 18-35's: 3-5 July. Join young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains at Catholic Youth Parramatta's annual LIFTED Retreat for 18–35-year-olds. (3-5 July at Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale.) Together we will enter a weekend of connection, prayer and reflection on the theme of Abundance, inspired by John 10:10. Whether you're just beginning your faith journey, looking for community or need a mid-year renewal, the LIFTED Retreat welcomes you with open arms. Limited spots available. Registrations close 19 June. parracatholic.org/events/lifted-young-adults

You are invited to join 100 DAYS OF PEACE

an initiative for peace supported by the Focolare Movement

13 June to 21 September 2026
9 - 9:15pm AEST



15 mins for peace everyday:

3-mins contemplative contribution:

- each day a different person from a community, faith, civic or cultural life shares a 3-min reflection on peace

10 mins collective silent meditation:

- accompanied by gentle visual and subtle music

All welcome
Free
No Registration
Come once or come every night,
it's up to you.
Simply join at 9 pm each evening on this link:
tiny.cc/100Days2026

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 55:10-11)

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING (Romans 8:18-23)

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his children. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 13:1-23)

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has

ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and they will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But blessed are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy ones longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in one's heart: this is the one who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the one who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he or she has no root in them, they do not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and they fall away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he or she produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it; he or she is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

