



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

4th Sunday of Lent Year A

15 March 2026

Reflection of the Readings

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Gospel this week highlights blindness, but the focus is on blindness to our own motives.

Some people are very nice at first acquaintance. They are polite, well spoken, have social etiquette perfected. But they are not nice people!



Like the Pharisees who are hiding behind their rules and dogma to justify dismissing Christ. It is obvious that Christ can do what pertains to the Divine, beyond the realm of human power and not a work of darkness.

They don't want to accept Christ. We need to look at our motives for not

accepting other people, judging them, classifying them and denying them of rights which we often claim for ourselves. These motives give rise to darkness in our hearts. Where there is darkness there is no light. God doesn't want the appearance of goodness, he wants real goodness where we constantly search ourselves to see what is motivating us and quickly move away from thoughts, actions and words that have dark motivators.

Anything that oppresses another, denies them of freedom, of safety, of dignity, of a fair chance, makes them feel less or hurts them in any way, physical, emotional or spiritually is an act of darkness. An act that empowers Satan's grasp on the world and detracts from the Kingdom of God. Christ is the light of the world. If we abide in Him, we too will be lights.

So let us cultivate awareness. Keep asking ourselves why we feel the way we feel about certain people or situations and let's not hide behind misinterpreted texts, socially held prejudices and rules to justify our darkness.



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
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>.



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)

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 or before Wednesday afternoon

Weddings & Church Bookings

For Inquiries and Church Bookings of your choice, please call the office.

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.

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Dec Alan

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

Maylin Corros
Marilyn Rowe

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson Meeting Room Rebuild

Some years ago the meeting room at Our Lady of Nativity Lawson was severely damaged by fire. It has been unusable since then. Further, last year the Good Sams left Lawson and the Santa Maria Hall became unavailable. So members of the Lawson Church Community now have nowhere to meet, other than in the Church. Restoring the meeting room is therefore seen a priority issue for our new Upper Blue Mountains Parish. Whilst there has been an insurance payout for the damage to the meeting room and office, the funds available are now not sufficient for the rebuild. So we are calling on parishioners to assist in raising funds for this project. We are considering a parish wide fundraiser, such as a Trivia night. But in the meantime, you may wish to consider making a direct donation towards the project. We need to raise \$20,000 and some donations have already been made or committed.

All Upper Blue Mountains parishioners are asked to please consider helping our fellow parishioners in the Lawson church community. To make a donation for the rebuild by Bank transfer, please use the following Bank account details for Our Lady of Nativity Lawson. It is important that to ensure your donation is allocated to the rebuild, you include in the reference section **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 PP
John Tweedie

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.

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.**

ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNDAY DAWN EVENT. On **Easter Sunday, 5th April 2026.** We are inviting support from our parish communities with the following: **Musicians** with portable instruments to support the event (note there is no power at the site). Please contact Merril (Leura Uniting Church) on 0423 067 442 by the 15th March. **Donations** (financial and/or quality raffle items) to contribute towards costs of printing, and advertising and other event costs. Please contact Barbara Davidson (St Bonaventure, Leura) on 0417 490 103.

2028 EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN AUSTRALIA. In 2028, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress. A global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Be renewed, be transformed, be sent - come on the journey.

PROPAGATION OF FAITH APPEAL. The Universal Church and Catholic Mission's appeal this year primarily focus to build a school for children in the Diocese of Chikwawa, Malawi.



This World Mission Sunday, we would like to appeal to you, help us build this school.

Tel 02 9919 7841

Email dcarson@catholicmission.org.au

PO Box 1668, North Sydney NSW 2059

Free call: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased: Kevin Gordon, Bridget Collits, Maria Christina Vera de Penna, Rebecca Etcell, Stephen Mount, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Marshall, Joan Marie Gracie, Robert Nickl, Danielle Pace, Anne Bauer, William Taute.

Deceased and Anniversary: Stephanie Jane Murphy, Dulcie Elizabeth Nyseen, Lenna & Elizabeth, Sis Helena Hill, Jahja Soetanto, Kenneth Soewandi, Lucy Yonatan, Paul Le Breton, La Roche, Brown, Foley, Rome Families, Tochillo (Scott) Brown, Wlodek Kozlowski, Vicky Todarello, Dr John Howard Casey, Dr Vale Jeane Lennane; Ted and Lislotte Cocksedge, and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: George and Laura Boffa, Sarah-Jane Hallett, Les Hayward, Chloe Newton, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergent, Sandy Mobra, 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.

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: upperblue-mountains@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.





CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies 2026

ST CANICE
KATOOMBA

ST BONAVENTURE
LEURA

ST FRANCIS XAVIER
WENTWORTH FALLS

OUR LADY OF NATIVITY
LAWSON

SACRED HEART
BLACKHEATH



Mass of the
Lord's Supper

Maundy Thursday 2 April, 2026

Combined Parish Celebration @ St Canice Katoomba @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday 3 April, 2026



Stations of
the Cross

10:00 am

9:30 am

9:00 am

10:00 am

10:00 am

Lord's
Passion

3:00 pm

NONE

NONE

3:00 pm

3:00 pm

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 4 April, 2026



7:00 pm

NONE

NONE

7:00 pm

7:00 pm

Easter Sunday 5 April, 2026



10:00 am

8:30 am

8:00 am

8:30 am

9:30 am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON

7.00 pm | 27 March 2026



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

PROJECT COMPASSION Boxes are available this week in the pews please donate generously this Lent 2026.



Project Compassion Sunday
14-15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413 Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

WHOLE PARISH ACTIVITIES



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 20th of March at 4:00 pm. Address: 1270 Megalong Rd, Megalong Valley NSW 27



ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

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

Jesus – Christ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Sat 21st March 2026

9:30 am - 12:30 pm AEST Mary Elliot Room

Donations welcomed

Edmund Rice Retreat and Conference Centre

1315 Mulgoa Rd, Mulgoa NSW 2745 02 4773 5555

info@winbourne.org

Event description

Our next presentation, *Jesus - Christ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, will be held within the Mary Elliott Room by Brother Barry Donaghue (Christian Brother). Building on the first incarnation—the universe itself and all it reveals—the second incarnation, Jesus of Nazareth, brings God's self-disclosure into intimate human form, as 1 John 1 reminds us. His life offers a blueprint for our own. Yet we must still discern how to live that pattern within our own experience, in our cultures and present moment, using the languages, symbols, and modes of consciousness available to us today

A NATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

IGNITE CONFERENCE 26

AGENDA

LET US GO UP OF THE LORD
COME. TO THE MOUNTAIN ISAIAH 2:3

BE IN THE ROOM
BRING A GROUP
SPONSOR A DELEGATE
BRING A FRIEND

IGNITE YOUTH

JRS AUSTRALIA

FOODBANK

A SMALL GIFT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Supermarket Gift Cards also enable families to choose the items they need most

Email foodbank@jrs.org.au for more information

Week 4

Laundry Detergent



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.



EASTER CAKE STALL AND PLUM JAM NOTICE. Our community is having an Easter Cake Stall as well as if anyone has a plum tree with fruit can they please contact Frances Huckstepp as she will make some plum jam.

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 or marilyn.jones5@bigpond for more details.

JESUIT REFUEE SERVICE LENTEN FOODBANK

APPEAL Our Sacred Heart Community has been a long time and very generous supporter of the JRS Lenten Foodbank Appeal. **These struggling families desperately need our support! Item below is being sought this week. If you would prefer to support JRS by donating a Gift Card, please check out the Gift Card Flyer or speak with David Buckley (47875105 or 0400208707).**



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

OLN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION SECRETARY, Helen Chaloner, has retired from this position which she has held for 25 years. We thank Helen for her dedication to the school community and wish her well in her retirement. Helen will be sadly missed by all staff and parents.

USED STAMPS: Thank you to those who have left their used stamps in the STAMP BOX in the church foyer. These stamps are forwarded to **MacKillop International Foundation** in North Sydney during the year contributing to their fundraising. Used stamps are worth \$\$ so definitely worth recycling for the benefit of the needy. Paula Currie

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED Calling anyone who is willing to help take care of the OLN Church grounds - mainly mowing, occasionally trimming hedges, weeding, etc We are hoping to create a roster of volunteers to keep our Church grounds tidy and presentable. All helpers welcome. Please contact **PAUL GANNON on 0409592055**

Lawson Lenten Group. Join us on: Wednesdays: 10am at 48 Alexander Ave. Hazelbrook commencing on the 25th February and on Thursdays 7:00pm at 17 Bonnie Ave. Hazelbrook Lenten Programme Thanks
- Kate Powell

Laughter is the best medicine with Dr Laurie Woods
The parish priest rang up the local council to ask that a dead goat be removed from in front of the presbytery. The clerk who answered the phone thought he would be smart and said, 'I thought you priest took care of the dead.' 'We do.' replied the priest, 'but first we have to get in touch with the relatives.'



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.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR. Children who are able to come to the 8.30am Easter Sunday Mass at St Bonaventure's Church, Leura, are invited to be part of a children's choir. Please contact Colleen Bourke, 0415329048, or cbourke5@parra.catholic.edu.au

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

With Courage and Quiet Strength

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH

 **Sat. 21 March**
9:00am

In honour of the Feast of St Joseph and the legacy of Mary MacKillop, we invite women of all walks of life to gather for a morning of reflection, nourishment and connection.

 **Mary MacKillop**
Spirituality Centre
33Barina DownsRd
Norwest NSW 2153

Come share breakfast, hear from Sr Virginia Bourke rsj, and rediscover the strength that flows from faith, community and courageous love.

 **REGISTER NOW**

 **\$20 per person**
RSVP by 17 March

To register:
scan QR code



or head to
<https://tinyurl.com/4pcjv9ef>

02 9634 2317

BE A PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

If you are year 12 student, a university student or a young professional, male, single and interested to become a priest involved in the Diocese of Parramatta, we invite you to journey with us.

Contact the Vocation Director
Rev Fr Galbert Albino

Galbert.Albino@parracatholic.org

(02) 477 34 321

†
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

LENTEN GROUPS There are two groups: Afternoon 2pm and evenings 7pm **Location:** 3 Easter St, Leura **Group facilitator:** Barbara Davidson **Start date:** Thursday 12 February 2026 **Contact:** Barbara on 0417 490 103 Lenten programme participant books are available for purchase \$7 each.

SAINT THIS WEEK

Tue 17 Saint Patrick, Bishop, Missionary Solemnity
 Wed 18 Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Doctor
 Thu 19 Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary, Solemnity
 NEXT SUNDAY 5th Sunday of Lent



*Feast of
 Saint
 Joseph*

Solemnity
 this Thursday
 Mass 9am
 Wentworth
 Falls

Parish Church Patrons - Relic Fundraiser

Our Parish is currently sourcing a relic of each of the Saints that are the Patrons of our Churches in the Parish. These relics will join our other saints already in the Adoration Chapel.

So far, we have sourced six of the seven relics these are:-

For Our Lady of the Nativity – Lawson	
Reliquary theca containing a relic from the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary, worn by Our Lady as she stood at the foot of the Cross.	
For St Francis Xavier – Wentworth Falls	
Reliquary theca containing a first-class relic (ex ossibus – of the bone) of St Francis Xavier, co-founder of the Society of Jesus and great missionary saint.	
For St Bonaventure – Leura	
Small reliquary theca containing a relic of St Bonaventure, Doctor of the Church.	
For Sacred Heart – Blackheath	
Vatican-documented second-class relic (ex indumentis – of the clothing) of relic of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque the visionary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.	
For St Joseph – Megalong	
Reliquary theca containing a relic ex pallio (of the coat) of St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Universal Church.	
For St Paul – Mount Victoria	
Reliquary theca containing first-class relics (ex ossibus – of the bone) of St Peter and St Paul, Princes of the Apostles.	

What a great blessing it will be for our parish to be spiritually united with these saints through their relics in our chapel of adoration.

We'd like to invite parishioners and friends of the parish to consider making a donation towards this important initiative. These authenticated relics, each accompanied by official certification, are available only for a limited time.

Donations can be made via:

- **Bank Transfer:** BSB: 067950 | Acct #: 100005654
Upper Blue Mountains Catholic Fundraising
- **In-Person:** Please place in an envelope and note Donation for Relics

GOD BLESS YOU ALL
 Fr. John McSweeney PP VF
 Chaplain RAN (Rtd)

Further information on each relic is attached to this notice.

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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

FIRST READING (1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13)

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as people see; people look at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

SECOND READING (Ephesians 5:8-14)

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

GOSPEL Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL (John 9:1-41)

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. 'As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man, and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.'

Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered. They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them.

So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'I don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will.'

Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him. Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.' Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see," your guilt remains.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed, I saw and I believed in God.