



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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 20 September 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In the first reading from Isaiah, we are told that God does not think the way we do. We are also told in this reading from Isaiah that we must seek the Lord. In the Gospel we are confronted by the parable of the workers sent to the Vineyard at different times of the day, but all workers get the same payment regardless of hours worked! Seems rather unfair until we shift our focus from worldly concerns and see what Christ is talking about. The Vineyard is the Kingdom of God in which lives the Vine. The Vine is Christ. The role of the workers in the Vineyard is ultimately to ensure the Vine has the proper conditions to thrive. We are the workers who are called to work in the Kingdom of Heaven which is being established in this world.

We are meant to create the environment in which the Vine can thrive. And our reward is to become one with the Vine. That's why whether we start right at the beginning of our lives or towards the end of our lives the reward is the same. The reward is to be a branch of the Vine, united with the Vine, drawing life from the Vine. Allowing the sap of the Holy Spirit to infuse and enliven us. This is the generosity of God. He rewards us with Himself. The Trinity actually draws us into Christ so that we can draw life and share in the communion that exists between the Trinity through Christ. Therefore, there can be no extra payment, or any part payment. It's a case of being one with the Vine or not. United with the Trinity or not. And there's a very important aspect to note here. God's love is unconditional. I guess most of us growing up got used to getting praise and affection when we did something pleasing to our parents or others, and some form of reprimand and rejection if we did not. This trained our minds to think we earn love. That's fundamentally wrong in our relationship with God. God loves us no matter what. So, if we don't reject Him, He gives Himself to us in totality.

So, we need to stop standing around the marketplace, seeing our work and efforts only aimed at material gain. We need to see that we are called to work for the Kingdom of God, serving everyone around us, through whatever talents and gifts we have, and creating an environment where others can see something different in us so that they too can become one with the Vine.

Deacon Alan

**St Canice's Precinct
Working Bee.** Everyone
is invited to help on
Saturday 26th
September around
10:00 am to 12:00 am



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

[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/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 Rosary after, Katoomba.

Notice for Parish Bulletin. If you wish to receive electronically or via email our parish bulletin, please email us on upperbluemountains@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.

Volunteer's Needed for Sunday's Mass livestreaming . All are welcome and training provided. Contact the Parish Office or email: dmoore@abaxkf.con.au

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Dec Alan

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

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
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)
Diane Steward (Sub)

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

Finance News
PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS

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 payment, 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**

From the Finance Chair

To all parishioners who contributed via Direct Bank Transfer to account with BSB 067 950 with an account number: 000 00594, we kindly request you to include both of your surname and church community name (abbreviated if necessary) in the payment reference .

This will assist us in correctly allocating funds to your church community. Thank you for your generous support to our Parish.

Parish BPoint. For both 1st and 2nd collations. 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 fifth session will be held on Sunday 27th September following Mass in St Canice's Hall, 11am for an 11.30am start. The first presentation and discussion will be **Mary, the Saints and Devotions**, followed by **The Eucharist**. Whether you are deeply rooted in your faith, returning after time away, or simply seeking to grow and understand more... **You are most welcome.**

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, 6-7p; 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**

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.

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 the Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath

St Canice's Precinct Working Bee. Everyone is invited to help on Saturday 26th September around 10:00 am to 12:00 am



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

Special Intentions: Harald, Masoud, Jared, Charles , Li, Ingrid, Wang, Anna and their families.

Recently Deceased: Flav Varnier, Hernan Orrego, Kevin Medlin, Erika Najjar, Fr Eugene Stockton, Ray Wood, Zac Giles, Terence Teodori, Yudit Kayatsky, Lauren Hall, Mary Marsh, Salwa Jabbour, Marie Perrott,

Death Anniversary: Margaret Mary Kozlowski, Peter Nicholas Aboud, Edna Sweeny, Luke William O'Connor, Andrew Krawczyk, Aiyana, Diane Wood, Mark Bittner, Tochillo (Scott) Brown, Wtodek Kozlowski, deceased members of Kozlowski, Foley, Roome Families and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: 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, Beverly 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.

St Canice's Katoomba Working Bee
Details below:

On Saturday 26th September from 10-12 we will be having a Working Bee at St Canice's to clean up the garden and clear out unnecessary items in the hall, garage and under the presbytery. There will be a skip to be filled. Please come along for part or all of this time and help get everything shipshape. Coffee/tea, drinks and snacks will be provided. If anyone feels like weeding the garden beforehand, that would be great... as we will need to plant and spread mulch on the day. -lease bring your gloves and any tools you think necessary - including wheelbarrows if possible. Many hands are needed. Thanking all parishioners from our 7bchurch communities in advance... Fr John.

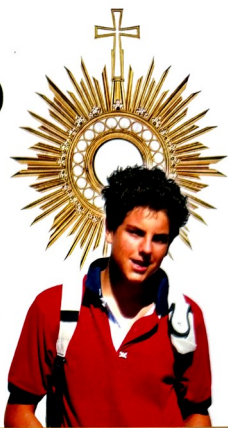


ST CARLO ACUTIS

MAJOR PILGRIM RELIC VISIT
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
Parramatta

28-30 SEPTEMBER

Come and pray before the Major Pilgrim Relic of St Carlo Acutis and experience the Vatican International Exhibition of The Eucharistic Miracles of the World. All welcome.



CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction,

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON

7.00 pm | 2nd October 2026



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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

BLESSINGS OF ANIMALS

St Canice's Church Katoomba

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2026@10:00AM



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

September Feasts

September is a special month the St Vincent de Paul Society.

The feast of Frederic Ozanam, one of the founders of the Society was celebrated on September 9. While that of our patron, St Vincent de Paul is on September 27.

Blue Mountains' Conferences celebrated the feast of BI Frederic Ozanam last Friday with Mass celebrated by Fr Peter Lamont who preached on the spirituality that motivates the work we do.

Quoting from a recent address by Pope Leo XVI to Society members from the USA, he stressed that ours is not a secular or humanitarian welfare service but one based on the call of Jesus.

In his address, Pope Leo stated: "Saint Vincent de Paul demonstrated that prayer and social justice are not merely complementary but are in fact inseparable. ...

Moreover, as I recalled in *Dilexi Te*, Saint Augustine taught the Christocentric nature of care for the poor and held that God will not be outdone in generosity to those who serve them. We therefore believe that caring for others, when motivated by love, not only helps those in need, but also opens the heart of the giver to God's grace (cf. no. 46). Dear friends, I urge you, then, always to give of yourselves. In this way, the Lord's grace will steadily purify your hearts and minds, and you will more readily recognize Christ in your neighbour, both in those you serve and in those with whom you work.

Russell F Smith, St V de Paul Blue Mountains Regional President.

"SPIT ROAST DINNER & ELVIS PRESLEY SHOW" OLON Lawson is holding a 3 course Spit Roast Dinner & Live Elvis Presley show on Saturday 7th November at 6pm at the St. Canice's Hall, Katoomba with a cost of \$60 per person. Please note that there is a vegetarian option on the menu. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all other churches to join our fun night to help raise needed funds for Lawson church's ongoing maintenance. There is a lucky door prize on the night so you may be the lucky winner. Tickets are available for purchase in Black Heath, Katoomba, Leura & Lawson church foyers after each mass and payment can be made by cash or use the Eftpos machine. Alternatively ring the Katoomba office on 4782 2804 to book at ticket. Ticket sales will continue up until the last week of October but get in quickly to secure your table."



Holy Shroud Exhibition. St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta is hosting the Holy Shroud Exhibition featuring a life-size replica of the Shroud of Turin. From Sunday September 6– Sunday September 13, 9:00 am—6:00 pm. From Thursday September 10—Sunday September 13 September, the exhibition will have extended opening hours from 9:00 am—10:00 pm daily and will be located in the Chapel. Parking Available via Victoria Road. Everyone is welcome. For more details please contact: coordinator@stpatscathedral.com.au.

ACBC Social Justice Statement. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's Social Justice Statement Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division explores recent developments in Australia including the Bondi Beach attack of December 2025 as well as the alarming rise in Islamophobia and other forms of racism. If you have any questions about the Social Justice Statement or need support with using it in your parish, please reach out to our Peace, Justice & Ecology Team via met@parracatholic.org

Healing and Support Service offered by the Diocese: Our Diocese offers a Healing and Support Service providing pastoral, therapeutic and spiritual care to anyone who has experienced harm in a Church context. We provide direct support, resources, and pathways to assist individuals in their process of healing and recovery. Our approach is person centred, assisting according to each person's individual needs and circumstances. If you, a loved one or someone you know has experiences abuse in a Church context, you are welcome to contact our Healing and Support Counsellor lorena.portocarrero@parracatholic.org, or for more information visit parracatholic.org/safeguarding/healing-and-support

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.



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.



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

Season of Creation: This is a special time when we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine action that calls us to love and care for God's abundant gifts of life. The season runs for the month of September and concludes on the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi on October 4th.

A Quiet Day. 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 spiritual nourishment and renewal and will be held in Sacred Heart Church Hall and grounds on Saturday November 21 10:00 am—2:00 pm. For more information please contact Marilyn Jones 0401637759.

CAKE, PLANT AND CRAFT STALL

CALLING ALL BAKERS, GARDENERS AND CRAFTY PEOPLE

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2026

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

ALL DONATIONS OF CAKES, SLICES, JAMS, PLANTS, WORM POO AND CRAFT ITEMS WOULD BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

Please Donate, Buy and Support our Church



Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 34

Taste ...

Session 1:

Experience and celebrate the goodness of God through the beauty of creation—encountering His gifts in sculpture, poetry, nature, and the richness of human life



and see ...



Session 2:

Recognise the images of God revealed in Scripture and reflected in our world—both in what is visible and in the unseen mystery beyond.

the goodness of the Lord!

Session 3:

Value and appreciate the gifts of those who use their talents to bring healing, nurture faith, and inspire others to go forth and share the Good News of the Gospel.



Please advise Brian Bright of your attendance.

Phone: 0401 768 688

Email: bbright45@bigpond.com

Dates	Time	Session	Venue
8 October Thursday	1pm – 3pm (a/noon tea during session)	Taste and See (Session 1)	Mountains Deanery (Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 18 Inconstant Street, Blackheath)
22 October Thursday	1pm – 3pm (a/noon tea during session)	Taste and See (Session 2)	Mountains Deanery (Blackheath)
12 November Thursday	1pm – 3pm (a/noon tea during session)	Taste and See (Session 3)	Mountains Deanery (Blackheath)

PRESENTER: Marilyn Hancock, Spirituality Ministry
hancock.marilyn@gmail.com - 0421 632 299



OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH LAWSON

SPIT ROAST DINNER AND ELVIS SHOW. OLON, 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 and written receipt provided. Please look for Jenny Gannon or Kate Powell

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

DRAWN TOGETHER. Our parish group, now known as 'Drawn Together' is planning to recommence at the beginning of term 4, 2026- Monday 12 October 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. You only need to bring a couple of drawing pencils 2B and 6B, eraser, sharpener, and A3 drawing Diary. All available at local stores. Even if you have never ventured into art but always longed to, you will fit in perfectly. Please contact Lorraine Phillips, try hard artist at lorrainemarv64@gmail.com. With any questions you may and just let me know that you are interested. Please know that most people say 'I can't draw' well it's like any skill... You just have to be shown how.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH WENTWORTH FALLS

Lectors and Acolytes. If you are willing to read the Sunday's scripture readings as lector and willing to serve as an Acolyte. Please call the Office and trainings will be provided.



ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

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



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 18th September 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.



ST BONAVENTURE LEURA



ST BONAVENTURE'S CCPT

St Bonaventure's

The foundation stone for St Bonaventure's church was laid by Archbishop Kelly in January 1931.

We are six years off the centenary of this. It would be good to have something in place to celebrate this milestone.

Is there anyone who can help us construct a history of St Bonaventures, or is in possession of knowledge about things donated to the church in memoriam: statues, windows, sanctuary furniture, pictures, etc. ?



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We would love to hear from anyone who would like to work with us in the area of fundraising. /



The first event will be an open garden at the home of Barbara Davidson on the weekend of 5/6 October. Barbara needs assistance with organising and running this.

Barbara is also organising a whole parish Christmas Party on the feast of St Nicholas, December 6. She needs a representative from St Bonaventure's to join a committee with the other churches to organise this.



CAN YOU HELP?

Contact:

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



ST. CANICE'S CHURCH

KATOOMBA

Morning Tea. on Sunday 11th October 2026 after the 10 am Mass. Please bring a plate to share.



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.

DIOCESE NEWS & 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.

The Bishops Father's Day Appeal for the Clergy Support Foundation will run across four weekends, from 29—30 August to 19—20 September 2026. Envelopes are available in your pews.

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



PUBLIC TALK. Nurturing an Australian Spirituality Pre-Colonisation, Colonisation and Walking Together with Evelyn Parkin. Sunday, 1 November 2026 • 2.00 pm

About the Speaker. Evelyn Parkin is an Australian Aboriginal Quandamooka woman, born and raised on Minjerribah/North Stradbroke Island, Queensland. Evelyn is well known for her exploration of the meeting points between Aboriginal and Christian spirituality, drawing particularly on the importance of silence, connection to Country, the natural world and Christian faith. Her published work has appeared in Liturgy News and other publications. She will invite us to consider what it might mean to develop an authentically Australian spirituality—one that listens to the ancient wisdom of First Nations peoples, acknowledges the realities of our history, and seeks a way forward through respectful listening, encounter and walking together. Mavis Wood Hall, Mid-Mountains Community Centre, 7 New Street, Lawson.

The Catholic Youth Parramatta (CYP) team is inviting Parishes to participate in the annual Year 12 HSC Parish Youth Masses initiative. This is a great opportunity to connect with local secondary schools, and to support our young people. The HSC in NSW begins on Tuesday, 13 October. We strongly encourage you to choose a Mass time on the weekend of 3-4 October. Please register your Parish Mass by completing the form available here. CYP will collate the masses submitted by 9am on 21 September into a poster to be distributed across the Diocese and to Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD). Prayer cards and stress balls for students are available if requested. Any questions, please contact cyp@parracatholic.org

SCHOENSTATT
Couples' Group
ORIENTATION DAY

1926 2026

You are warmly invited to be part of a loving community where couples grow in faith, strengthen their marriage, and build a better world with Mary as our guide.

“Marriage is a very deep, permanent community of love and life; above all, a community of love!”
(Fr Joseph Kentenich 1961)

DATE: 1.30pm - 3.30pm
VENUE: Joseph Kentenich House Hall
230 Fairlight Road
Mulgoa 2745 NSW
REGISTRATION: Free
Afternoon Tea provided

PLEASE RSVP:
by 25 September
Derek and Joycelyn Boog
Mobile: 0420 543 364
Sr Luisa Maria
Mobile: 0439537976

Together with Mary,
GROWING IN LOVE AND FAITH

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

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 55:6-9)

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked ones abandon their way,
the evil ones their thoughts.
Let them turn back to the Lord
who will take pity on them,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is near to all who call him.

SECOND READING (Philippians 1:20-24, 27)

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 20:1-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men

standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The ones who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



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