



# 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:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ Katoomba  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ OLN Lawson  
Inquiries: 47822804  
Email: [bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto: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!

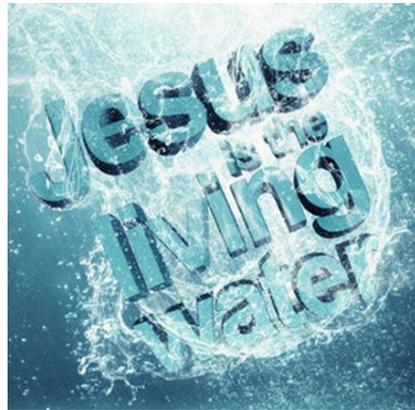
## FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE MIST

**3rd Sunday of Lent Year A**  
**08 March 2026**

### Reflection of the Readings

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Water is essential for life. The Lord was tired and thirsty. He was drawn to the well at Sychar where he met the Samaritan woman. He spoke to her of living water but she didn't understand what he meant. She was surprised that a Jew would speak to her.



The Samaritan woman had a reputation in the town and she was shunned by the other women. Our Lord asked her to go and call her husband and bring him to the well. The woman was honest in her answer for the man she was living with was not her husband. Jesus told her that she had had five husbands. We can see how our Lord turned her shame into fruitful repentance. Before she could come to an understanding of Christ as Messiah she would have to change her moral behaviour.

This Gospel passage also challenges us to examine our own behaviour during the season of Lent. We need to examine our consciences and focus on those areas that are in need of forgiveness and healing.

The Samaritan woman not only changed her life after her encounter with Christ, she also went about proclaiming the Good News to the people of the town. Our Lord stayed in Sychar for two days and many more people came to believe in him. Jesus is truly the Saviour of the world.

--- Fr Peter

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Easter this year will be slightly different from 2025 when we were 3 separate parishes.

Holy Thursday is meant to be a celebration for the whole parish, with all the priests concelebrating the Mass of the Lord's Supper. As a result there will only be the one celebration commencing at 7pm in our largest church, St Canice's, Katoomba. The adoration following the Mass will be in St Canice's Hall, concluding at Midnight - as is customary.

Good Friday and the Easter Vigil will still be held in the 3 churches of the former parishes like last year: Sacred Heart, St Canice, and OLN.

Let us continue to pray for a peaceful and just conclusion to the recent outbreak of conflict in the Middle East. God Bless

--- 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](http://bluemountainscatholic.org.au)  
[sacredheartblkheath.org.au](http://sacredheartblkheath.org.au)  
[lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au](http://lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)  
Lawson Facebook: [facebook.com/olncclawson](https://www.facebook.com/olncclawson)  
Blackheath Facebook: [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076756208721](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076756208721)

Parish YouTube:  
[youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic](https://www.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

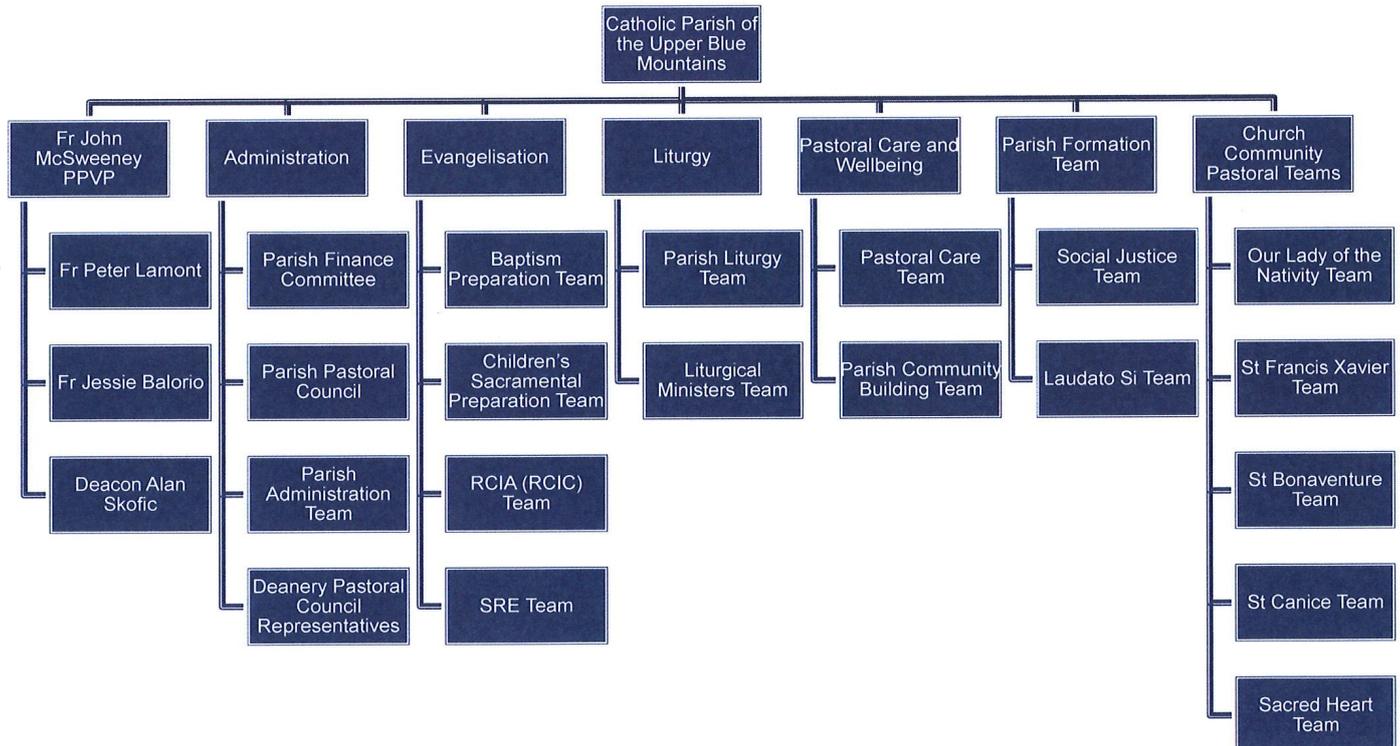
## Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John  
Fr Peter  
Fr Jessie  
Dec Alan

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

Maylin Corros  
Marilyn Rowe

## Draft of the New Parish Organisational Structure



## 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 1st Sunday of the month 11:30am@ St Canice's Hall, Katoomba. Come along, bring a friend, and take part in a welcoming conversation grounded in **Catholic tradition, shared faith, and community.**

**BMERT**– Blue Mountains Education and Research Trust established by Fr Eugene Stockton is now selling his Book and they are available . Please check their website.

**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](mailto:dcarson@catholicmission.org.au)

PO Box 1668, North Sydney NSW 2059

Free call: 1800 257 296 [catholicmission.org.au](http://catholicmission.org.au)



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

**Deceased and Anniversary:** 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, Kevin Gordon, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergent, Sandy Mobray, 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](mailto: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 | 06 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](http://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



### 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/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH>

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. Or join the newly formed group for a game of Mahjong. Beginners are welcome to join. 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.



**Lenten Group** Sacred Heart parishioners are invited to join a Lenten group in preparation for Easter. The Lenten booklet, *Compassio*, will be used (on sale after Mass). Time: Thurs 2pm OR Wed 7pm. Date: Commencing 12 February & each Thursday in Lent. Location: 3 Easter St Leura. Leader: Barbara Davidson. We thank Barbara for her hospitality.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026 - INVITATION** - World Day of Prayer is a Christian ecumenical prayer movement developed as a creative response to issues of concern around the world. This year's World Day of Prayer service in Blackheath is jointly coordinated by all the churches in Blackheath and will be hosted by the Anglican Church. **Date:** Friday 6 March 2026 Time: 10.30am followed by morning tea. **Location:** St Aidan's Anglican Church, Blackheath (corner GWH & Hathill Rd).

**Television Screen Wanted for Sacred Heart Hall:** Are you upgrading your TV? Would you like to upcycle it for our Church Hall for use in meetings and seminars? A large (65inch/165cm+) flat screen TV is wanted, ideally one that can be wall mounted and must in good working condition. Please contact the parish office. Thank you.

**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 REFUGEE 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).**

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OFFICE FOR JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE

## SOCIAL JUSTICE TRENDS

For Inquiries contact: [Harrison.pocknee@catholic.org.au](mailto:Harrison.pocknee@catholic.org.au)

**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](mailto:foodbank@jrs.org.au) for more information

Week 3

**Canned Tuna**  
Unflavoured, in oil



## 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 SENIORS' GROUP:** Members who have purchased tickets will be attending the Morning Melodies Seniors' Festival concert on Wednesday 11th March at the HUB in Springwood followed by lunch at The Royal Hotel.

**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 commencing on the 18th February. Lenten Programme Thanks - Kate Powell

**Condolences to the Family of Danielle Pace** who recently passed away.



## 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](mailto:cbourke5@parra.catholic.edu.au)

**ACOLYTE AND ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED** If you are able to serve at this Mass, we are happy to welcome you as part of our team. Training will be provided. Call the Office.

# 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**  
33 Barina Downs Rd  
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](mailto: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**

Mon 9 Saint Frances of Rome, Religious  
NEXT SUNDAY 4th Sunday of Lent

†  
**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.

On Sunday 22 February, the Diocese of Parramatta welcomed 155 men and women who have completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program across the Diocese. They will be baptised, confirmed and some will receive the Eucharist for the first time at Easter. Formally recognised during the Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral, Bishop Vincent signed their names into the Book of the Elect. Let us pray for the catechumens, that God may hear their prayers, strengthen them in faith, and draw them into the Body of Christ. Amen



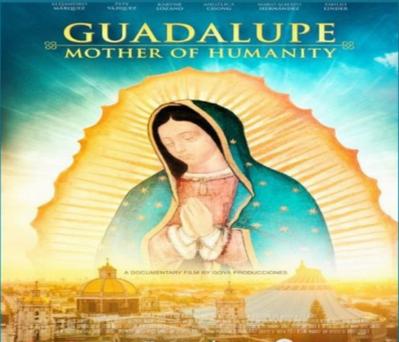
**PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS**

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.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SCREENING!



In 1531, on a quiet hill near Mexico City, a heavenly apparition changed the course of history. Based on true events, 'Guadalupe: Mother of Humanity' examines the miraculous image that defies time, science, and logic; as well as the extraordinary events that have followed.

Because some miracles refuse to fade!

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL - CLOISTER HALL  
1 MARIST PLACE, PARRAMATTA, NSW  
FRIDAY MARCH 20 - 7 P.M.  
ALL TICKETS \$10



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

### FIRST READING Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the children of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

If today you hear his voice,  
harden not your hearts.

### SECOND READING Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful humanity. It is not easy to die even for a good person - though of course for someone really worthy, one might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

### GOSPEL Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

### GOSPEL John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight

down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside one, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.'

Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in them  
a spring welling up to eternal life.

