



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!

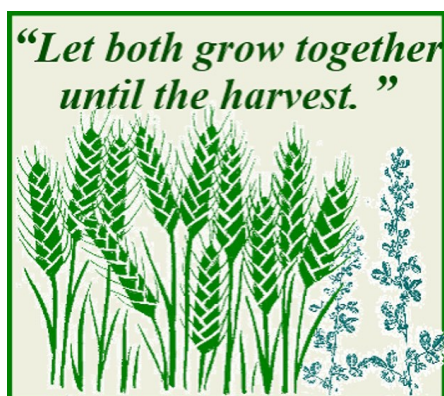
FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE MIST 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 19 July 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The three parables from Matthew 13 give us much on which to ponder.

1. The Parable of the Darnel and the wheat makes it clear that the judgement of who is good or who is bad will be done at the end of time. In the meantime, those considered weeds may turn out to be wheat! So, let's not 'jump the gun' and condemn someone - who knows what the Spirit may bring about in the end?



2. The Mustard Seed Parable speaks of unpromising beginnings that lead to triumphal conclusions. We need to trust in God's Goodness, and realise that God will bring about salvation for His chosen in the end.

3. The Parable of the Leaven is interesting, as leaven is often a negative concept in Jesus' Teaching: here, the Lord is saying that the

Kingdom / the Church will be a mixed bag of good and evil, but that sin doesn't deny us God's forgiveness and Grace. Let's not see ourselves as one of the 'elect', and thus condemn someone else who doesn't 'measure up' to our standards. We are all sinners in need of God's action in our lives.

These 3 parables challenge us to reflect on our attitudes towards others; and to make certain we are not doing God's work of discernment and judgement for Him!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

After this weekend's Parish Assembly, I will offer an update on the situation in our new parish, giving a summary of the details presented and discussed at our meeting.

World Youth Day Seoul 2027 Launch! The Diocese of Parramatta is thrilled to launch its pilgrimage to the 17th International World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea, taking place from 26 July – 11 August 2027, under the theme, "Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Join us to learn more about the pilgrimage, hear inspiring stories from past pilgrims, explore the rich faith and culture of the Korean Church, and enjoy an evening of fellowship with a touch of K-pop. Whether you're ready to sign up or simply curious to learn more, this is the perfect opportunity to discover what World Youth Day is all about at Nagle College, Blacktown (58A Orwell St, Blacktown). Doors open at 6:30pm. Register today to secure your place! For more information about World Youth Day, visit www.parrawyd.org.

Have a great week everyone! God bless you all!

Fr John

Parish Churches

LAWSON: Our Lady of The Nativity, Somers St; **WENTWORTH FALLS:** St. Francis Xavier's, 3 Day St. **LEURA:** St. Bonaventure's, Railway Pde. **KATOOMBA:** St Canice's, 158 Katoomba St. **BLACKHEATH:** Sacred Heart, 165 Wentworth St. **MEGALONG VALLEY:** St Joseph's, Megalong Rd. **MOUNT VICTORIA:** St Paul, 65 Great Western Highway. * Pictures on this bulletin are taken from the website. Copyright infringement is unintended. Acknowledgment is due.

CONTACT US

Parish Office: 158 Katoomba St, Katoomba 2780.

Postal Address: PO Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780.

Phone: (02) 4782 2804.

Office Hours: 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.

After Hours Emergency Number: 0490814284.

Calls only; no texts please.

Parish email address:

upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org

Parish websites:

bluemountainscatholic.org.au

sacredheartblackheath.org.au

lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Facebook: [facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

[bluemountainscatholic](https://facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic)

Lawson Facebook: facebook.com/olncclawson

Blackheath Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076756208721

Parish YouTube:

youtube.com/@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic

SUNDAY MASS

Live streaming of the 10am Sunday Mass at St Canice's this week. The live feed will be via our parish YouTube page as per usual.

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

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

MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL HEALING, DELIVERANCE AND EXORCISM

Email: deliverus.caseofficer@parracatholic.org;
deliverance.exorcist@parracatholic.org

Phone/ Call: 0472761879 or

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

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Canice's Catholic Primary School

Katoomba Street, Katoomba.

Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney.

Phone: (02) 4780 6800.

Email: stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Primary School

Somers Street, Lawson.

Principal: Mr. Matthew Bond.

Phone: (02) 4753 2200.

Email: oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS

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

USUAL ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS

Sat and Sun: 4:20pm, Leura.

Mon 8.30am before Mass, Katoomba.

Tue: 8.30am before mass, Leura.

Wed: 8.30am before Mass, Blackheath

Thu: 8.30am before Mass, Wentworth Falls

Fri: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.

Fri: 5.00pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.

First Fri: 7.00pm Benediction Lawson

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

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

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

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Dec Alan

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

Maylin Corros
Marilyn Rowe
Tom Boyd

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie

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

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

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

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

Donations thru Bank Transfer:

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

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

Parish BPoint

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

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



SAINTS THIS WEEK

Mon 20	Saint Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr
Tue 21	Saint Laurence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor
Wed 22	Saint Mary Magdalen Feast
Thu 23	Saint Bridget of Sweden, Religious
Fri 24	Saint Charbel Makhlouf, Priest
Sat 25	Saint James, Apostle Feast

Parish Liturgical Formation Opportunity

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

HELP NEEDED!

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

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

- The Bellringing Team

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL. If you would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill in list, please contact Conor on 0451 461 697 to register your details or scan the QR code. Hours currently available:

Tuesday 1-2pm, 5-6pm,
Wednesday Noon-1pm, 6-7pm
Thursday 11am-Noon, 9-10pm,
Friday 1-2pm

If you are a regular Adorer, requesting a roster change to your hour or the person replacing you has not arrived

Please Contact: Catherine on 0420 337 033



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



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

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

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Peter Slough, Vlad, John Barclay, Mildred Taft, Charlie Congreve, Malik, Maureen O'Reilly, George and Laura Boffa, Sarah-Jane Hallett, Les Hayward, Chloe Newton, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergeant, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Kevin Medlin, Lan Franco Matteucci. Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennet, Richard Kemmis and All Private Intentions.

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



Upper Blue Mountains Catholic Parish
Confirmation Preparation Program
Parent's Information as at 23rd July 2026
Dates and Times of Program

Lawson

Saturday OR Sunday	1 st Aug 3.45pm OR 2 nd Aug 9.45am	Family group session 1 at Lawson Mid Mountains Community Centre 7 New St Lawson
Saturday OR Sunday	8 th Aug 3.45pm OR 9 th Aug 9.45am	Family group session 2 at Lawson Mid Mountains Community Centre
Saturday OR Sunday	15 th Aug 3.45pm OR 16 th Aug 9.45am	Family group session 3 at Lawson at Lawson Mid Mountains Community Centre
Saturday OR Sunday	22 nd Sept 3.45pm OR 23 rd Sept 9.45am	Family group session 4 at Lawson at Lawson Mid Mountains Community Centre
Wednesday	26th Aug 6pm	Confirmation Rehearsal in Katoomba Church
Saturday 29th August	Time 10am and 12noon if needed due to numbers	Celebration of Sacrament of Confirmation outside Mass at Katoomba Church

Katoomba

Wednesday 29 th July	6pm	Family group session 1 at St Canice's School Katoomba Rd Katoomba
Wednesday 5 th August	6pm	Family group session 2 at St Canice's School Katoomba Rd Katoomba
Wednesday 12 th August	6pm	Family group session 3 at St Canice's School Katoomba Rd Katoomba
Wednesday 19 th August	6pm	Family group session 4 at St Canice's School Katoomba Rd Katoomba
Wednesday	26th Aug 6pm	Confirmation Rehearsal in Katoomba Church
Saturday 29th August	time 10am and 12noon if needed due to numbers	Celebration of Sacrament of Confirmation outside Mass at Katoomba Church

We pray that your whole family receives many blessings as we prepare this exciting
 Sacrament of the Holy Spirit

Enquiries: Maureen Ryan, Sacramental Co-ordinator olon254@gmail.com 0403 931 782

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

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

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

THE LEGION OF MARY The Church's largest lay apostolate. We meet every FRIDAY at 6:15 pm in the old adoration chapel at Katoomba. You are most welcome to attend and see what the Legion is all about.

REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH.

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



CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

**SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY
BLACKHEATH**

"Yanama Budyari Gumada- Walk with Good Spirit"

DONATIONS: Please see the Parish Finance section for details

Blackheath Vinnies Support phone number:
0490 709 547

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

WEDNESDAY CUPPA'S TOGETHER IN SACRED HEART



HALL! Cuppas" has resumed on Wednesdays. Come for coffee, home made cakes and a catchup with other locals. All members of the community are welcome to come along. Time: 9:30am - 12:00pm each Wednesday. Location: Sacred Heart Church Hall - Wentworth St, Blackheath.

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

Removal of Vinnies Bin from Sacred Heart Car Park

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

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

WORKING BEE on Saturday 25 July from 8am

Please come along and help Lance and John look after our wonderful grounds. Please bring a hat, sturdy shoes or boots and garden gloves (also eye and ear protection if using mower or similar equipment).



Please call John on **0407 288 957** for further information and to advise if you will be coming.

**Our Commitment to Safeguarding at
The Catholic Parish of the
Upper Blue Mountains**



We are dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all members of our community, especially children and vulnerable adults, in line with the "Parramatta Way."

The Parramatta Way of Safeguarding is to... Act with justice, and state that we have a zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm to children or any person; Act with justice, and ensure that laws and obligations are upheld, and safety is paramount.

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

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





OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH LAWSON

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Parish BPoint

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



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



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH WENTWORTH FALLS

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ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

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



ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH LEURA

Donations thru Bank Transfer:

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

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ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

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



ST. CANICE'S CHURCH KATOOMBA

Donations thru Bank Transfer:

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



**ABAX
KINGFISHER**

abaxkf.com.au 1300 300 369

PO Box 7250 1 Cowpasture Pl, Wetherill Park NSW 2164



Approved supplier for the NSW Government under the Office and Education Furniture Contract 771

DIOCESE NEWS & BEYOND

THE MESSENGER

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



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

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

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



This pilgrimage on the 7th April next year. For more information please contact Harvest Journeys on harvestjourneys.com/pv2601 Free-Call: 1800 819 156 or info@harvestjourneys.com

You are invited to join 100 DAYS OF PEACE

an initiative for peace supported by the Focolare Movement

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



15 mins for peace everyday:

3-mins contemplative contribution:

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

10 mins collective silent meditation:

- accompanied by gentle visual and subtle music

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

**OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON**

7.00 pm | 09 AUGUST 2026

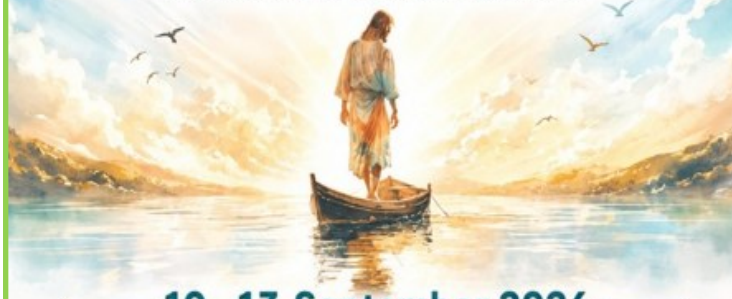


254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783
- Deacon Alan Skofic

SPECIAL EOYF / EARLY BIRD GROUP OFFER

Be The Witness

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



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



Group
Bookings
10+



Concessions
Available



Limited
Seats

Invite your parish, ministry, family and friends



**Scan for
Group Bookings**



www.bethewitness.com.au



With the support and
encouragement of
Bishop Vincent Long



Presented by
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,
Blacktown

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

FIRST READING (Wisdom 12:13.16-19)

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous person must be kindly to one's fellow human beings, and you have given your children the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING (Romans 8:26-27)

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 13:24-43)

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered.

And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.' He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world. Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

The Wheat and the Weeds

