



# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

## CLERGY

Fr. John McSweeney (PP)  
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:** Please call the  
Office for details.

**Baptisms:** upon request.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ Katoomba  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ OLN Lawson

Inquiries: 47822804

Email:  
upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org

## ADORATION CHAPEL

St. Canice's, Katoomba  
Mon 9.30am to Fri 6pm  
closed at other times.

## Christian Meditation

Tuesdays: 10am @ Sacred Heart  
Church Blackheath

## FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES

### 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 1 February 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday at the 10am Mass at Katoomba there will be a rarely seen ceremony, the Blessing of the Bells.

The bells which are to be put up in the Bell Tower at St Canice's Church will be blessed with Holy Water, prayed over, anointed and incensed because

they serve a very important purpose. They call people to synchronise our lives with the heartbeat of Christ, the heartbeat of Christ's Body the Church.

The bells are sacramentals, like Holy Oils, they are signs, in this case not visible but audible to something that is happening that we cannot hear or see.



These bells will not only call people to Mass, but they will also announce weddings and funerals and if it would be possible to ring them throughout the day, they would mark the hours of the day including the ringing out of the hours of the Angelus. In this way all who hear them are exposed to the Beating Heart of the Church. It is here that the bells also have another function, that of protection, because as they sound out, they drive the forces of evil from the Parish. The forces that are opposed to Christ and His church.

What we will see this Sunday is a great and memorable ceremony, but what follows will be a great blessing for our Parish, for these Bells will bring many, most probably unseen, blessings to not only the people that live in the geographic area of the Parish but also plants, animals and the land, all things that exist under their protective sound.

God bless

Deacon Alan



Please mute your mobile at Mass.  
Let's turn off the technology and  
turn on to God!

## 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, 1270 Megalong Rd.  
MOUNT VICTORIA: St Paul, 65 Great Western Highway.

## 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:** [blue-mountains@parracatholic.org](mailto:blue-mountains@parracatholic.org)

**Parish websites:**  
[bluemountainscatholic.org.au](http://bluemountainscatholic.org.au)  
[sacredheartblckheath.org.au](http://sacredheartblckheath.org.au)  
[lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au](http://lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au)

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

Parish YouTube: [@UpperBlueMountainsCatholic](https://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)

## OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING

"This is what the Lord asks of you... to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)."

For info: [parracatholic.org/safeguarding](http://parracatholic.org/safeguarding)

For Training: [parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/](http://parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/)

## 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.

## Interim Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr John McSweeney, Parish Priest  
The Clergy (ex-officio Fr Peter, Fr Jessie, Deacon Alan)  
Matthew Brawn (Secretary & Katoomba)  
Russell Smith (Leura)  
Julie O'Keeffe (Blackheath & Deanery Pastoral Council Rep.)  
Therese Moore (Katoomba)  
School Rep (TBC)

Peter Lawlor (Chair Katoomba)  
Graham Beale (Blackheath & Deputy Chair)  
Maria Dodd (Lawson)  
John Tweedie (Finance Rep)  
Maria Eades (Leura & Deanery Pastoral Council Rep.)  
Paul Gannon (Lawson)

## 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  
Peter Lawlor (PPC Representative)



## MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



**Recently deceased:** Rebecca Etccl, Stephen Mount, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Marshall, Sis Jeana Abejuela OAR, Joan Marie Gracie, Robert Nickl

**Deceased and anniversary:** Vicky Todarello, Dr John Howard Casey, Peter Marshall, Dr Vale Jeane Lennane; Ted and Lislotte Cocksedge, and the all forgotten souls in purgatory.

**Pray for the Sick and their Carers:** Alex Kristy Bujoa, Les Hayward, Chloe Newton, Kevin Gordon, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergeant, 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, Donald, Xi, Susie, Vladimir and Charles 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.

## THIS WEEK IN THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

### 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 WEDNESDAY at 6:00pm in the old adoration chapel at Katoomba. You are most welcome to attend and see what the Legion is all about.

### INVITE OUR LADY INTO YOUR HOME

Our Lady's statue is currently being repaired and visits to parishioner homes are on hold. Thank you for your understanding.

We are offering the chance for parishioners to have our beautiful parish Rosary statue visit you in your home. The statue is of Our Lady Help of Christians, the Patron Saint of Australia.

If you would like to welcome the Blessed Mother in your home for a week and be at prayer with her, please let one of the sacristans after the 10am Katoomba Mass know, and they will make arrangements.

### REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH

In a world that moves fast and often pulls us in many directions, this is an invitation to **pause, reflect, and reconnect**. Join us as we **rediscover the richness of our Catholic faith**, exploring the deep treasures found in uncovering the **teachings of the Church, the Liturgy**, and how faith continues to guide, comfort, and inspire us in everyday life. Whether you are deeply rooted in your faith, returning after time away, or simply seeking to grow and understand more, **you are most welcome**.

### When & Where

**Discussions every 1st Sunday of the month 11:30am@ St Canice's Hall, Katoomba**

### First Discussion

#### Sunday, 1st March

Come along, bring a friend, and take part in a welcoming conversation grounded in **Catholic tradition, shared faith, and community**.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

# First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY  
OF NATIVITY  
CHURCH,  
LAWSON

7.00 pm | 06 February 2026



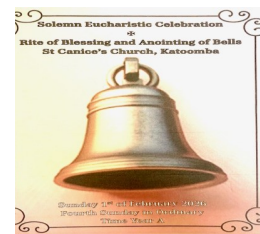
254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783  
- Deacon Alan Skofic

## DEDICATION OF THE 5 BELLS

The bells are set apart for God's service and thus for the consolation of human hearts in times of sorrow and for the lifting up of human hearts in times of joy. The anointing of the bells with oil of Sacred Chrism on its lips with the following prayer:

### The Sacred Heart of Jesus Treble Bell (No.1)

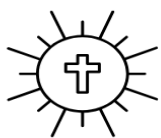
To the Glory of God the most High, this bell is dedicated in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May its sound ever remind those who hear it of the



love of God revealed in Jesus the Lord. **Our Lady of Nativity Bell (No.2)**- To the Glory of the Most High, this bell is dedicated in honour of Our Lady of the Nativity. Like Mary, may this bell glorify the Lord, and lead all who hear it to rejoice

on the birth of God our Saviour. **St Francis Xavier Bell (No.3)** To the Glory of the Most High. This bell is dedicated in honour of St Francis Xavier who laboured tirelessly to bring the Gospel to those who had not heard it. May its sound inspire to witness to the Gospel and to bring God's love to all. **St Bonaventure Bell (No. 4)** To the Glory of the Most High. This bell is dedicated in honour of St Bonaventure, theologian and mystic. May its sound remind us of our call to be contemplative and to find God in silence and in prayer. **St Canice's Bell (No. 5)** To the Glory of the Most High, this bell is dedicated in honour of St Canice, monk and missionary. May its sound speak of the call to be people of prayer and to be missionary disciples who invite others to hear the Good News.





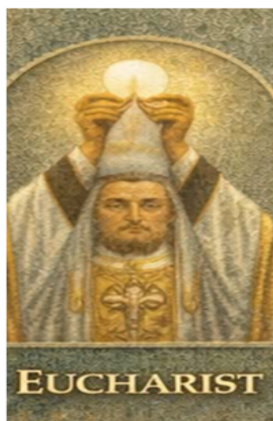
CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

# SACRAMENTS 2026

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



For baptised children in year 4 or above who have celebrated their first Reconciliation



**Katoomba @ St Canice's School**

**Parent Session**

**Wednesday Evening 22nd April 6.30pm**

**Family Group Session**

**Wednesday evenings 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th May 6pm**

**Special Liturgy and Rehearsal**

**Wednesday evening**

**St Canice's Church- Wed 3rd June 6pm**

**First Communions "Sunday" Masses**

**@ St Canice's Church 6th and 7th June**

**(possible First Communions during "Sunday"**

**Mass in other churches at Blackheath, Mt**

**Vic, Leura,**

**Wentworth Falls )**

**Lawson @ Our Lady of Nativity Church**

**Parent Session**

**Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm**

**Family Group Sessions**

**Sat & Sun 2nd/3rd May, 16th/17th May,**

**23rd/24th May, 30th/31st May**

**(Note 10th May is Mothers day ) Times: TBA. Venue:**

**TBA**

**Special Liturgy and Rehearsal**

**4pm (in Our Lady of Nativity Church, Lawson)**

**Wednesday 10th June**

**First Communions at OLN Church "Sunday**

**Masses" Sat 5pm & Sun 8.30am 13th / 14th June**

**and a special First Communion Mass at 10.30am**

**on Sunday 14th June**

## CONFIRMATION

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

**Katoomba @ St Canice's School**

**For years 5 and 6 and above**

**Parent Session**

**Wednesday Evening 22nd July 6.30pm**

**Family Group Sessions 6pm**

**Wednesday Evenings 29th July,**

**5th, 12th August**

**19th August 6pm**

**Lawson @ Our Lady Nativity Church**

**Parent Session**

**Thursday Evening 23rd July 7.30pm**

**Venue : TBA**

**Family Group Sessions**

**Sat & Sun 1st/2nd August**

**8th/9th August**

**15th/16th August**

**22nd/23rd August**

**Times: TBA**

**Venue :TBA**

Rehearsal for both Upper Mtns and Lawson at St Canices' Church Katoomba evening of Wed 26th Aug 6pm

Proposed Sacrament of Confirmation for both Upper Mtns and Lawson at St Canice's Church on Saturday

29th Aug at 10am and/or 12pm Now Confirmed by Parramatta Diocesan Office



## RECONCILIATION

**Katoomba @ St Canice's School**

**For years 3 and above**

**Parent Session**

**Wednesday Evening 21st October 6.30pm**

**Family Group Sessions 6pm**

**Wednesday PM 28th October**

**4th November**

**11th November**

**18th November & Rehearsal**

**Celebration of the Sacrament is@6:00 pm 25th**

**November**

**Lawson @ Our Lady of the Nativity Church**

**For years 3 and above**

**Parent Session**

**Thursday Evening 22nd October 7.30pm**

**Family Group Sessions 6pm**

**Sat 3.45pm or Sun 9.45am 31st Oct & 1st Nov**

**Sat 3.45pm or Sun 9.45am 7th Nov & 8th Nov**

**Sat 3.45pm or Sun 9.45 am 14th Nov & 15th Nov**

**Wed 6.00pm Session 4 & Rehearsal @ St**

**Canice's Church**

**Celebration of the Sacrament is@6:00 pm 25th**

**November**



**The Baptism of infants** is a gift from God for the little ones, their families and the whole Christian Community. It is through Baptism that parents accept for their child a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus and their place of common-union within the Family of Jesus, His Church. It is the most beautiful inheritance you will leave to them: the faith! Only this. Today, take this thought home with you. We must be transmitters of the faith. Think about this, always think about how to hand on the faith to your children." Pope Francis', Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, Rome 2014

**Baptisms of babies** are celebrated at St Canice's Katoomba, on the 2nd Sunday and at Our Lady of Nativity, Lawson on the 4th Sunday of each month. Enquiries : 4782 2804 [bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto:bluemountains@parracatholic.org)

**Catholic Outlook:** To keep abreast with what is happening in our Church you can subscribe to the daily mail out from Catholic Outlook by going to their website and scrolling to the bottom of the page to find their subscription request page. ([catholicoutlook.org](http://catholicoutlook.org))

# Sacred Heart Church Community

Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath  
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria  
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

As a community bonded together through faith,  
we are called to share our experience of God with those we meet each day,  
in particular, those in our local community.

*We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of this land  
and pay our respects to the elders past and present.*

## 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 !** Cuppa's will be **closed** for three mornings-January 21, 28 and February 4 due to the hall set up for the garage sale.



**Cuppa's will reopen weekly on Wednesday 11 February from 9:30-12:00.** Join the newly formed group for a game of Mahjong-beginners most welcome. For Vinnies support on Wednesday mornings phone Blackheath Vinnies conference on 0490 709 547 to arrange assistance.

## Ash Wednesday is February 18- the Lenten reflection book is on its way! *Compassio*

The Lenten reflection book from the Wollongong diocese, has been ordered and will be available for purchase at weekend Masses for \$7.00 each before the commencement of Lent. Daily reflections, Sunday Gospel readings and reflections, spiritual direction and prayers invite us into the Compassionate Heart of Jesus and God's Mercy. C/O Christine

## Sunday 8 February

Remembering the feast day of **St Josephine Bakhita**, Patron Saint of victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Visit **ACAN**, the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network for information and potential solutions to this desperate problem on their website

<https://www.acan.org.au>

## BLACKHEATH GARAGE SALE 2026

**7th and 8th February 2026**

We are now asking for donations for our upcoming garage sale on the first weekend of February this year. Thank you all for your support over past years and we look forward to another successful sale in Feb.

We are in need of sorters from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February from 12pm through to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and then of course to work the sale over the weekend and pack up.

A couple of parishioners have approached me with regards to the funds that we make on the sale. If you have any requests that we might consider for the disbursement of the monies please contact me on [marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au](mailto:marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au) and your social committee will consider all options.

Looking forward to another great sale

-Marilyn

Social Committee

**Mass in the Megalong:** There will be no Mass in the Megalong Valley in January. The next Mass at St Joseph's will be Friday 20th February at 4pm. Please contact the Parish Office if you require transport.

## Collecting recycling at Sacred Heart

**Please keep your recycling items at home until Sunday March 15.**

Thank you for reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill and for Caring for our Common Home. We are still collecting used stamps, unwanted wearable prescription spectacles, empty medication blister packs, household batteries, Fluro tubes and light globes, smoke alarms, plastic toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes and lids, razor blades, plastic bag tags, return and earn bottles and cans, natural and synthetic corks and printer cartridges.

## Christian Meditation

Weekly each Tuesday at 10am Sacred Heart Church Blackheath. All are welcome.

For information about this prayer time contact **Marilyn Jones 0401637759**

**"Yanama Budyari Gumada- Walk with Good Spirit"**





## OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH COMMUNITY 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 CHURCH COMMUNITY SENIORS' GROUP

The group had our initial meeting last **Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January, with morning tea from 10am** (supplied) followed by a **BYO lunch** and concluding around 1pm. We already set our get together for the rest of the year. **We usually gather on the last Wednesday of the month.** Visitors (both men and women) are always welcome to pop into one of our meetings. If you would like to know a little more about our group, please contact **Paula Currie on 0416 185 651.**

### Importance Notice

After each Mass this weekend, we will be asking for 5 minutes of your time. We need your presence and ideas. This is an opportunity for everyone to participate in the future of our OLN Church Community. Please also add your name and email to the list in the church foyer.

### THURSDAY AND FRIDAY MASS TIMES

After comments from parishioners and some consultation, our **Friday Church Mass is at 9:00 am with an additional OLN Primary School Mass on Thursday at 9:00 am DURING THE SCHOOL TERMS.** The next school mass will be announced later.

### LAWSON VINNIES CONFERENCE

"The Lawson Vinnies Conference team again would like to thank the generosity of our parish with our Christmas Appeal, **A total of \$5952.50** was raised over the two weekend masses prior to Christmas and along with 30 hampers donated by OLN Primary School we were able to bring Joy to our clients. This all helps us to maintain our support to those people in our community that are in need. We are always looking for new members and if you have an hour or two once a month please reach out. **THANK YOU!**

**- The Lawson Vinnies Team"**



*Sapientia*

Single adults, 18-35 years of age, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for this weekend retreat of prayer, formation, and fellowship.

**13-15 February 2026**  
St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre  
Douglas Park

For more information or to register:  
[www.trybooking.com/DHJEE](http://www.trybooking.com/DHJEE),  
or email the Sisters at  
[sydney@op-n.org](mailto:sydney@op-n.org).



## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH COMMUNITY 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.

### ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

If you know someone preferably children (year 3 to 6) who usually attends mass at this Church community and eager to be part of the Worship. Please call the office and training will be provided.



## ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH COMMUNITY 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 Sunday Masses 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.

### DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

The Divine Mercy Devotion will resume on Friday evenings, the 9th of January 2026 at 5:00 pm. Call the Office

### PASTORAL CARE

We are in need of some Extraordinary Ministers of Communion for Age Care and Hospitals. Please contact the Parish office.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

**Thank you!**

We would like to thank all our parishioners from St Canice's, St Bonaventure's and St Francis Xavier's for your response to our Christmas 2025 Appeal. Your very generous donations enabled us to distribute hampers to over 50 needy families.

Our Donation bins are at the Church entrances, should you wish to donate between our Appeals.

*Please note however, that we can only pass on to clients non-perishable or long-life food items, still within 'Use by' or 'Best by' dates.*

*Non-food donations should be donated directly to the Vinnies shop in Waratah St, Katoomba.*

Our continued prayers for you and your families.



## ST. CANICE'S CHURCH COMMUNITY 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 B.point.

**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**

### SAINTS THIS WEEK

Mon 2 The Presentation of the Lord Feast  
Tue 3 Saint Ansgar (Oscar), Bishop  
Saint Blaise, Bishop, Martyr  
Wed 4 Wednesday of week 4 in Ordinary Time  
Thu 5 Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr  
Fri 6 Saints Paul Miki and his Companions, Martyrs  
Sat 7 Blessed Virgin Mary  
Next Sun 8 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### LENTEN GROUPS

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

### FUNERAL OF JOAN GRACIE

12pm, Thursday 5th February at St. Canice's, Katoomba.

### PARISH ADORATION CHAPEL

Perpetual Eucharistic adoration is a wonderful way to show our gratitude and respond to Jesus' love for us. God loves you and when you adore the Lord in Adoration, He grants many special blessings of His goodness, grace, love and mercy. Our parish is blessed to have an Adoration Chapel located on the side of Katoomba Church that runs Monday through Friday.

A sign-up weekend will be held at the Sunday Masses of the 14-15 February or alternatively please call Catherine on 0420 337 033 to enquire regarding signing up for a rostered weekly Holy Hour in the Adoration chapel.

We are inviting all parishioners to come and share in this beautiful gift that we are blessed and grateful to have in our parish. In anticipation of the sign-up weekend we will be including reflections on Adoration in the bulletin over the next few weeks.

What is Eucharistic Adoration and why is it so tremendously important?

Eucharistic adoration is an expression of our love for Jesus, who loves us so much that He never wants to leave us and stays with us day and night in the Blessed Sacrament. Eucharistic adoration is the respect and worship we give to Jesus, who is truly present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure; by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace. As St. Alphonsus Liguori noted, "of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us" (CCC 1418).



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

**Thank you!**

We would like to thank all our parishioners from St Canice's, St Bonaventure's and St Francis Xavier's for your response to our Christmas 2025 Appeal. Your very generous donations enabled us to distribute hampers to over 50 needy families.

Our Donation bins are at the Church entrances, should you wish to donate between our Appeals.

*Please note however, that we can only pass on to clients non-perishable or long-life food items, still within 'Use by' or 'Best by' dates.*

*Non-food donations should be donated directly to the Vinnies shop in Waratah St, Katoomba.*

Our continued prayers for you and your families.

## People and Culture



### Office for Safeguarding

P: (02) 8838 3419  
E: [safeguarding@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@parracatholic.org)  
E: [safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org)  
T: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au/>

### OFFICE FOR SAFEGUARDING DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA

AT TIMES WE ALL NEED SUPPORT THIS CARD CONTAINS A VARIETY OF SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE SEEKING SOMEONE TO TALK TO OR TO SEEK GUIDANCE OR ASSISTANCE.

Emergency | Police | Fire | Ambulance 000

Department Communities and Justice	Kids Helpline	NSW Rape Crisis
Child Protection Helpline - 13 21 11	1800 551 800	1800 424 0171
Link2Home Homelessness - 1800 152 152		1800 385 578
Domestic Violence Line - 1800 656 463	Lifeline Australia	Blue Knot
	13 11 14	Foundation
National Disability Abuse	1800 RESPECT	1300 224 636
& Neglect Hotline - 1800 880 052	1800 737 732	
CatholicCare Western Sydney	Samsn	Mental Health Line
& The Blue Mountains - 02 8843 2500	02 8355 3711	1800 011 511
Headspace - 1800 650 890	1800 472 676	National Disability
Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636	Elder Abuse	Abuse & Neglect
	1800 628 221	1800 880 052



## 4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

### FIRST READING (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13)

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Blessed the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

### SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 1:26)

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if any want to boast, let them boast about the Lord.

### GOSPEL Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Rejoice and be glad;  
Your reward will be great in heaven.  
Alleluia!

### GOSPEL (Matthew 5:1-12)

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How blessed are the poor in spirit;  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed the gentle:  
they shall have the earth for their heritage.  
Blessed those who mourn:  
they shall be comforted.  
Blessed those who hunger  
and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.  
Blessed the merciful:  
they shall have mercy shown them.  
Blessed the pure in heart:  
they shall see God.  
Blessed the peacemakers:  
they shall be called sons of God.  
Blessed those who are persecuted  
in the cause of right:  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

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

*The Acts of the Apostles come alive as we join St Paul and his companions in the places of his Second Missionary Journey and rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. Rekindle our passion for the Gospels as we capture afresh the fervour and spirit of the Church's greatest Evangelist.*

DEPARTS WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2026 • 14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS

Athens (3) • Ancient Corinth • Kalambaka (1) • Meteora • Berea  
• Thessaloniki (2) • Philippi • Kavala • Izmir • Kusadasi (3) • Ephesus • Pergamum  
• Canakkale (1) • Gallipoli • Istanbul (3) • Optional Extension: Malta (3)

14  
DAYS



Accompanied by  
**Fr John McSweeney**  
& Harvest Representative  
**Monica Mansour**



Furnishing environments  
that inspire Creativity,  
Learning and Work in the  
Education, Library,  
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