



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 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 02 August 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Having listened to parables about the Kingdom (the Church) over the past few weeks, we begin a new section of Matthew's Gospel today. Jesus has taught the crowds about the Kingdom, but his Teaching received rejection from many. As a result, He turns to his Disciples and begins to form them, so that, after His Death, His Church will survive and flourish. It is with this in mind that we should listen to the Gospel of the Multiplication of the loaves and fish.

Jesus performs an overtly Eucharistic action that speaks louder than words; and his Disciples are integrally involved. Indeed, they are told: 'give them something to eat yourselves'. From this we realise that as the Body of Christ, the Church, God's Kingdom on earth - WE are meant to help the Lord in feeding the multitudes today...

* feeding them with his Word (the Gospel and the living Tradition)

* feeding them with the Bread of Life (His Body and Blood).

And so, as we leave our Mass today, we are invited by the Lord to go out to the 'lonely places' of our time, and give the people we meet there some nourishment for their lives. Indeed, we must 'give them something to eat' OURSELVES!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

WHOLE PARISH GARDEN WORKING BEE. On Saturday 15th August - after the 9am Mass - I am hoping members of all Church Communities in our Parish will join together to prepare the Katoomba Street Garden (in front of the Church and Presbytery) for Spring. We will need to weed, add soil where needed, mulch and (hopefully) begin planting...

Why do I consider this a 'whole parish' occasion? The garden is the only major piece of greenery in the main street of the main Town in our City of Blue Mountains. It is important that we present an attractive face to all who visit the Upper Mountains. Thus, this space reflects on us all as parishioners.

The Stoermer Bequest is funding the whole landscaping experience, and at its conclusion, we will bless and install a plaque in memory of the new Joan and Lloyd Stoermer Memorial Garden. Finally, we hope to place a grotto of our Lady in this garden, after some Fundraising. Hope to see you all on the 15th.

NB: please bring appropriate Gardening Tools... God Bless you all this week.

Fr John

FAREWELL TO MAYLIN

Morning Tea for Maylin's Farewell will be on Sunday 9th August at Katoomba RSL after Mass. All are Welcome!

BAPTISM TIME CHANGE

Lawson's baptism is change from 10:30 am to 11.00 am commencing in October 2026.

Volunteer's Needed for Sunday's Mass LIVESTREAMING

Training Provided contact Parish office or email: dmoore@abaxkf.com.au

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/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.

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/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 . Please follow this link.

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



SAINTS THIS WEEK

Mon 3 Saint Dominic, Priest

Tue 4 Saint John Mary Vianney, Priest

Wed 5 Dedication of the Basilic of Saint Mary Major

Thu 6 The Transfiguration of the Lord Feast

Sat 8 Saint Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop),

NEXT WEEK: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feast Day of St. Mary Mackillop.
Saturday 08 August Masses: 8:00 am
& 6:00 pm—Chapel; 10:00 am & 1:00
pm— Glen Roy Green (outdoors)



PARISH NEWS

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, 6-7p; 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. 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**



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



Recently Deceased: 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: Aiyana, 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, Miecia & Zygyuch 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.



COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

St Canice's Primary School
158 Katoomba St
Katoomba

WEDNESDAY 12th AUGUST 2026
9:30AM - 11AM

**Enrolling Now
for 2027**

New and Existing Families are Invited
to our Community Open Day.

Come along and discover what makes our school
special!

Meet our dedicated and passionate staff

Explore our vibrant learning spaces

Connect with other families in our community

We can't wait to welcome you and show you what
makes St Canice's such a special place to learn and
grow!



Register Now



FEE FREE

Terms and Conditions Apply

stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au

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



**What's On at the
Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre**



August 6 | 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Event | Journey of Spirit Coming Together

Join us for afternoon tea and a special presentation by Dr Lisa Buxton, who will reflect on Mary Aikenhead and the artwork she created in collaboration with Julieanne Manson especially for the Heritage Centre.

Visitors will have the opportunity to view 'Journey of Spirit Coming Together', alongside our exhibition, 'The Faces of Mary Aikenhead'.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of reflection, art, and conversation.

Call (02) 9138 0835 or email heritagecentre@rscoffice.com to register.



HERITAGE
CENTRE

@rscheritagecentre | heritagecentre@rscoffice.com
socheritagecentre.org.au | (02) 9138 0835 | 1 Rockwall Crescent, Potts Point

be the Witness

A MUSICAL
By Carol & Jimmy Owens
**ON THE LIFE OF JESUS
THROUGH THE EYES OF PETER**
Directed by Joe Cordo

10 - 13 SEPTEMBER, 2026
RIVERSIDE THEATRE, PARRAMATTA

www.bethewitness.com.au

**BOOK
NOW**



Deepen your experience with the
HOLY SHROUD EXHIBITION
Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
6 - 9 September: Open all day
10 - 13 September: Open till late



Rediscovering the Value of Faith Sunday 9th August, St Canice's Parish Hall 11:30am. All parishioners are warmly invited to join us for the fourth session in our Rediscovering the Value of Faith series. These gatherings help us deepen our understanding of the faith as we journey together through the seasons of the Church. As we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, this next session will focus on Mary, the Communion of Saints, and Catholic Devotions. Through two engaging video presentations and relaxed group discussion, we'll reflect on the unique place of Mary in our faith, the role of the saints in the life of the Church, and how these beautiful traditions continue to enrich our faith today. Whether you've attended previous sessions or are joining us for the first time, everyone is welcome. Come along, learn something new, ask questions, and share in fellowship with parishioners as together we rediscover the richness of our Catholic faith.

We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday 9th August 11:30am at St Canice's Parish Hall, Katoomba.

HOMELESSNESS WEEK 2026: 3-9 August. Homelessness Australia coordinates Homelessness Week each year to build community support and drive government action to end homelessness. Across Australia, homelessness services and community organizations hold events, engage the media and take action to raise awareness of homelessness, highlight solutions that work, and call for the change needed to ensure everyone has a safe and secure home. The theme for Homelessness Week 2026 is Homelessness Action Now! For more information about this worsening crisis visit <https://homelessnessaustralia.org.au/homelessness-week/>

CALL TO ACTION. Sign and share Homelessness NSW's Campaign: A Place to Call Home and the Support to Keep It campaign's petition: <https://homelessnessnsw.org.au>. NSW Vinnies is a member and supporter of this campaign.

Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre. We invite you to explore the history of our ministries and share in the story of Australia's first religious sisters. Open Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am-3.00pm or by appointment
Free entry and parking available
Bookings recommended
A: 1 Rockwall Cres, Potts Point
W: socheritagecentre.org.au
E: heritagecentre@rscoffice.com
P: 02 9138 0835

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.



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. 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.

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



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



Thank you for supporting our OLN Vinnies Winter Appeal by donating knitted squares to our Knitting Club. We truly appreciate your generosity and the time and effort you have given. Your contribution will help create warm blankets for those in need, making a real difference to members of our community during the colder months. Thank you for helping us put our faith into action through kindness, compassion, and service to others.



"**Laurie Woods** is taking a back seat from the arrangements of both the music and the choir after many years of service. No doubt we will miss his beautiful voice and guitar playing. Laurie has provided a long standing and loyal service since the introduction of music to Lawson church since the mid 90's. And whilst keeping our choir going he also offered written commentary on the readings since the year 2000. Our many thanks to Laurie for his dedication and do hope we hear that lovely voice again on special occasions."

"Our thanks also to Judy West for her most beautiful displays of flowers on our alter. Judy has been on our Flower Girl Roster and a Parishioner of our church for many years. Judy has moved to Wentworth Falls and will be missed when special occasions arise where she has been very creative with her flower arranging skills. We have certainly benefited from her giving nature to help make our church a beautiful place to worship."

Please look for our updated 2026 Event calendar that displays our up and coming events, such as our morning tea celebration for the opening of our newly renovated meeting room and as a thankyou to Laurie Woods for his service. The date of this morning tea celebration is Sunday 13th September after the morning mass. Please come and join us on this special occasion.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS: Thank you to those who have been donating their used stamps into the **OLN Church stamp collection box in the Church foyer**. The collection of stamps since January of this year will be forwarded to the **Sisters of St Joseph North Sydney** at the end of **August**. These stamps are auctioned off to collectors a couple of times during the year, the proceeds of which are used for the **Mary MacKillop International Aid**. For many years, our Church Community has been forwarding stamps collected, so thank you again everyone for your donation. Please remember when removing the stamp from the envelop to leave at least 5mm(1/4") border around the stamp.

†
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH
WENTWORTH FALLS

†
ST. PAUL CHURCH
MT VICTORIA

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

†
ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH
LEURA

Project and Maintenance. On going concreteing of the pathway and the renovation of the Church Toilet.

†
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 21st August 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. CANICE'S CHURCH
KATOOMBA

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.

Our Next Morning tea will be this Sunday 02 August after the 10.00 am Mass at St Canice's Hall. Please Bring a Plate to share.

EUCHARIST28

THIS IS

my body

GIVEN

for you.

EUCHARIST28

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ.

Amen.





abaxkf.com.au 1300 300 369
PO Box 7250 1 Cowpasture PI, Wetherill Park NSW 2164



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

DIOCESE NEWS & BEYOND

THE MESSENGER

Inspired by St Sabina's Mission, this weekly update brings news from across the Diocese of Parramatta for clergy, parishes and agencies

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/>



"Jesus-Christ Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." You are invited to hear Br Barry Donaghue, Christian Brother from Mulgoa, present a session on "Jesus..." Saturday, 15th August 9:30 am at Hazelbrook Uniting Church Hall. The Church is adjacent to Hazelbrook Shopping Centre where there would be plenty of unrestricted parking. Morning tea is provided. If you need more information, please contact Len at: leonard.usa@me.com

Get #Active4Vocations: Spur on Bishop Vincent and our Holy Spirit Seminarians

This National Vocations Awareness Week, Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and our Holy Spirit Seminarians will get #Active4Vocations in City2Surf on Sunday 9 August. Please pray for vocations and support our seminarians as they take on the 14km journey from Sydney to Bondi to promote priestly vocations. Spur them on with a donation at tinyurl.com/Active4Vocations. If you feel called to the priesthood, visit parracatholic.org/contribute/discern-my-vocation/priesthood

Married Couples' Retreat – Reflect, Renew & Reconnect: 5 September

Married couples are invited to a special retreat day, *Reflect, Renew & Reconnect*, on Saturday 5 September 2026 at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown. The day runs from 8:30am–4.30pm and includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch;

Register now at parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/.

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



WALKING WITH MARY IN Hope and Wonder

A Zoom Novena in Preparation for the Feast Day of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

DAILY FROM
JULY 30 - AUGUST 7 | 7:30PM - 8:00PM AEST

You're invited to join Mary MacKillop Place and Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry for a Zoom novena of prayer and reflection.

Over nine days, we will explore hope and wonder through the life Mary MacKillop as we journey towards celebrating her Feast Day on Saturday 8 August.

For more information and the Zoom link, visit:
www.marymackillopplace.org.au/novena or scan the QR code.



Women's Breakfast



15th August 2026
\$35 incl GST

Mass at 7:00am (optional), followed by breakfast at 7:30am.



Are you seeking a moment of stillness this year – to pause, reflect, and reconnect with your faith alongside other women?

Join us for a morning celebrating Saint Mary MacKillop: An Icon for Australia, to:

- Reflect on the Feast of the Assumption and Mary's faithful "yes" to God
- Explore how that same "yes" was lived out in the life and mission of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- Share in Mass, breakfast, and conversation with women of all ages
- Be inspired by the story of Australia's own saint, and what her legacy means for us today

Learn from guest speaker **Sr Catherine Mead RSJ**, and take home a renewed sense of faith and connection.

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 55:1-3)

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things
to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.

SECOND READING (Romans 8:35, 37-39)

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

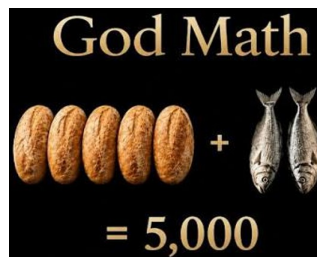
For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God.

GOSPEL (Matthew 14:13-21)

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.



When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the bread of life, says the Lord;
whoever comes to me will not hunger
and whoever believes in me will not thirst.



Saturday 8 August is the feast of our
Parish Patron
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.
Mass @ 9:00 St Canice Church
Katoomba