



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: 9.30am 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.
(2nd and 4th Sundays)

ADORATION CHAPEL

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

FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES

1st Sunday of Advent
YEAR A | 30 Nov 2025

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Advent begins. Our preparation for Christ to be born into our lives so He will truly be our Emmanuel. The God who lives with us.

The first reading is prophetic saying that “In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains”. Using the symbol of mountain as a place of encounter with God, it tells us that the day is coming when the Church, the Body of Christ where God lives with humanity will be the closest place of encounter with God. This day has come, and we are preparing to celebrate it's coming. The preparation is Advent, the celebration is Christmas. It has come and is coming.

The Church is established, and we are all members, all Baptised, but we are still growing into it because we need to grow and mature to become Christ like. That's what the second reading is telling us, we need to focus our vision, get out of a dazed state and start to focus intently, to “wake up” stop drifting into self-indulgence and reliance on false gods like our image, social status and reliance on financial security.

We need to grow and mature to see that our security, our armour is Christ. Because if we don't wake up, we will be caught in the flood Christ talks about in the Gospel. The waters of the flood are again best understood symbolically. The waters represent the disorder, the forces of evil and they destroy those that are asleep in their own little kingdoms with allegiance to their own gods. The armour of Christ is trust in God, a felt understanding that no matter what difficulties, sacrifices, misunderstandings and ridicule we go through, if we do it to stay true to Christ's teaching, we will be safe. Safe in the ark that is Christ.

Deacon Alan

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

SUNDAY (30th November): **THE FIRST PARISH ASSEMBLY** This is to held in St Canice's Hall, commencing at 11:15am.



**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's, 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

Parish websites:
bluemountainscatholic.org.au
sacredheartblkheath.org.au
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/UCHtj55risvGDOqCDN7mldNQ>.



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

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)

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

For Training: 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

If you also want to include any items for the weeks' parish bulletin, email us on or before Wednesday afternoon

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: Anna Maria Fantin, Colin Reid, Patricia Wolthers, Marie Hurley, Noni Emerton, John Casey, Sister Helena, Lena, Ronald Fletcher.

Deceased and anniversaries: Jim Le Breton, Betty O'Conner, Mick Le Breton, Andrew Krawczyk, Jean Lennane, ted and Liselotte Cocksedge, Eileen Smith, Ron Drummond, Jarovslav Zeeman, Leslie Dee, Edna Bentick, Patricia Davies, Barry Roberts, Brenda Pateman, Andrew Harris and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses and the forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Kevin Gordon, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergent, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Joan Gracey, Doreen Kinsella & George Commens, Mary Moran, Fr Kerry Bayada, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Kevin Medlin, Rob Nickl, 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.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS NO CHANGES TO MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

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, as they will make arrangements.

AN INVITATION FROM SISTER JACINTA SHAILER TO ALL IN PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

There will be an Advent gathering on Friday December 19 at 10am-12noon at The Function Room, St Scholastica's Congregational Centre, 2 Arcadia Rd, Glebe Point. This will be a time of song and silence, poems and prayers, sharing and blessing. Morning tea will be included. Please RSVP to Sister Jacinta on 0418 619 027 or email jshailer@goodsams.org.au

PARISH ASSEMBLY INVITATION

All parishioners are warmly invited to our First Parish Assembly on Sunday, 30 November 2025, from 11:15 am to 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall at St Canice's, Katoomba.

Together, we will pray, reflect, and discuss how to strengthen our shared mission across the Upper Blue Mountains through new Church Community Pastoral Teams and begin shaping our Parish Mission Statement to guide our future.

This is a time to listen, share, and help build a sustainable and hope-filled future for our parish. Everyone is encouraged to come – your presence and voice matter as we gather in faith and hope, trusting the Holy Spirit who continues to guide our journey.

PARISH DISCUSSION GROUP

The next meeting of the parish's discussion group will be **3:00-4:30pm, 29 November, Sacred Heart Church Hall, Blackheath**. At this meeting we'll be focussing on **Chapter 3 A Church for the Poor**, of Pope Leo's new exhortation *Dilexi Te* (I have loved you). https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html At the last meeting we spent time coming to terms with the first two chapters of this work. Central to this is Pope Leo's statement "I share the desire of my beloved predecessor [Pope Francis] that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor. I too consider it essential to insist on this path to holiness." Chapter 3 will focus on how in its 2,000 years history the Church has met this call.

Discussions are open and mutually supportive. Please let me know if you'd prefer a Zoom or Teams link. All welcome!. Clive Kanen (email via bluemountains@parracatholic.org)

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you for your support of our Bishop's Christmas appeal. If you were unable to donate last week, there is still time to grab an envelop...

CALL FOR BUILDING CONTRACTORS – OLN LAWSON



The Parish is hoping to hear from any parishioners or local builders who would like to quote for the rebuild of the fire damaged administration building at Our Lady of the Nativity, Lawson.

If you're able to help — please get in touch with the Parish Office 02 4782 2804 or Damian Moore 0425 259 500.

DIOCESE of PARRAMATTA

OPEN THE DOORS OF HOPE TO GRIEVING HEARTS THIS CHRISTMAS

Bring counselling support to people experiencing grief and loss.

"Normalising grief as a deeply human experience can bring us hope that we're not alone."
- Harrison Porter, Grief and Loss Counsellor,
Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains

Scan to give to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal

parracatholic.org/appeal



ST CANICE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
WITH
ST VINCENT DE PAUL

GIFT GIVING DAY

MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2025

LUKE 1:26-28, 30-31
"THE ANGEL SAID TO MARY, 'DO NOT BE AFRAID,
YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOUR WITH GOD.
YOU WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND YOU WILL NAME HIM JESUS.'"

ALL WELCOME

8:20AM TREE DECORATING

GIFTS UNDER THE TREE

KINDY TINS OF FRUIT / BOB BONS / CHRISTMAS SERVIETTES
STAGE 1 BUTTER COOKIES / SHORTBREAD / MINCE PIES
STAGE 2 SMALL TINNED HAM / SOFT DRINK / CHRISTMAS SERVIETTES
STAGE 3 LOLLIES / SOFT DRINK / BOB BONS
STAFF TOYS

8:45AM PRAYER

**SONGS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE
FEATURING THE SCHOOL CHOIR**

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS MASS TIMES

Wednesday

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

5:00 pm St Bonaventure Church, Railway Pd & Hartley Esplanade, Leura

24

5:00 pm Our Lady of Nativity Church, 254 Great Western Hwy, Lawson

DECEMBER

6:00 pm Sacred Heart Church, 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath

Thursday
DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT

12:00 am
St Canice's Church, 158 Katoomba St, Katoomba

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday

8:00 am St Francis Xavier Church, 3 Day St, Wentworth Falls

25

8:30 am Our Lady of Nativity Church, 254 Great Western Hwy, Lawson

DECEMBER

9:30 am Sacred Heart Church, 167 Wentworth Street Blackheath

10:00 am St Canice's Church 158 Katoomba St, Katoomba

**NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
FRIDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2025 BOXING DAY MASS**

**@ 12:00 NN ST CANICE'S CHURCH
158 KATOOMBA ST KATOOMBA**

Please Save *the Dates*

Saturday
November 29

Parish Discussion Group @Sacred Heart Parish Hall
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Sunday
November 30

First Sunday of Advent
The Catholic Church New Liturgical Year
Happy New Year

Sunday
November 30

First Catholic Parish Assembly of the Upper Blue Mountains
St Canice's Hall @ 11:15 am

Monday
December 01

St Canice's Primary Christmas Gift Giving
8:20 am to 8:45 am St Canice's Primary Katoomba

Friday
December 05

Sacred Heart Blackheath Christmas Party
Sacred Heart Church Hall @ 6:00 PM

Sunday
December 07

Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains Christmas Party
after the 10:00 am Mass @ St Canice's Church Hall

@year 2025

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

CUPPA'S TOGETHER EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTER 9AM MASS IN SACRED HEART HALL

Join us for a warming coffee and fun conversation from 9:30-12:00.

Vinnies assistance is available during this time in the meeting room. All welcome on Wednesdays!



IT'S CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME AT SACRED HEART!

Please join us for joyful Christmas carol singing with Pat Drummond, a delicious, shared meal and good company. All are welcome on Friday night, **December 5** at 6pm -8pm in the hall. BYO drinks and a plate of savoury or sweet food to share.

 Our Sacred Heart Community has been a long time and very generous supporter of the **Jesuit Refugee Service Christmas Foodbank Appeal**. As Christmas approaches, we are being asked to support the many families and individuals who will rely on JRS Australia over the holiday period.

We will be holding the food drive over the next 3 weekends – concluding on Sunday 7 December – for delivery to JRS by December 11th.
Items being sought

✦ Cooking Oil, Pasta Sauce, Canned Corn, Canned Black or Red Beans. Instant Coffee If you would prefer to support JRS by donating a Gift Card, these may be purchased at any supermarket. Please speak with David Buckley (0400208707).

Thank you in advance and your generosity.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025 Saturday 6 December St Paul's Mt Victoria - Sunday 14 December Sacred Heart Blackheath

Thanks so much for your wonderful support to our past Blackheath Vinnies appeals.

We now ask that you please consider a donation to the upcoming 2025 Christmas Appeal. For logistical reasons we have split the appeal over two weekends this year. Envelopes and Eftpos facilities will be available at the **St Paul's Mt. Victoria at the 6:00pm Mass on Saturday 6 December and at Sacred Heart Blackheath at the 9:30am Mass on Sunday 14 December.** Our **Eftpos facilities** allow for donations by **Mastercard or Visa.**

Everyone deserves access to the essentials to live with dignity. But Australia's cost of living crisis has pushed more people into acute poverty. This has prompted a surge in individuals and families seeking emergency relief services to avoid falling into deeper crisis. Higher food prices lead to families skipping meals. Higher energy prices mean people cannot afford to warm their homes in winter or cool them in summer. Higher rental prices are forcing people into homelessness. At Blackheath Vinnies we do our best to alleviate these issues for people in our local community.

Thanks again for your wonderful support to our Vinnies appeals. We again need your help to assist those with the greatest needs in our community.

John Tweedie (President, Blackheath St Vincent de Paul Conference

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AT BLACKHEATH

David Buckley will talk this Sunday about our **annual Christmas Raffle**. Please support this fundraiser by purchasing a book of tickets after Mass today. The raffle will be drawn on **Sunday 14th December.**



Christmas Stall@ Blackheath Church
Cake, Plants, Crafts & Raffle Draw

Calling all Bakers, Gardeners, and Crafty People. Time to dust off the cooking pans, pots the plants and sharpen the needles for our Christmas Stall. All donations of cakes, slices, jams, plants, worm poo and craft items gratefully received. Get a start on Christmas and Support the Parish.

SUNDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 2024 | AT 10:30 AM



**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: 0000164**

CONGRATULATIONS to JULIETTA DODD and ISAAC MORRIS on the occasion of their Marriage at OLN, on 22nd November. Wishing them a lifetime filled with kindness; joy and laughter; and an abundance of gentle, gracious love.

LAWSON ADVENT REFLECTION GROUPS 2025

Kate Powell (PH: 0420 545 275) and **Jenny Gannon** (PH: 0428 057 753) are offering an invitation to our individual **Advent Reflection Groups**, being held each Wednesday morning or evening from November 26th, December 3rd, 10th and 17th. We welcome you all to join us for this special Advent occasion.

Please refer to the form in the Lawson church foyer to confirm you would like to join us in these reflections. There is a chat afterwards with tea and cake.

Please call the above phone numbers for any enquiries you may have. Thank You!

Our Lady of Nativity
Church Community Lawson

**Christmas
Morning & Evening
Teas**

Saturday Evening	13 December, 2025
Sunday Morning	14 December, 2025

Bring a Plate to share

Contact: Jenny Gannon mob: 0428057753
email: jen.paul_g2@bigpond.com



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH COMMUNITY.
WENTWORTH FALLS**

FAREWELL: A big **THANK YOU** to **Matalena and Jerome** for their valued support and contribution to our Church community in Wentworth Falls. We wish them all the best in their return to **SAMOA**. We pray that the Lord continues to look after them in the future

THIS WEDNESDAY is the feast of St. Francis Xavier.



**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH
COMMUNITY
LEURA**

DONATIONS: Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow the link from St Canice's Katoomba.

LEURA CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS SINGING

Children are invited to come to the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass, to be held at 5pm at St Bonaventure's Church Leura, to sing in a children's choir. Please contact Colleen Bourke, Tel: 0415329048, email: cbourke5@parra.catholic.edu.au.

Parish Assembly – Your Voice Matters

All parishioners are invited to our **First Parish Assembly** on **Sunday 30 November 2025**, from **11:15am–1:00pm** in St Canice's Parish Hall, Katoomba. This is a crucial moment for our parish. We'll pray, reflect, and help shape our future together through the formation of **new Church Community Pastoral Teams** and the beginnings of our **Parish Mission Statement**. We especially need strong participation from Leura parishioners so we can build a fully functioning Pastoral Team. Please come. Your presence, your insights, and your faith-filled voice are essential as we plan a hopeful, sustainable future for our whole parish family.

Music Ministry in Leura

If you are able to sing at the 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.

**FR EUGENE STOCKTON
91st Birthday
30 NOVEMBER 2025**

BLUE MOUNTAINS EDUCATION RESEARCH TRUST
PRESENTS FR EUGENE'S BOOKS IDEAL FOR CHRISTMAS

THE DEEP WITHIN (\$10.00)
LANDMARKS (\$10.00)
MARTHA AND MARY OF MY MIND (\$10.00)
THE ABORIGINAL GIFT (\$15.00)
THE BLUE MOUNTAIN HERMIT (\$20.00)

To order email: contact@bmert.com.au
BMERT catalogue website: www.bmert.com.au



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

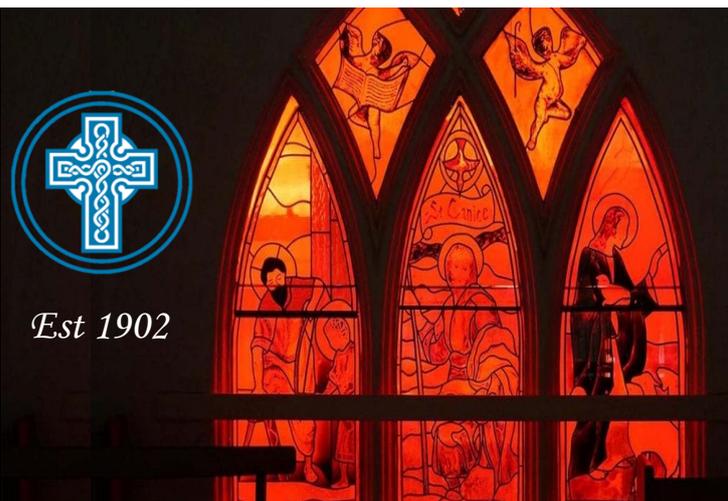
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2025

There are two sessions: Thursdays at 2.00pm and 7.00pm. Please note that the program will start on Thursday 4th December 2025. The cost of the advent books \$5.50. If you are interested in joining, please contact Barbara Davidson on 0417 490 103. If you cannot attend but would like to purchase an Advent book, please contact Barbara.

PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The parish Christmas party will be held in Katoomba Hall Sunday 7th of December after 10am Mass, every one welcome, please bring plate. Contact **Barbara# 0417490103** or the sacristan from any of the Churches

Also Saturday 6th December after 11am we will be setting up the hall for the party. If anyone is available to come and help put tables, chairs and decorations out, contact Barbara, Pam or the office.



DONATION FOR CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

We are in need of donations for Christmas hampers. Baskets will be provided in the Church foyers.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

Wed 3 Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
Thu 4 Saint John Damascene, Priest, Doctor
Sat 6 Saint Nicholas, Bishop

NEXT WEEK

Sun 7 2nd Sunday of Advent
Mon 8 The Immaculate Conception of the BVM
Tue 9 Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Wed 10 Our Lady of Loreto
Thu 11 Saint Damasus I, Pope
Fri 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

ST FRANCIS XAVIER (1506-1552)

Jesus asked, "What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honour before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he laboured to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malaysians, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptise; and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realised. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills.

All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.'

He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when

we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
And grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 24-37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase

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