



# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

Acknowledges the Darug and Gundungurra people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our churches are built and we pay respect to elders past, present and emerging

## CLERGY

Fr. John McSweeney (PP)  
Fr. Peter Lamont (AP)  
Fr. Jessie Balorio (AP)  
Rev. Alan Skofic (Deacon)

## SUNDAY MASSES

Sat: 5pm Leura  
Sat: 5pm Lawson  
Sat: 6pm Mt Victoria  
Sun: 8am Wentworth Falls  
Sun: 8.30am Lawson  
Sun: 9.30am Blackheath  
Sun: 10am Katoomba  
Sun: 5pm Leura

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon: 9am Katoomba  
Tue: 9am Leura  
Wed: 9am Blackheath  
Thu: 9am Wentworth Falls  
Fri: 9am Lawson  
Fri: 12pm Katoomba  
Fri: 4pm Megalong Valley  
(3rd Fri of the month)  
Sat: 9am Katoomba

## CONFESSION

Fri: After 12pm Mass Katoomba  
Sat: 9:30-9:50am Katoomba  
Sat: 4:30-4:50pm Leura  
NOTE: Confessions are always available upon request.

**Weddings:** Inquire @the Office

**Baptisms:** upon request.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday @ Katoomba

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday @ OLN Lawson

Inquiries: 47822804

Email: [bluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto:bluemountains@parracatholic.org)

## ADORATION CHAPEL

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

## Christian Meditation

Tuesdays-10am@Sacred Heart



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

## FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES IN THE MIST

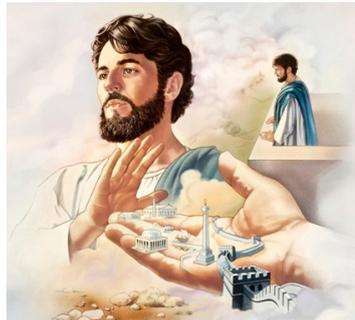
### 1st Sunday of Lent Year A

22 February 2026

#### REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

**D**ear sisters and brothers in Christ

The Temptations of Jesus are always placed before us on the First Sunday of Lent each year (whether from Matthew, Mark or Luke). They are so appropriate for our



reflection during the first full week of our Lenten preparation for Easter, for they encapsulate so much of humanity's temptations to turn from God and choose to sin.

We must do all we can to follow in the footsteps of the Lord:

\* to trust in God's unshakeable care for us no matter the difficulties we face in life, for 'one does not live on bread alone.'

\* to be obedient to God's law of love for us, and never

'put the Lord (our) God to the test'.

\* to remain faithful to God's Will for us rather than choosing the easier path of worship of false gods, for we 'must worship the Lord (our) God and serve Him alone'!

Let us do all we can this Lent to imitate Jesus, who fought Temptation, and won the Victory, and gained for us all the prize of Everlasting Life!

#### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**A** reminder that I really need to finalise membership of the Church Community Pastoral Teams ASAP, so we can move forward in finalising our Parish Pastoral Council/Team and all other parish-level Teams: Evangelisation, Worship and Liturgy, Pastoral Care and Wellbeing, Ongoing Formation, Administration and Financial Support, Social Justice and Ecology. God Bless you all!

Fr John

#### CHANGES TO MAIN GATE OPERATION

##### ST CANICE'S CHURCH DRIVEWAY:

The current setup for the main driveway gates enables users to access the property after hours via the keypad installed in the driveway. However, to close the gates they need to exit their vehicles and re-enter the access code to close the gates. To enable after hours users a greater level of security and safety access to the property afterhours will be as follows:

**Entry:** Enter pin into keypad to open gates – proceed through gates – Gates will automatically close after your vehicle passes the newly installed sensors.

**Exit:** Drive to gate and vehicle sensors installed in the driveway will open the gates. Exit driveway and the gates will automatically close, there is no need to enter the pin code on exiting the property.

**Normal hours** (6am to 6pm) gate operation will remain unchanged.

## 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.

## CONTACT US

**Parish Office:** 158 Katoomba St, Katoomba 2780.  
**Postal Address:** PO Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780.  
**Phone:** (02) 4782 2804.  
**Office Hours:** 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.  
**After Hours Emergency Number:** 0490814284.  
*Calls only; no texts please.*

**Parish email address:**  
Upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org

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

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic](https://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: [youtube.com/@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	Peter Lawlor (Chair Katoomba)
The Clergy (ex-officio Fr Peter, Fr Jessie, Deacon Alan)	Graham Beale (Blackheath & Deputy Chair)
Matthew Brawn (Secretary & Katoomba)	Maria Dodd (Lawson)
Russell Smith (Leura)	John Tweedie (Finance Rep)
Julie O'Keeffe (Blackheath & Deanery Pastoral Council Rep.)	Maria Eades (Leura & Deanery Pastoral Council Rep.)
Therese Moore (Katoomba)	Paul Gannon (Lawson)
School Rep (TBC)	

### Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John	John Tweedie (Chair)	Maylin Corros
Fr Peter	Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)	Marilyn Rowe
Fr Jessie	John Grant	Peter Lawlor (PPC Representative)
Dec Alan	Tom Boyd	



### MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



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

**Deceased and anniversary:** Lenna & Elizabeth, Sis Helena Hill, Jahja Soetanto, Kenneth Soewandi, Lucy Yonatan, Paul Le Breton, La Roche, Brown, Foley, Rome Families, Tochillo(Scott)Brown, Wlodek Kozlowski, Vicky Todarello, Dr John Howard Casey, Dr Vale Jeane Lennane; Ted and Lislotte Cocksedge and the all forgotten souls in purgatory.

**Pray for the Sick and their Carers:** George and Laura Boffa, Sarah-Jane Hallett, Les Hayward, Chloe Newton, Kevin Gordon, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergent, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella & George Commens, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Kevin Medlin, 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.**

## USUAL ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS

Sat and Sun: 4:20pm, Leura.

Mon 8.30am before Mass, Katoomba.

Tue: 8.30am before mass, Leura.

Wed: 8.30am before Mass, Blackheath

Thu: 8.30am before Mass, Wentworth Falls

Fri: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.

Fri: 5.00pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.

First Fri: 7.00pm Benediction Lawson

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

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

## THE LEGION OF MARY

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

## 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**.

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

## Parish Registration/Survey Card

If you are a new parishioner or visitor and if you haven't completed one of our New Parishioner Card, we encourage you to register with us and be part of our Parish Community. Our Parishioner cards are available in the foyer.

## ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNDAY DAWN EVENT

Preparations are underway for the Easter Sunday Dawn community celebration overlooking the majestic Jamison Valley in Leura on **Easter Sunday, 5th April 2026**. This ecumenical event is a collaboration between Churches in the Upper Mountains. It is an open invitation to experience the joy and wonder of the risen Christ in our lives, in our communities and in the world as the sun rises. **Can you help us support this event?** We are inviting support from our parish communities with the following: **Musicians** with portable instruments to support the event (note there is no power at the site). Please contact Merrill (Leura Uniting Church) on 0423 067 442 by the 15th March. **Donations** (financial and/or quality raffle items) to contribute towards costs of printing, and advertising and other event costs. Please contact Barbara Davidson (St Bonaventure, Leura) on 0417 490 103.

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK / SAFEGUARDING

In the Diocese of Parramatta all employees, volunteers, clergy, religious, contractors and sub-contractors engaged in parish or ministry work must understand their obligations in relation to the Safeguarding Policies. Not all volunteers require a Working With Children Check but the provision of this check is mandatory for the following positions and Ministries: Clergy – Staff – Minister of the Altar – SRE Teacher – Sacramental Teams and St. Vincent de Paul Society. **We are asking those involved to please update or obtain a Working With Children Check and once obtained send details to the Parish Office Email: [upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org](mailto:upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org) so that we may notify the Diocese.** Thank you to all those who give their time and talent for the benefit of our Parish and the building up of the Kingdom of God here in the beautiful Blue Mountains.

**2026 ACBC Social Justice Statement on the cost of living.** The Australian Bishops have released the first of two Social Justice Statements for 2026, titled "*The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good*". The new statement and accompanying resources can be found at [socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au).

**The NSW Government** is reviewing the State's euthanasia (Voluntary Assisted Dying) laws and is calling for public feedback until 26 February. This is an important chance for Christians to advocate for faith-based aged care homes, which are currently required to allow euthanasia on their premises, even when it conflicts with their beliefs. A proposed amendment to give faith-based providers the same right as hospitals to transfer residents off-site did not pass last year. With strong public support now, we have an opportunity to push for this vital protection again. Please make a submission through the official NSW Government portal [here](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=v6eHptsC3008u-eovaYRonOGaP4-4qBNhkd3Md_YL7hUQUxGNTQ1Szg1MEs5MjVWTjBCUzIFN1hJOSQIQCN0PWcu&route=horturl) and speak up for freedom of belief and the sanctity of life. Link in case the hyperlink doesn't work: [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=v6eHptsC3008u-eovaYRonOGaP4-4qBNhkd3Md\\_YL7hUQUxGNTQ1Szg1MEs5MjVWTjBCUzIFN1hJOSQIQCN0PWcu&route=horturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=v6eHptsC3008u-eovaYRonOGaP4-4qBNhkd3Md_YL7hUQUxGNTQ1Szg1MEs5MjVWTjBCUzIFN1hJOSQIQCN0PWcu&route=horturl)



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CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

# Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies 2026

ST CANICE  
KATOOMBA

ST BONAVENTURE  
LEURA

ST FRANCIS XAVIER  
WENTWORTH FALLS

OUR LADY OF NATIVITY  
LAWSON

SACRED HEART  
BLACKHEATH



Mass of the  
Lord's Supper

**Maundy Thursday 2 April, 2026**

Combined Parish Celebration @ St Canice Katoomba @ 7:00 pm



Stations of  
the Cross

Lord's  
Passion

10:00 am

9:30 am

9:00 am

10:00 am

10:00 am

3:00 pm

NONE

NONE

3:00 pm

3:00 pm

**Good Friday 3 April, 2026**



**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 4 April, 2026**

7:00 pm

NONE

NONE

7:00 pm

7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday 5 April, 2026**



10:00 am

8:30 am

8:00 am

8:30 am

9:30 am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

## First Friday Adoration and Benediction

**OUR LADY  
OF NATIVITY  
CHURCH,  
LAWSON**

7.00 pm | 06 March 2026



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

**PROJECT COMPASSION** Boxes are available this week in the pews please donate generously this Lent 2026.



**Project Compassion Sunday**  
14-15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



**Please donate today.**

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

**Or online at:** [www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)  
**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413 Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.



# SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY BLACKHEATH

## 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! Cuppas

has resumed on Wednesdays. Come for coffee, home made cakes and a catchup with other locals. Or join the newly formed group for a game of Mahjong. Beginners are welcome to join. All members of the community are welcome to come along. Time: 9:30am - 12:00pm each Wednesday. Location: Sacred Heart Church Hall - Wentworth St, Blackheath.



## Social Justice - BCKG

On Saturday 28th February the Mid-Mountains Garden Club are visiting us at 10am to see what our cold climate veggie garden looks like at the end of summer. The Blue Mountains Edible Gardening Trail were very much aware that we give produce to the community to help those in need. This is our opportunity to show them our hospitality. Their visiting members are asked to make a gold coin donation towards our outreach to the Blackheath community. If you could help Monica and I organize this, we would be grateful. **Contact Brian on 0401 768 688.**

**Lenten Group** Sacred Heart parishioners are invited to join a Lenten group in preparation for Easter. The Lenten booklet, *Compassio*, will be used (on sale after Mass).

**Time:** Thurs 2pm OR Wed 7pm. **Date:** Commencing 12 February & each Thursday in Lent.

**Location:** 3 Easter St Leura. **Leader:** Barbara Davidson. We thank Barbara for her hospitality.

## RECAP ON GARAGE SALE

A big thank you to all our wonderful people that donated, set up, sold, purchased and of course cleaned up over the weekend. A wonderful weekend showed us that we have an amazing team of workers at Blackheath and a great bond amongst our parishioners. We raised \$8337 on the weekend as well as internet sales. Once again we were able to see Cecil from Blacktown Refugees take home a truck full as well as the Cancer Council, Ka-toomba Hospital and Vinnies. Thank you to all who participated.

- Marilyn & team

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026 - INVITATION

World Day of Prayer is a Christian ecumenical prayer movement developed as a creative response to issues of concern around the world. The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. Through our participation in World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence on the world. This year's World Day of Prayer service in Blackheath is jointly coordinated by all the churches in Blackheath and will be hosted by The Anglican Church. Everyone is invited to attend and represent our parish community.

**Date:** Friday 6 March 2026 **Time:** 10.30am followed by morning tea. **Location:** St Aidan's Anglican Church, Blackheath (corner GWH & Hathill Rd).

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

## JESUIT REFUEE SERVICE LENTEN FOODBANK APPEAL

Our Sacred Heart Community has been a long time and very generous supporter of the JRS Lenten Foodbank Appeal. Throughout the upcoming 6 weeks of Lent, we are once again asking you to stand in solidarity with refugees and people seeking asylum who live in our Parramatta Diocese. **These struggling families desperately need our support! Items being sought this year - please refer to the Gift Flyer. If you would prefer to support JRS by donating a Gift Card, please check out the Gift Card Flyer or speak with David Buckley (47875105 or 0400208707).**

**People and Culture**  
Office for Safeguarding

P (02) 8033 3419  
E: [safeguarding@parrocatholic.org](mailto:safeguarding@parrocatholic.org)  
E: [safeguarding@jrs.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@jrs.org.au)  
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	Lifeline Australia	1800 385 578
Domestic Violence Line - 1800 656 463	13 11 14	Blue Knot Foundation
National Disability Abuse & Neglect Hotline - 1800 880 052	1800 RESPECT	1300 224 636
CatholicCare Western Sydney & The Blue Mountains - 02 8843 2500	1800 737 732	Mental Health Line
Headspace - 1800 650 890	Samsn	1800 011 511
Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636	02 8355 3711	National Disability Abuse & Neglect
	1800 472 676	1800 880 052
	Elder Abuse	
	1800 628 221	

**JRS AUSTRALIA**

**FOODBANK**

**A SMALL GIFT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE**

**Week 1**

**Cooking Oil**  
750ml or 1L





**OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH**  
LAWSON

**IMPORTANT: COMMUNITY MEETING**

Everyone is invited to attend the OLN Church Community Financial Situation Meeting after the Mass on the 8th March at 9:45 am. This is an important opportunity for all to know the state of the Church 's community finances. Please save any questions until the meeting as they may be answered in the presentation on the day.

**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**

**VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED**

Calling anyone who is willing to help take care of the OLN Church grounds - mainly mowing, occasionally trimming hedges, weeding, etc We are hoping to create a roster of volunteers to keep our Church grounds tidy and presentable. All helpers welcome. Please contact **PAUL GANNON on 0409592055**

**2026 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

This year's **Mid Mountains World Day of Prayer** service to be hosted by the **Baptist Church, Cnr Orient Street**



**& Great Western Highway, Lawson**, from 10.30am on Friday, **6th March**, followed by morning tea provided by their community.

If you would like to attend can you please **add your name to the list in the church**

**foyer** or alternately, phone **Paula Currie on 0416 185 651** prior to **Thursday, 5th March**.

**Return Thanks to Our Lady of Nativity Church Community from the Nickl Family :** We, the family of the late Robert Nickl, would like to express to Fr. Peter Lamont, Laurie Woods, Tamarae Griffiths & Paula Currie for all they did to make Rob's Requiem Mass so memorable, to those who attended Rob's funeral on Friday, 30th January, and all who have extended their condolences to us.

**Lawson Lenten Group.** Join us on: Wednesdays: 10am at 48 Alexander Ave. Hazelbrook commencing on the 25th February and on Thursdays 7:00pm at 17 Bonnie Ave. Hazelbrook commencing on the 18th February. Lenten Programme Books can be purchased at the meetings for \$7.00 each. Thanks - Kate Powell

**Community Morning Tea**

**Sunday Morning teas and Saturday night suppers will begin on Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st of March** on the lawn outside our church. If you wish to help on the day or donate food please call Jenny Gannon on 0428 057 753 or Kate Powell on 0420 545 275.



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

**IMPORTANT: COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER'S MEETING**

There will be a meeting for all those who volunteered at the combined parish assembly for Wentworth falls on **SATURDAY, 7TH OF MARCH 11:00 AM at the Parish Hall Katoomba**

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

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

**MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY @ ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH** Inviting those music enthusiasts and musically incline to form a choir for St Francis Xavier Church Community Mass every Sunday at 8:30 am. Please call the office or let the sacristan know. Practice will be announced as soon as we have you.



**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH**  
LEURA

**IMPORTANT: COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER'S MEETING**

There will be a meeting for all those who volunteered at the combined parish assembly for Leura on **SATURDAY, 7TH OF MARCH 11:00 AM at the Parish Hall Katoomba**

**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.

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

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



**ST. PAUL CHURCH**  
MT VICTORIA

Summer Vigil Masses for Sunday every Saturdays at 6:00 pm. Address- 65 Great Western Highway, Mount Victoria NSW 2786.

†  
**ST. CANICE'S CHURCH**  
KATOOMBA

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**IMPORTANT: COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER'S  
MEETING**

There will be a meeting for all those who volunteered at the combined parish assembly for Katoomba on **SATURDAY, 7TH OF MARCH 11:00 AM** at the Parish Hall Katoomba

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**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 23 Saint Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr

Fri 27 Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot  
and Doctor of the Church

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 2nd Sunday of Lent

**LENTEN GROUPS**

There are two groups: Afternoon 2pm and evenings 7pm

**Location:** 3 Easter St, Leura

**Group facilitator:** Barbara Davidson

**Start date:** Thursday 12 February 2026

**Contact:** Barbara on 0417 490 103

Lenten programme participant books are available for purchase \$7 each.

**PARISH ADORATION CHAPEL:** 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 on 21—22 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.



**Baptisms** are held at both **Katoomba**, usually on the 2nd Sunday of each month and at **Lawson**, usually on the 4th Sunday of each month.

**Baptism Preparation** is held every **first Sunday of the Month**.

As preparation for the parents is part of the process a few weeks notice is needed.

“Just today, I baptised several newborn babies who have become our new brothers and sisters in the faith. How beautiful it is to celebrate the love of God – who calls us by name .... This first of the sacraments is a sacred sign that accompanies us forever. In moments of darkness, Baptism is light; in life's conflicts, it is reconciliation; at the hour of death, it is the gateway to heaven.

*”From Pope Leo XIV's Angelus address given 11 January, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, at St Peter's Square.*

Please contact the Office for Maureen and Barbara who are members of our Baptismal Preparation Team

**Parish Registration/Survey Card**

If you are a new parishioner or visitor and if you haven't completed one of our New Parishioner Card, we encourage you to register with us and be part of our Parish Community. Our Parishioner cards are available in the foyer.

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**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**  
MEGALONG VALLEY

Our next mass at the Valley will be on Friday 20th of March at 4:00 pm. Address: 1270 Megalong Rd, Megalong Valley NSW 2785



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# First Sunday of Lent

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

## FIRST READING (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7)

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made.

It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

## SECOND READING (Romans 5:12, 17-19)

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous.

Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's

disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

## GOSPEL (Matthew 4:1-11)

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)**

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7: CREATION & THE FALL	Romans 5:12-19: THE FREE GIFT	Matthew 4:1-11: THE TEMPTATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Formed of Dust</b> (Adamah): Fragile, created nature shaped by God.</li><li>• <b>Tree of Knowledge:</b> Deciding good and evil apart from God, leading to shame.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>One Man</b> (Adam vs. Christ): Adam's pattern of sin is restored by Christ.</li><li>• <b>Abundance of Grace:</b> God's solution vastly overpowers sin.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Led by the Spirit:</b> A time of testing and preparation, not an accident.</li><li>• <b>It is Written:</b> Jesus uses Scripture to submit to God's Word, not exploit power.</li></ul>