



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 VF
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 & 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 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 28 June 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This Sunday's readings are talking about priority.

They go back to the first commandment: "you shall have no false gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).

Why?

Because all life proceeds from God.

A huge part of life, the part that gives meaning, joy and peace is relationship.

The Trinity itself exists in relationship. The way the Father and Son related to each other is through the Persona of the Holy Spirit (St Thomas Aquinas).

The Holy Spirit became available to us when Christ died on the cross. In one man humanity and divinity were united in an unbreakable bond, an indivisible sharing of life. Now we could relate to the Christ because we could manifest, in a limited way, the Persona of relationship between the Personas of the Trinity, and thus through Christ we could relate to the Father.

This is extremely important. For true connections with others, connections that have depth and meaning and that lead to

lasting bonds, we need the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit the persona we present to another becomes different, we become a person whose presence draws them in, ultimately towards the Spirit, and when both parties have the Holy Spirit, a bond of entirely different depth and connection comes to life. It's called communion.

Communion is life. It's a connection with the Trinity the source of all life.

So, we must prioritise Christ.

He comes first.

No matter what.

Not to neglect or abandon our relatives and friends but to draw closer to them.

Not to abandon our careers and responsibilities but to fulfill them correctly.

Deacon Alan

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Congratulations to the Church Community of OLN Lawson whose Fundraising Event last weekend raised over \$6000.00! What a fantastic result. And my personal thanks to all who work so tirelessly to make this a success!

Don't forget the Parish Assembly on 19th July at St Canice's Hall from 11:15-12:30.

Please put this in your diary!

God Bless you all. Fr John

PLEASE NOTE:

**FOR BULLETIN NOTICES &
ENQUIRIES RE: SACRAMENTS**

PLEASE EMAIL:

mmparishubm@gmail.com

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

- - -FINANCE NEWS - - -

Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson Meeting Room Rebuild

Restoring the meeting room is seen a priority issue.

We are calling on parishioners to assist in raising funds for this project. We need to raise \$20,000.

Donation Rebuild Meeting Room

Account name: Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity

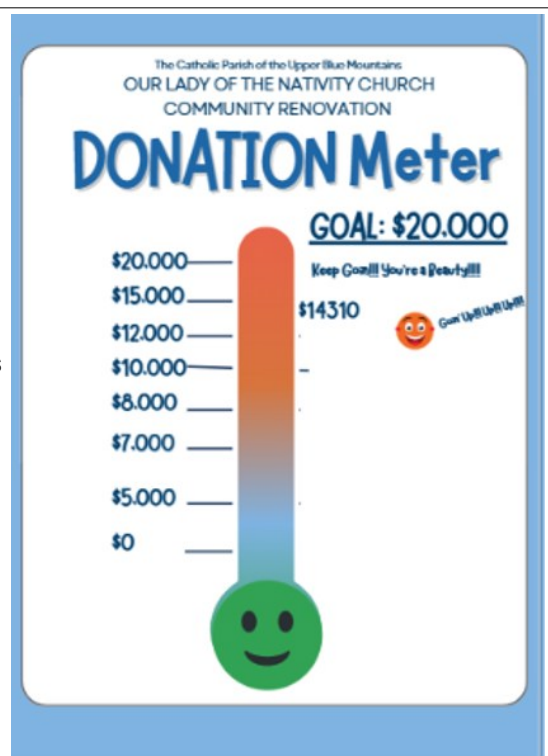
BSB: 067-950

Account Number: 00000164

Reference: Donation Rebuild Meeting Room

- Fr John McSweeney and John Tweedie, Chair of the Finance Com

“Work commenced 18th of May 2026”



PARISH NEWS

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



REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH. The next session will be on Sunday the 12th July, 11:00am @ St Canice's Hall, Katoomba, Topics will be- The Holy Spirit & the Church.

NEWS FROM ST CANICE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Last week, St Canice's School congratulated its newly commissioned FIAT (Faith in Action Team) students as they proudly received their badges at the school assembly. The badges were blessed through prayer by Sr Anne Morrison before being presented to the students. FIAT invites students to live out their faith through service, leadership and action, helping them put the Gospel into practice in their daily lives while supporting the spiritual life of the school community.

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

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



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

please contact Catherine on 0420 337 033

The Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated in our parish on 29th August 2026.

The preparation **commences in July.**

Children and young people in years 5 and 6 or above and who have celebrated their First Communion are eligible for enrolment. Please contact the Sacramental coordinator Maureen Ryan: olon254@gmail.com so that your child's name can be included on the parish confirmation list.

Then a letter and enrolment form will be posted to you so, **please also include your postal address.**

Note : *Your child's name is already on the Parish Confirmation list If you received an email on the 23rd June regarding the Confirmation Program*

Confirmation completes full Initiation into the Catholic Community and this Sacrament also celebrates the action of the Holy Spirit. So, in this special Journey over the coming weeks the power of the Holy Spirit within the lives of the people of God is explored..

SAINTS THIS WEEK

Mon 29 Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles
Tue 30 The First Martyrs of the See of Rome
Fri 3 Saint Thomas, Apostle
Sat 4 Saint Elizabeth of Portugal

NEXT WEEK: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



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

Death Anniversary: Diane Wood, Mark Bittner, Lesley Menser, Bernard Glasheen, Hazel Glasheen, Tochillo (Scott) Brown (27.04.2021), members of Kozlowski, La Roche, Brown, Foley, Roome Families, David Powell, Jan, Miecica & Zyguch 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 Sergent, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Kevin Medlin, Lan Franco Matteucci. Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennet, 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.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fr John McSweeney– Parish priest

As well as Fr Jessie, Fr Peter, Deacon Alan

Russell Smith (Leura) CHAIR

Pamela Nash (Blackheath) DEPUTY CHAIR

Maria Kells (Mt Victoria) (Sub: Diane Stewart)

Julie O’Keeffe (Blackheath) (DPC Rep)

Therese Moore (Katoomba)

Matthew Brawn (Katoomba)

Maria Eades (Leura) (Deanery Pastoral council Rep)

John Brell (Wentworth Falls) (Sub Roger Bowen)

Paul Gannon (Lawson)

Maria Dodd (Lawson)

Ex-Officio: John Tweedie (PFC)

Thanks to all these generous members of our new parish for your generosity in serving our church communities as the PPC

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**

RCIA Seminars for parish coordinators: 29 July & 5 August

The Office for Worship team is hosting two seminars for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) coordinators to come together to learn and ask questions about how to run an RCIA program in their parish. These workshops will be held on Wednesdays 29 July and 5 August at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, Blacktown at 7pm.

For more information and to register please see the website <https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?topic=rcia> or contact ofw@parracatholic.org or 0460 037 795.

SPECIAL EOFY / EARLY BIRD GROUP OFFER

Be The Witness

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



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



Group Bookings 10+



Concessions Available



Limited Seats

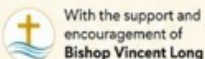
Invite your parish, ministry, family and friends



Scan for
Group Bookings



www.bethewitness.com.au



With the support and encouragement of
Bishop Vincent Long



Presented by
Mary, Queen of the Family Parish,
Blacktown

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON

7.00 pm | 03 July 2026



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

Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses 2026.

Sr. Mary Louise from the Office of Worship will present 2 modules of the Liturgical Ministry course. **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion & Communion to the Sick and Dying** on **SATURDAY 25TH JULY AT 11am** in **ST. CANICE'S HALL**. Other courses in the 2026 program such as Minister of the Word and Ministers at the Altar will be held at the Bede Heather centre Blacktown, commencing on Monday 7th September.

If you are interested please contact the parish Office.

Social Bible Study Group starting - interested?

If you would like to read & discuss the Bible in greater depth, please contact Emma
email: emgwynnejones@gmail.com or
message 0458505703 with your name, preferred contact details and why you are interested.
Hope to hear from you Emma Wynne-Jones.

Be The Witness — The Musical is a large-scale live production that tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of St Peter — a journey of encounter, weakness, mercy, and mission. Presented by Mary Queen of the Family Parish Blacktown, along with 100 + Volunteers from the Parishes of the Diocese, the musical will be staged at

 **Riverside Theatres, Parramatta**

 **10–13 September 2026**

This is more than a performance. It is an opportunity for us all to **encounter Christ in a fresh and accessible way**, through story, music, and shared experience.

With the encouragement of **Bishop Vincent**, we see this as a genuine moment of evangelisation for our Diocese — one that will rely greatly on the support and leadership of our parishes.

The Sacred Heart Church Community Pastoral Team. Your team members are **Frances Huckstep, Julie O'Keeffe, Marilyn Jones, Pamela Nash, Jennifer Harvey** and **Paul Harris**. Please see any of these people if you would like a matter raised.

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.



CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS



SACRED HEART CHURCH COMMUNITY BLACKHEATH

"Yanama Budyari Gumada– Walk with Good Spirit"

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>

[CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICPARISHOFSACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH)

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

"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.



VISIT TO MOUNT VICTORIA AND BLACKHEATH BY NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE AUSTRALIA

This weekend, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June, Fr Brett O'Neill SJ will be leading our Celebration of Eucharist at St Paul's Mount Victoria (Saturday Vigil) and at Sacred Heart Blackheath (Sunday 9:30 am).

Fr Brett is the National Director of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia - he is keen to acknowledge his appreciation of the generous support our small communities have given to the JRS Lenten and Advent Food Bank Appeals over many years.

125 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

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



OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH LAWSON

DONATIONS: Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow. Donations can be made to Our Lady of Nativity via direct deposit to the bank account below.

Account name: Lawson Our Lady of the Nativity
BSB: 067-950 Account Number: 00000164

Social and Fundraising Committee

"I would like to announce that our Art/Cake/Plant event held last weekend at the St Canice's Hall, Katoomba was a great success and we raised \$6843.95. This would not have been possible if it was not for your kind donations of fruit, Easels and Art. We would like to thank you and also acknowledge our tireless helpers that gave so generously of their time.

Fundraising ideas

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



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH WENTWORTH FALLS

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](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/)

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

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](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/)



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MEGALONG VALLEY

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



ST. PAUL CHURCH MT VICTORIA

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

Please note: time will change to 5.00pm for June, July and August

You are invited to join 100 DAYS OF PEACE

an initiative for peace supported by the Focolare Movement

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



15 mins for peace everyday:

3-mins contemplative contribution:

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

10 mins collective silent meditation:

- accompanied by gentle visual and subtle music

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

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.



[abaxkf.com.au](https://www.abaxkf.com.au) 1300 300 369

PO Box 7250 1 Cowpasture PI, Wetherill Park NSW 2164



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ST. CANICE'S CHURCH
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 Bpoint.

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**

DIOCESE NEWS & BEYOND

THE MESSENGER

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

Persecution & Faith: A Witness of Courage and Forgiveness from Pakistan

Twenty-year-old Akash Bashir was serving as a volunteer security guard at his parish in Lahore, Pakistan, when a terrorist with explosives tried to enter the church. Akash said, "I would rather die than let you in," and then gave his life to prevent a massacre.

In the years since, his parents have offered an extraordinary witness of Christian faith. Asked whether they had forgiven those responsible for their son's death, they replied: "Yes, we have forgiven them and pray that they may find the right path to God."

Their example reminds us that the Gospel calls us not only to courage, but also to forgiveness.

Reflection: Where may God be asking you to make a sacrifice out of love, or to forgive an injustice against you?

Read more testimonies of faith from *Aid to the Church in Need* at: aidtochurch.org/welcome

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



An update on the Journey of St Paul & the Cities of the Book of Revelation pilgrimage. Due to the situation in the Middle East this pilgrimage has been postponed until 7 April next year. For those who have already paid for this or for more information please contact Harvest Journeys on harvestjourneys.com/pv2601 Free-Call: 1800 819 156 or info@harvestjourneys.com

Eucharist28 Update – Renewal has begun!

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



"We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song!"

St Augustine, Sermon 243

Music Workshop on The Importance of Copyright: 21 July

Copyright can be tricky to navigate. Come on 21 July to the Bishop Bede Heather Centre and learn all about your requirements for reporting music used at Mass, the different types of copyright licensing available, and much more. This workshop will be led by MET Music Formation Facilitator Eric Grella. Be sure to bring along any questions you might have. Register parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=office-for-worship

CYP Annual LIFTED Retreat for 18-35's: 3-5 July

Join young people from Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains at Catholic Youth Parramatta's annual LIFTED Retreat for 18–35-year-olds. (3-5 July at Benedict XVI Retreat Centre, Grose Vale.) Together we will enter a weekend of connection, prayer and reflection on the theme of Abundance, inspired by John 10:10. Whether you're just beginning your faith journey, looking for community or need a mid-year renewal, the LIFTED Retreat welcomes you with open arms. Limited spots available. Registrations close 19 June. parracatholic.org/events/lifted-young-adults

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

FIRST READING (2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16)

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING (Romans 6:3-4. 8-11)

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race,
a royal priesthood,
a holy people.

Praise God who called you out of darkness
and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 10:37-42)

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take one's cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds one's life will lose it; anyone who loses one's life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.'

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy one because he or she is a holy one will have a holy one's reward.'

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he or she is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, they will most certainly not lose their reward.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

