



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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 16th August 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

All the Readings for this Sunday proclaim God's Salvation for ALL people...

Isaiah tells the exiles in Babylon that everyone will now have the opportunity to be a part of God's People: "My house will be called a house of prayer for ALL the peoples.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman.. thereby attacking a belief that God was only interested in the Jewish people. By destroying such exclusivist prejudice, Jesus declares that a New Covenant exists between God and the NEW People of God; and this New People of God is not restricted to a few, but open to ALL of humanity.

And St Paul declares to the Romans that he is an Apostle for ALL the nations, for God shows mercy 'to all humankind'.

Thus, the Response to the psalm is most apt: "O God, let ALL the nations praise you"!

This Truth that in Jesus Christ Salvation is offered to ALL people is one of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity. Our Father in Heaven loves each and every person in the world equally, and wants everyone to be saved.

Thus, as faithful Disciples of Jesus Christ, we must strive to love each person equally and without any preference for a select few.

There are many who do not yet know Christ, or have walked away, and even chosen lifestyles that are not the 'ideal' as we understand it... yet they are still loved by the Father.

Our job as baptised Christians is never to condemn those we feel do not measure up, but, rather, to love them into life.

Let's do all we can to be servants of our loving God who calls ALL of humanity to the New Life won for us by Christ through His salvific Death on the Cross of Calvary!

God Bless you all

Fr John

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

1. Funeral Mass for Kevin Medlin will be at Our Lady of Nativity Lawson church on Friday 28th August 2026 at 11am.
2. I am taking some leave from this weekend. Please keep me in your prayers.

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/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ)

[UCHtj55risvGDQqCDN7mldNQ](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 upperbluemountains@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
Jenny Gannon

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

Wed 19 Saint John Eudes, Priest
Thu 20 Saint Bernard, Abbot, Doctor
Fri 21 Saint Pius X
Sat 22 Our Lady,
Mother and Queen
NEXT WEEK: 21st Sunday

EUCCHARIST28

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.



PARISH NEWS

REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH

Our fifth session will be held on Sunday 27th September following Mass in St Canice's Hall, 11am for an 11.30am start.

The first presentation and discussion will be **Mary, the Saints and Devotions**, followed by **The Eucharist**.

Whether you are deeply rooted in your faith, returning after time away, or simply seeking to grow and understand more,

you are most welcome.

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: Kevin Medlin, Erika Najjar, Fr Eugene Stockton, Ray Wood, Zac Giles, Terence Teodori, Yudit Kayatsky, Lauren Hall, Mary Marsh, Salwa Jabbour, Marie Perrott,

Death Anniversary: Andrew Krawczyk, Aiyana, Diane Wood, Mark Bittner, 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, 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.

CONFIRMATION PREPERATION

Confirmation Preparation has commenced with a parents evening which focussed on Confirmation as one of the Sacraments of Initiation into the Catholic family of Jesus. This was pitched as education for parents who provide the vital link for connecting their child not only into the Church but also in building the whole family's faith and spirituality.



The parents' evening was followed by our first Family Group Session gathering the children and their parents to remember each child's first step into the family of Jesus by talking and praying about each child's Baptism.

Please pray for the families as they continue in their faith journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation

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

SPIT ROAST DINNER AND ELVIS SHOW



BBQ SPIT ROAST™

"OLON, Lawson would like to extend an invitation to all churches to our special event which is a Spit Roast Dinner & Elvis Presley show on Saturday 7th November, 2026. This event will be held in the St. Canice's Hall at Katoomba and will cost \$60 pp. The time of the event will be 6pm and dinner served at 6.30pm. There is a vegetarian option available at this event. Please bring your own drinks and be prepared to have a good time. Bring your dancing shoes if you like, the music will be most enjoyable. Tickets will be available on sale the weekend of 15th and 16th August and each weekend thereafter till the end of October. You can purchase your tickets with cash or by the Eftpos machine and you will receive a written receipt for the purchase. If you wish to purchase a ticket please call the office on 4782 2804. In your foyer you will see a poster that is advertising this event. Our Lawson Church Community will appreciate and welcome your company ." Thankyou Jenny

Catholic Parish of the Upper Blue Mountains



The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely.

SEASON OF CREATION

(1 September to 4 October)

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL ... ECOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITY

INTERCONNECTION OF HUMAN WELL-BEING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALING

There is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail,
in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face

Join the mountain parishioners and friends for a morning of prayer, discussion and reflection in this Season of Creation. Discover the message of Pope Francis and be inspired by his insights to care for our world.

Date: 13th September

Morning Tea: 10.30am

Time: 11.00am – 1.00pm

Venue: Sacred Heart Church Hall,
165 Wentworth St, Blackheath

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone: Brian Bright - 0401 768 688 Julie O'Keeffe - 0413 119 649
Email - bbright45@bigpond.com julesongodson@bigpond.com

PRESENTER

Merilyn Hancock
Spirituality Ministry
0421 632 299

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY OF NATIVITY CHURCH, LAWSON

7.00 pm | 13 SEPT 2026



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

BAPTISM TIME CHANGE

Lawson's baptism has changed 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

St Canice's School News

This week our St Canice's School community gathered to celebrate the Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop with a beautiful liturgy centred on the theme, *"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."* We were blessed to welcome Anthony Dang and Chrissy to pray with us as our students brought the Liturgy alive through song, Scripture and prayer, before sharing in a joyful family picnic together. It was a deeply Spiritual and hope filled celebration of our Patron Saint and her invitation to, *"Never see a need without doing something about it."*

Catholic Earthcare Season of Creation Online Gathering

This national online gathering will explore the connection between faith, ecology, justice and mission through keynote presentations, theological formation, practical workshops and examples of leadership in action.

When: Thursday 3 and Friday 4 September 2026

Where: online

Organizers: Caritas Australia in partnership with Catholic Religious Australia, with the support of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice

Cost: just \$20

More information: <https://www.caritas.org.au/soc-gathering/>

Peace Justice News

Join the mountain parishioners and friends for a morning of prayer, discussion and reflection in this Season of Creation. Discover the message of Pope Francis and be inspired by his insights to care for our world on Sunday 13th September after mass at 11.00am – 1.00pm.

There will also be organically grown veggies and jams on sale at our produce stall for the Community Kitchen Garden on this morning to celebrate the Season of Creation and to raise funds for the garden.

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.



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

World day of Prayer.

Save the date: Tuesday September 1 at 11:00am
To celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation an Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held on Tuesday September 1 at 11am at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath.

This year's theme is Living Water-Immersion in Living Water Ezekiel 47:9,12

Please bring a small glass or metal container filled with water for the Living Water prayer.

A light brunch will be held in the hall following the prayer service. Everyone is welcome!

WORKING BEE on Saturday 22 August from 8am

Please come along and help Lance and John look after our wonderful grounds. Please bring a hat, sturdy shoes or boots and garden gloves (also eye and ear protection if using mower or similar equipment).



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.



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OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH
LAWSON



BBQ SPIT ROAST™

SPIT ROAST DINNER AND ELVIS SHOW

OLON, Lawson's next event is a Spit Roast Dinner & Elvis Presley show on Saturday 7th November, 2026. This event will be held in the St. Canice's Hall at Katoomba and will cost \$60 pp. The time of the event will be 6pm and dinner served at 6.30pm. There is a vegetarian option available at this event. Please bring your own drinks and be prepared to have a good time. Bring your dancing shoes if you like, the music will be most enjoyable. Tickets will be available on sale the weekend of 15th and 16th August and each weekend thereafter till the end of October. You can purchase your tickets with cash or by the Eftpos machine and you will receive a written receipt for the purchase. Please look for Jenny Gannon or Kate Powell in the foyer after each mass for any enquiries or tickets. Our Lawson Church Community will appreciate and welcome your company and support." Thankyou Jenny

VALE KEVIN MEDLIN - Many would remember Kevin who, until recent years, took up the Sunday collection. Kevn went in a very quiet way, volunteering in many aspects for the good of our Church community. To name a few - 30+ years taking care of our then Parish's finances, including accounts payable, monthly bank reconciliations, attending monthly finance and Parish Management meetings, reconciling our weekend collections and banking, even making sure the garbage bins were put out and brought in each week. All of this was done whilst he was in full-time work. During the past few years, Kevin's health was declining (suffering from leukemia) with him still attending Mass when he was up to it. We now say goodbye to our dear friend, Kevin, knowing that his battle has come to an end. May the perpetual light shine upon you Kevin and may you rest in peace. Our condolences go to out to his family.

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.

†
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 concreting of the pathway and the renovation of the Church Toilet.

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CCPT

Our CCPT team, announced previously in the bulletin, met recently to discuss matters from the PPC of relevance to us here at St Bonaventure's.

A whole parish report on the church buildings was carried out recently including here in Leura. This report listed a large number of maintenance issues that we as a community must address; items such as water damage and biocide issues being among the most urgent.

Our team will provide a more comprehensive outline of planned future projects at Masses in the near future.

Until then, if there are any matters of concern that you would like raised with our team and, or the PPC, please contact one of us at weekend Masses.

Barbra Davidson, Maria Eades, Clive Kanes, Pam LeBreton, Tony Eades or Russell Smith.

†
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.



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 for 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

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

St Carlo Acutis's Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition: 9-23 August

Designed by St Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, this exhibition documents reported Eucharistic miracles from around the world, and it is touring parishes right across our Diocese. Next, it comes to Our Lady of the Angels, Rouse Hill, from 9-23 August. Students, teachers and parishioners are invited, entry is free and no bookings are required. To see where the exhibition is heading next across the Diocese, visit parracatholic.org/iec2028/



About Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)

Supporting the persecuted: Help rebuild a Cathedral in the Philippines

In 2017, Christians in the city of Marawi in the southern Philippines faced brutal persecution from Islamist militants. More than 800 people were killed and thousands of families were displaced. During the five months of violence, the Cathedral of St Mary was bombed, desecrated and destroyed.

Nine years on, there is a growing desire for healing and reconciliation. The poor and faithful people of Marawi have asked for our help to rebuild their beloved cathedral so they can once again gather, pray, and be witnesses of Christ in this Muslim-majority region.

To learn more or provide your support, please scan the QR code or visit: aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject



Thanks to generous supporters, every contribution during August will be doubled.

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 56:1.6-7)

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

O God, let all the nations praise you!

SECOND READING (Romans 11:13-15. 29-32)

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all people in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all humankind.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 15:21-28)

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy;
in him is plentiful redemption.

