



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: 9am Lawson
Fri: 12pm Katoomba
Fri: 4pm Megalong Valley
 (3rd Fri of the month)
Sat: 9am Katoomba

CONFESION

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 Sunday @ Katoomba
4th Sunday @ OLN Lawson
Inquiries: 47822804
Email: bluemountains@parracatholic.org

ADORATION CHAPEL

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

FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

25 January 2026

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday's readings are asking us about priorities.

Isaiah says: "God humbled the lands of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali," but His ultimate plan is to bestow glory on these lands. In the Gospel, we hear that it was in these very lands that Jesus started His mission publicly. Jesus is the great light that has come, and he breaks the rod of the oppressor. The light that



tells us who we are, what is our purpose in life and what is our ultimate destiny. With this knowledge, the things that oppress us are rendered powerless. What oppresses us is our inward focus. Notice the comments of St Paul's letter to the Corinthians: "I am for Paul", "I am for Cephas" ... It's the "I." As St Paul points out, we need to look towards Christ, His death and resurrection. He

emptied Himself for us so we could rise to new life with Him. Be resurrected through Him, but we must put Him first as He put us first. We must humble ourselves. That's what we see in the Gospel with the calling of the Apostles. They left their lives behind- family, friends and businesses to follow Christ. For us, this does not mean we have to physically walk away from our work or families, but we need to get our priorities straight. Christ first and all else after that. Then, all will function as it should. But, we must be careful to follow the real Christ and not the one we invent for ourselves. The only way to do this is through prayer, contemplation, education in faith and the sacraments.

God bless

Deacon Alan



Mass Times:

**St Canice's Church, Katoomba 9:00 am
Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath 11:00 am**



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, 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

Lawson Facebook: facebook.com/olnclawson

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>.



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 bluemountainscatholic.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

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

John Tweedie (Chair)

Fr Peter

Maylin Corros

Fr Jessie

Marilyn Rowe

Dec Alan

Peter Lawlor (PPC Representative)

Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)

John Grant

Tom Boyd

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS

Recently deceased: Rebecca Etcell, Stephen Mount, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Marshall, Sis Jeana Abejuela OAR, Joan Marie Gracie, Robert Nickl

Deceased and anniversary: Dr John Howard Casey, Peter Marshall, Dr Vale Jeane Lennane; Ted and Lislotte Cocksedge and the all forgotten souls in purgatory.

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

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, 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.**

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON

7.00 pm | 06 February 2026



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

The blessing of Catholic church bells, often called a "baptism," consecrates them with holy water and oil, naming them after saints to signify their sacred role in calling people to prayer, announcing Mass, marking life's major events, and symbolically driving away evil spirits, a tradition rooted in ancient practices of using sound for divine communication and protection, evolving from monastic use to parish life, and mirroring Christian initiation rites.

The consecration of a bell is a very solemn function, and its origin must be sought far back in the eighth century, if not earlier. It has always been the practice of the Church to bless any objects that were used in the service of God. In virtue of the exorcisms and

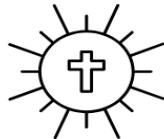


BLESSINGS
OF THE BELLS

blessings bestowed on them, these material objects acquire a spiritual efficaciousness — that is, they become sacramentals. As such their virtue is both *ex opere operato* and *ex opere operantis*, by which we do not imply that there resides in consecrated bells a kind of magical power, which is always and infallibly operative, irrespective of the dispositions

of those who seek its help. But the sound of the bells is meant to awaken in our hearts sentiments of faith and trust in God, and thus we may feel assured of special protection, because our Lord has empowered His Church to make of material objects the means and vehicles of heavenly favours. The blessing of a bell, especially that of many bells, is a festive occasion, one that would surely bring together many people, both clergy and laity. The sacred function would very naturally be followed by the exercise of Christian hospitality. Be this as it may, let us listen to the voice of the bell as to the voice of Christ, for it reminds us of our heavenly vocation and supernatural destiny. An old Latin inscription often found on bells sums up most admirably the office of the bell and the burden of its song: *Vivos voco, Mortuos plango, Festa decora, Fulgura frango.* The following inscription on a bell, which hangs in the steeple of an old Devonshire village, expresses the same meaning: "That folk may come to church in time, I chime; When pleasure's on the wing, I ring; To speed the parting soul, I toll."

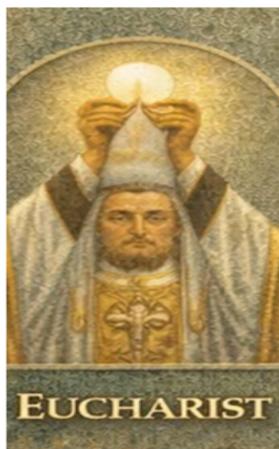
@ Ignatius Press, 2515 McAllister Street, San Francisco, CA. 94118.



CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

SACRAMENTS 2026

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



For baptised children in year 4 or above who have celebrated their first Reconciliation

Katoomba @ St Canice's School

Parent Session

Wednesday Evening 22nd April 6.30pm

Family Group Session

Wednesday evenings 6th ,13th, 20th & 27th May 6pm

Special Liturgy and Rehearsal

Wednesday evening

St Canice's Church- Wed 3rd June 6pm

First Communions "Sunday" Masses
@ St Canice's Church 6th and 7th June
(possible First Communions during "Sunday" Mass in other churches at Blackheath, Mt
Vic, Leura,
Wentworth Falls)

Lawson @ Our Lady of Nativity Church

Parent Session

Thursday 23rd April at 7.30pm

Family Group Sessions

Sat & Sun 2nd/3rd May, 16th/17th May,
23rd/24th May, 30th /31st May

(Note 10th May is Mothers day) Times: TBA. Venue:
TBA

Special Liturgy and Rehearsal

4pm (in Our Lady of Nativity Church, Lawson)

Wednesday 10th June

First Communions at OLN Church "Sunday
Masses" Sat 5pm & Sun 8.30am 13th / 14th June
and a special First Communion Mass at 10.30am
on Sunday 14th June



CONFIRMATION

For Years 5 and 6 and above. Confirmation reflects Christ's Words about being baptized in the Holy Spirit and seals young people's faith in Christ and their commitment to following Him.



Katoomba @ St Canice's School
For years 5 and 6 and above

Parent Session

Wednesday Evening 22nd July 6.30pm

Family Group Sessions 6pm

Wednesday Evenings 29th July,
5th, 12th August
19th August 6pm

Lawson@ Our Lady Nativity Church

Parent Session

Thursday Evening 23rd July 7.30pm
Venue : TBA

Family Group Sessions

Sat & Sun 1st/2nd August
8th/ 9th August
15th /16th August
22nd /23rd August

Times: TBA Venue :TBA



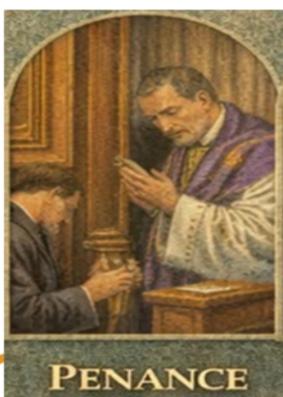
CONFIRMATION

Rehearsal for both Upper Mtns and Lawson at St Canices' Church Katoomba evening of Wed 26th Aug 6pm
Proposed Sacrament of Confirmation for both Upper Mtns and Lawson at St Canice's Church on Saturday

29th Aug at 10am and/or 12pm Now Confirmed by Parramatta Diocesan Office



RECONCILIATION



Katoomba @ St Canice's School
For years 3 and above

Parent Session

Wednesday Evening 21st October 6.30pm

Family Group Sessions 6pm

Wednesday PM 28th October
4th November
11th November
18th November & Rehearsal
Celebration of the Sacrament is@6:00 pm 25th November

Lawson @ Our Lady of the Nativity Church
For years 3 and above

Parent Session

Thursday Evening 22nd October 7.30pm

Family Group Sessions 6pm

Sat 3.45pm or Sun 9.45am 31st Oct & 1st Nov
Sat 3.45pm or Sun 9.45am 7th Nov & 8th Nov
Sat 3.45pm or Sun 9.45 am 14th Nov & 15th Nov
Wed 6.00pm Session 4 & Rehearsal @ St
Canice's Church
Celebration of the Sacrament is@6:00 pm 25th November

The Baptism of infants is a gift from God for the little ones, their families and the whole Christian Community. It is through Baptism that parents accept for their child a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus and their place of common-union within the Family of Jesus, His Church. "It is the most beautiful inheritance you will leave to them: the faith! Only this. Today, take this thought home with you. We must be transmitters of the faith. Think about this, always think about how to hand on the faith to your children."

Pope Francis', Feast of the Baptism of Jesus, Rome 2014

Baptisms of babies are celebrated at St Canice's Katoomba, on the 2nd Sunday and at Our Lady of Nativity, Lawson on the 4th Sunday of each month- Enquiries : 4782 2804 email: bluemountains@parracatholic.org

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

WEDNESDAY CUPPA'S TOGETHER IN SACRED HEART HALL!

Cuppa's will be **closed** for three mornings-January 21, 28 and February 4 due to the hall set up for the garage sale.

Cuppa's will reopen weekly on Wednesday 11 February from 9:30-12:00. Join the newly formed group for a game of Mahjong-beginners most welcome. For Vinnies support on Wednesday mornings phone Blackheath Vinnies conference on 0490 709 547 to arrange assistance.

Ash Wednesday is February 18- the Lenten reflection book is on its way! Compassio

The Lenten reflection book from the Wollongong diocese, has been ordered and will be available for purchase at weekend Masses for \$7.00 each before the commencement of Lent. Daily reflections, Sunday Gospel readings and reflections, spiritual direction and prayers invite us into the Compassionate Heart of Jesus and God's Mercy. C/O Christine

Sunday 8 February

Remembering the feast day of **St Josephine Bakhita**, Patron Saint of victims of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. Visit **ACAN**, the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network for information and potential solutions to this desperate problem on their website <https://www.acan.org.au>



BLACKHEATH GARAGE SALE 2026

7th and 8th February 2026

We are now asking for donations for our upcoming garage sale on the first weekend of February this year. Thank you all for your support over past years and we look forward to another successful sale in Feb.

We will need sorters from Monday 2nd February from 12pm through to Friday 6th and then of course to work the sale over the weekend and pack up.

A couple of parishioners have approached me with regards to the funds that we make on the sale. If you have any requests that we might consider for the disbursement of the monies please contact me on marilynrowe@optusnet.com.au and your social committee will consider all options. Looking forward to another great sale

-Marilyn
Social Committee

Sacred Heart Church 124th Anniversary: On Monday 26th January we celebrate the 124th Anniversary of the opening of the Sacred heart Church at Blackheath by Cardinal Moran in 1902. Please join the community for Mass at 11am followed by 'long table' brunch in the forest after Mass. Please bring something to share.

Mass in the Megalong: There will be no Mass in the Megalong Valley in January. The next Mass at St Joseph's will be Friday 20th February at 4pm. Please contact the Parish Office if you require transport.

Collecting recycling at Sacred Heart

Please keep your recycling items at home until Sunday March 15. Thank you for reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill and for Caring for our Common Home.

We are still collecting used stamps, unwanted wearable prescription spectacles, empty medication blister packs, household batteries, flurotubes and light globes, smoke alarms, plastic toothbrushes and empty toothpaste tubes and lids, razor blades, plastic bag tags, return and earn bottles and cans, natural and synthetic corks and printer cartridges.

“Yanama Budyari Gumada– Walk with Good Spirit”

†

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:** 00000164

OLN CHURCH COMMUNITY SENIORS' GROUP

will recommence this year with our initial meeting being held on **Wednesday, 28th January, commencing with morning tea from 10am** (supplied) followed by a **BYO lunch** and concluding around 1pm. Our January meetings are set for planning our get togethers for the rest of the year. **We come together on the last Wednesday of the month.** Visitors (both men and women) are always welcome to pop into one of our meetings. If you would like to know a little more about our group, please contact **Paula Currie on 0416 185 651.**

Importance Notice

After each Mass this weekend, we will be asking for 5 minutes of your time. We need your presence and ideas. This is an opportunity for everyone to participate in the future of our OLN Church Community. Please also add your name and email to the list in the church foyer.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY MASS TIMES

After comments from parishioners and some consultation, our **Friday Church Mass is at 9:00 am with an additional** OLN Primary School Mass on Thursday at 9:00 am **DURING THE SCHOOL TERMS.** The next school mass will be announced later.

LAWSON VINYIES CONFERENCE

"The Lawson Vinnies Conference team again would like to thank the generosity of our parish with our Christmas Appeal, **A total of \$5952.50** was raised over the two weekend masses prior to Christmas and along with 30 hampers donated by OLN Primary School we were able to bring Joy to our clients. This all helps us to maintain our support to those people in our community that are in need. We are always looking for new members and if you have an hour or two once a month please reach out. THANK YOU!

- The Lawson Vinnies Team"

†

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH COMMUNITY. 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/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.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

If you know someone preferably children (year 3 to 6) who usually attends mass at this Church community and eager to be part of the Worship. Please call the office and training will be provided.

†

ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH COMMUNITY 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/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.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

The Divine Mercy Devotion will resume on Friday evenings, the 9th of January 2026 at 5:00 pm. 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.

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	

People and Culture

Office for Safeguarding

P: (02) 8838 3419
E: safeguarding@parracatholic.org
E: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org
T: <https://learning.safeguarding.org.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**

SAINTS THIS WEEK

Tue 20 Saint Fabian, Pope
 Thu 21 Saint Agnes
 Fri 22 Saint Vincent
 Sat 24 Saint Francis de Sales

NEXT SUNDAY: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH ADORATION CHAPEL: Perpetual Eucharistic adoration is a wonderful way to show our gratitude and respond to Jesus' love for us. God loves you and when you adore the Lord in Adoration, He grants many special blessings of His goodness, grace, love and mercy. 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 of the 14-15 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.

We are inviting all parishioners to come and share in this beautiful gift that we are blessed and grateful to have in our parish. In anticipation of the sign-up weekend we will be including reflections on Adoration in the bulletin over the next few weeks.

What is Adoration?

"Adoration is the acknowledgement of God as God, creator and saviour, the Lord and Master of everything that exists as infinite and merciful love" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2096). "Adoration is homage of the spirit to the King of glory, respectful silence in the presence of the ever greater God" (CCC 2628).

The Concise Dictionary of Theology defines Adoration as "the highest reverence to be offered only to God, our creator, redeemer, and sanctifier who alone should be worshiped and glorified." "Adoration is the word used to express those acts of divine worship which are directed to God only, and of which the characteristics are recognition of His perfection and omnipotence and our own complete dependence upon Him" (A Catholic Dictionary, Tan, 1997).

St. Elizabeth of Hungary remarked: "Adoration. This is a word from heaven. It seems to me that it could be defined as an ecstasy of love. It is love overwhelmed by the beauty, the strength, the immense grandeur of the Beloved. It falls into sort of a swoon, into a full deep silence, the silence that David spoke of when he cried out 'silence is Thy praise'. And it is the most beautiful of all praise that is sung eternally in the bosom of the unchanging Trinity, and it is also the last effort of the soul as it overflows and can say no more."

What is Eucharistic Adoration and why is it so tremendously important?

Eucharistic adoration is an expression of our love for Jesus, who loves us so much that He never wants to leave us and stays with us day and night in the Blessed Sacrament. He says: "Behold I am with you always," because "I have loved you with an everlasting love, so I am constant in My affection for you" (Mt. 28:20; Jer 31:3). Eucharistic adoration is the respect and worship we give to Jesus, who is truly present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure; by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace. As St. Alphonsus Liguori noted, "of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us" (CCC 1418).

To be continued next week....

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 8:23 – 9:3)

In days past the Lord humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in days to come he will confer glory on the Way of the Sea on the far side of Jordan, province of the nations. The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase, they rejoice in your presence as people rejoice at harvest time, as people are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17)

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, to make up the differences between you, and instead of disagreeing among yourselves, to be united again in your belief and practice. From what Chloe's people have been telling me, my dear brothers and sisters, it is clear that there are serious differences among you. What I mean are all these slogans that you have, like: 'I am for Paul', 'I am for Apollos', 'I am for Cephas', 'I am for Christ'. Has Christ been parcelled out? Was it Paul that was crucified for you? Were you baptised in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptise, but to preach the Good News, and not to preach that in the terms of philosophy in which the crucifixion of Christ cannot be expressed.

GOSPEL Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 4:12-23)

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned. From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of people.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

COMMUNION ANTIphon

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

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Athens (3) • Ancient Corinth • Kalambaka (1) • Meteora • Berea
• Thessaloniki (2) • Philippi • Kavala • Izmir • Kusadasi (3) • Ephesus • Pergamum
• Canakkale (1) • Gallipoli • Istanbul (3) • Optional Extension: Malta (3)

14
DAYS



Accompanied by
Fr John McSweeney
& Harvest Representative
Monica Mansour



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