



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

CLERGY

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

SUNDAY MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon: 9am Katoomba
Tue: 9am Leura
Wed: 9am Blackheath
Thu: 9am Wentworth Falls
Fri: 9.30am Lawson
Fri: 12pm Katoomba
Fri: 4pm Megalong Valley
(3rd Fri of the month)
Sat: 9am Katoomba

CONFESSION

Fri: After 12pm Mass
Katoomba
Sat: 9:30-9:50am Katoomba
Sat: 4:30-4:50pm Leura

NOTE: Confessions are always
available upon request.

Weddings: Please call the
Office for details.

Baptisms: upon request.
(2nd and 4th Sundays)

ADORATION CHAPEL

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

FROM THE SEVEN CHURCHES

3rd Sunday of Advent YEAR A | 14 Dec 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The candles of the Advent Wreath represent Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

This Sunday we light the candle of Joy.

But the Gospel reading tells us that John the Baptist is in prison, and he sends his followers to Christ to ask Jesus if he is the one or is there someone else, they must wait for.

We can sense that doubts are creeping into St John's mind. He's been preaching of the coming of the Saviour and the downfall of oppression and now he is the victim of oppression and can't see a way out.

Christ's message to St John is **"happy is the one who does not lose faith in me"**.

This is the message to us. Never lose faith in Christ. Never, no matter how dark things may seem or what we must go through because ultimately Christ triumphs.

This is why we rejoice, that's why we sing Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel! Christ is coming to us, every minute of every hour of everyday, in all our challenges, disappointments, heartbreak and sorrow. These are our crosses where we can join Christ in His passion to rise with Him in the Resurrection.

The Resurrection where we are in the Kingdom, in Christ and He in us and through Christ in unity with the Trinity. This is the greatness, the coming to life in Christ.

The greatest gift and the reason for our joy.

Deacon Alan Skofic.



Please mute your mobile at Mass.

**Let's turn off the technology and turn
on to God!**

PARISH CHURCHES

LAWSON: Our Lady of The Nativity, Somers St
WENTWORTH FALLS: St. Francis Xavier's, 3 Day St.
LEURA: St. Bonaventure's, Railway Pde.
KATOOMBA: St Canice's, 158 Katoomba St.
BLACKHEATH: Sacred Heart, 165 Wentworth St.
MEGALONG VALLEY: St Joseph's, 1270 Megalong Rd.
MOUNT VICTORIA: St Paul's, 65 Great Western Highway.

CONTACT US

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

Parish email address: blue-mountains@parracatholic.org

Parish websites:
bluemountainscatholic.org.au
sacredheartblckheath.org.au
lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Facebook: 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>.



PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

If you would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill in list, please contact Catherine on 0420 337 033 to register your details or scan the QR code.

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Canice's Catholic Primary School

Katoomba Street, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney.
Phone: (02) 4780 6800.
Email: stcanices@parra.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Primary School

Somers Street, Lawson.
Principal: Mr. Matthew Bond.
Phone: (02) 4753 2200.
Email: oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS

If you or your loved ones are sick and would like a visit, please contact the parish office or Barbara Davidson (0417 490 103)

OFFICE OF SAFEGUARDING

"This is what the Lord asks of you... to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8)."

For info: parracatholic.org/safeguarding

For Training: parracatholic.org/safeguarding/training/

Notice for Parish Bulletin

If you wish to receive electronically or via email our parish bulletin, please email us on bluemountains@parracatholic.org

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

Interim Parish Pastoral Council Members

Fr John McSweeney, Parish Priest
The Clergy (ex-officio Fr Peter, Fr Jessie, Deacon Alan)
Matthew Brawn (Secretary & Katoomba)
Russell Smith (Leura)
Julie O'Keeffe (Blackheath & Deanery Pastoral Council Rep.)
Therese Moore (Katoomba)
School Rep (TBC)

Peter Lawlor (Chair Katoomba)
Graham Beale (Blackheath & Deputy Chair)
Maria Dodd (Lawson)
John Tweedie (Finance Rep)
Maria Eades (Leura & Deanery Pastoral Council Rep.)
Paul Gannon (Lawson)

Parish Finance Council Members

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Dec Alan

John Tweedie (Chair)
Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)
John Grant
Tom Boyd

Maylin Corros
Marilyn Rowe
Peter Lawlor (PPC Representative)

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS:

Recently deceased: Anna Maria Fantin, Colin Reid, Patricia Wolthers, Marie Hurley, John Casey, Sister Helena, Lena, Ronald Fletcher, Mary Moran and Tricia McLean

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

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Kevin Gordon, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sargent, Sandy Mobray, Joella, Joan Gracey, Doreen Kinsella & George Commens, Fr Kerry Bayada, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, Anne Farindon, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Kevin Medlin, Rob Nickl, Lan Franco Matteucci. Anthony Griffin, Daniel Smith, Sienna Erdmanis, Mary Whyte, Shirley Bennet and All Private Intentions.

NB: Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the permission of the immediate family. Thank you.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

Mass@ Megalong Valley this week, Friday 19th Dec
4:00 PM

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.

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

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

CALL FOR BUILDING CONTRACTORS – OLN LAWSON



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

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON

7TH JANUARY 2026



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

FLAT NEEDED

A 74 year old Catholic woman in the Mountain is seeking a modest granny flat to rent from early February, ideally within walking distance from a Catholic church. If not available, a clean garage sized space to store belongings temporarily would also help. Please phone if you can assist:
0407108009

365Life VISION

For every Australian to recognise the humanity and intrinsic value of all children in the womb, from conception to birth, resulting in an end to abortion here

365Life MISSION

- To broadcast free life-affirming cards defending unborn children to every corner of every community in Australia through an ever-increasing number of volunteer distributors
- To connect people with every key organization supporting women in crisis pregnancy (see voice4life.com.au)

365Life VALUES

Free cards anywhere in Australia • Integrity and confidentiality of data — not shared with anyone! • Fortnightly email updates

voice4life.com.au



Can you help me find
2 more volunteers
for 365Life?

365Life volunteers place business-size cards, with a pro-life message, around Australia. Every card, guided by the Lord's hand, can save an unborn baby, or connect someone to pregnancy help.

All I need is for you to forward your pro-life friend's name and address (email and phone would be helpful too) to me —

Peter Stevens 0413 467 831
365Life@familyvoice.org.au

I'll register your friend and send free cards.

CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS MASS TIMES

Wednesday

24

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

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

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

5:30 pm Christmas Carols

6:00 pm Children's Mass & Family Mass
Sacred Heart Church, 167 Wentworth Street, Blackheath

Thursday
DECEMBER

25

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT

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

Thursday

25

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS DAY

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

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

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

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

NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
FRIDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2025 BOXING DAY MASS
@ 12:00 NN ST CANICE'S CHURCH
158 KATOOMBA ST KATOOMBA

Our Lady of Nativity
Church Community Lawson

Christmas

**Morning & Evening
Teas**

Saturday Evening 13 December, 2025

Sunday Morning 14 December, 2025

Bring a Plate to share

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

**Christmas
Stall@Blackheath Church**

*Cake, Plants, Crafts &
Raffle Draw*

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

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

Sacred Heart Church Community

Sacred Heart Church ~ Blackheath
Saint Paul's Church ~ Mount Victoria
Saint Joseph's Church ~ Megalong Valley

As a community bonded together through faith,
we are called to share our experience of God with those we meet each day,
in particular, those in our local community.

*We acknowledge the Darug and Gundungurra people, the traditional custodians of this land
and pay our respects to the elders past and present.*

DONATIONS

Until our parish finances are unified, please continue to follow the link below and make your choice of option. You will be asked to show your name and mobile phone number:

https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay_CATHOLICPARISHOF-SACREDHEARTBLACKHEATH

As an alternative to following the link, please use the attach QR Code.



Blackheath Vinnies Support phone number:
0490 709 547

Sacred Heart Care Group

Helping parishioners in need:
Monica Bright 0420 937 690

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

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

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



CHRISTMAS EVE MASS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AT SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH WENTWORTH ST, BLACKHEATH

- * Carols and Christmas Tree decorating in the church from 5:30 pm
- * Children will help decorate the Christmas tree and make a special Christmas star to bring up at the Offertory
- * Dress in the Christmas Spirit– angels, shepherds, the wise kings, drummer girls and boys
- * There will be a supper on the Church veranda after Mass; please bring a plate of Christmas cheer to share
- Wednesday December 24 from 5:30 pm for a 6:00 pm mass.

Happy Birthday Month of December

11th Elaine Jackson

17th Marcus Anh Vu Ho

18th George Comments



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025

Saturday 6 December St Paul's Mt Victoria

Sunday 14 December Sacred Heart Blackheath

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

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

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

John Tweedie (President, Blackheath)
St Vincent de Paul Conference



**JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE
CHRISTMAS FOODBANK
APPEAL**

The response to our 2025 JRS Christmas. Foodbank Appeal has been **FANTASTIC** – In total we have collected:

25 cans of beans and corn
Nearly 10 litres cooking oil
3 kg instant coffee
3 kg Pasta Sauce
1 x \$50 Coles shopping voucher

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED SO GENEROUSLY!
Your generosity will help many destitute refugee families living in our Diocese.

Thank you so much!

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE AT BLACKHEATH

Thank you for supporting our festive fundraiser. The raffle will be drawn this Sunday 14th December. Christmas stall will be ready and if you need to purchase a last-minute gift or two, please take a look at what we could offer. Come and Celebrate!

- Social Committee

The Parish Secretary, Christine Burke is on leave until the end of this month. Business as usual with a bit of difficulty...
Wishing Christine a well deserved break!!!



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

LAWSON ADVENT REFLECTION GROUPS 2025

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

Please refer to the form in the Lawson church foyer to confirm you would like to join us in these reflections. There is a chat afterwards with tea and cake. Please call the above phone numbers for any enquiries you may have. Thank You!

OLN SENIORS' GROUP NEWS: our next monthly get together on **Wednesday, 28th January**. If anyone is interested in joining our Seniors' Group or would like further information, please contact Paula Currie on 0416 185 651. We have been meeting on **the last Wednesday of the month** for the past 20+ years. New members are always welcome.

VINNIES 2025 CHRISTMAS APPEAL OLON LAWSON

It's Vinnies Christmas Appeal time and the Lawson Conference will be having our Parish Vinnies Christmas Appeal over two weekends being the 13th, 14th and 20th, 21st December 2025. Our Conference members will be at each Mass, and we have a Smart Mini which accepts card payment we can also issue tax refundable receipts if requested. Our Lady of Nativity Primary School is also again donating Hampers for distribution to our clients this year. We again thank all the Students, Parents and Staff for their generosity as thank you to our parishioners also in anticipation.

Paul Gannon

President and Justice of the Peace

St Vincent de Paul Society- Lawson Conference

M: 0409592055



Sapientia

Single adults, 18-35 years of age, are invited to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters for this weekend retreat of prayer, formation, and fellowship.

13-15 February 2026
St Mary's Towers Retreat Centre
Douglas Park

For more information or to register:
www.trybooking.com/DHJBL
or email the Sisters at
sydney@op-tn.org



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH COMMUNITY.

WENTWORTH FALLS



Vinnies'
Christmas Appeal



A Reminder.

THIS WEEK! Second Sunday in Advent, the 13th - 14th, December.

St Vincent de Paul Members will be at Masses at Katoomba, Leura and Wentworth Falls **THIS Weekend.**

If you forget, food donations may also be left at any time in the St.Vincent de Paul bins at the Church door, or a few coins in the Poor Box. Always gratefully accepted.

We appreciate that times are difficult, so whatever small offering you can make will be greatly received. **Help Vinnies Come Through for All Clients!**

Draw near to God through works of charity.

Pope Francis 08.01.15 Holy Mass, Santa Marta

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 COMMUNITY

LEURA

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

LEURA CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS SINGING

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

MUSIC MINISTRY IN LEURA

If you are able to sing at the Masses in St Bonaventure Church, we would like to invite you to be part of the Choir with **Sarah Nyssen (0488203267)**, or call the parish office. Thank you.



Vinnies'
Christmas Appeal



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Pope Francis 08.01.15 Holy Mass, Santa Marta



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

Thu 18 Saint Flannan, Bishop

Sat 20 Saint Fachanan of Kilfenora

NEXT SUNDAY 4th Sunday of Advent



SAINT FLANNAN

Ireland and Scotland both honour St. Flannan. He was educated by monks, stayed close to nature, made a pilgrimage to Rome, was appointed bishop, wandered about preaching, and worked miracles, making him a classic Celtic saint.

The son of Turlough, a Celtic chieftain, Flannan was educated by a monk who also taught him farming. His biographer says he learned how to "till, sow, harvest, grind, winnow, and bake for the monks." Against the advice of relatives, Flannan decided to undertake a pilgrimage by sea to Rome. Following the lore of other saints in Celtic literature, legend says that he floated miraculously to Rome on a stone. There the pope consecrated him as the first bishop of Killaloe.

Flannan led his diocese by traveling about teaching and preaching. His charismatic eloquence even persuaded his elderly father to become a monk under St. Colman. When Turlough asked Colman to bless his family, the abbot predicted that seven of his descendants would be kings. Fearing that kingship might fall on him, Flannan prayed for a physical deformity that might prevent it. His biography says that his face became disfigured with scars and rashes.

As bishop, Flannan sometimes forcefully intervened to pacify petty clan wars. Once he had negotiated a truce between two chiefs, which one of them broke a year later by invading and destroying the other's land. Flannan addressed the robber chief in the following no-nonsense fashion: "What, falsest of men, do you intend to do? Why have you deceitfully broken faith? Turn back! Repent!"

The faithless chief bent obstinately on plunder replied: "If the fleetness of my horse enables me to outstrip you I will neither wait for you nor obey you." So Flannan cursed the horse and it died. Then he said: "Most perfidious prince, because you have violated your promise and have trampled on all laws, human and divine, none of your family shall survive you."

The saint's curse terrified the robber-prince, who flung himself at the feet of St. Flannan and begged pardon. The saint did not deny to the robber-chief the pardon he always extended to expressed sorrow for an offense and promise of amendment. But this pardon given to himself personally did not satisfy him. He was uneasy because of the utterance of the saint against his posterity. Weeping and bowed down, he addressed St. Flannan thus: "My father, you have often preached that all crimes are forgiven through repentance. I beg you not to have my family become extinct with me. Take back the prophecy pronounced against my children and descendants. And I promise to pay you a yearly tribute and to devote myself and mine to your service and that of your successors for ever."

In the spirit of forgiveness and mercy, the saint blessed the children so that they should not suffer for their father's sins. But he did so on condition that they should observe the promise of their father. The exact date of Flannan's death is not known, but it probably fell in the last quarter of the seventh century.



Vinnies' Christmas Appeal



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Draw near to God through works of charity.

Pope Francis 08.01.15 Holy Mass, Santa Marta



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.
Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the mute sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.
They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.

SECOND READING James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers and sisters, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers and sisters, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and blessed is the one who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



TRUSTED LEADERSHIP

Providing expertise in:
Strategic Planning
Risk Management
Governance Support
Business Mentoring

Contact Us:

 trustedleadership.com.au
 otto@trustedleadership.com.au