



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 YEAR A | 11 Jan 2026 The Baptism of the Lord

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

With today's Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we come to the end of Christmastide.



This celebration brings to an end the so-called 'hidden years' of Jesus' life, and it celebrates the beginning of his Public Ministry. Indeed, the Public Ministry of Jesus is what is celebrated during the Ordinary Time of the Church's Liturgical Year.

It is always appropriate for each of us to reflect on what our own Baptism means for us. Are we grateful for the three gifts given to us on the day of our Baptism? These are... our Entry into the Christian

Church; the Forgiveness of Sin; and the gifting of New Life in Christ. Furthermore, are we willing to put into practice the Mission given to us: the proclamation of Christ and His Gospel of Love to our world?

I am on annual leave for just over 2 weeks. Please continue to support Frs Peter and Jessie during this time of increased workload. And I thank Fr Paul Slyney for his celebration of the Mass over these 3 weekends.

Please note: there will be 2 Masses on Australia Day— 9am Katoomba and 9am Blackheath. This is the 124th anniversary of the blessing of both churches.

BLESSINGS OF THE BELLS

On Sunday 1st February during the 10am Mass at St Canice's we will bless the new bells before their installation in the Bell Tower. More about this as we come closer to the day.

Let us pray for a Peaceful and Just 2026.

God Bless you all.

Fr John

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

Email: upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org

Website: <https://bluemountainscatholic.org.au/>

Parish email address: bluemountains@parracatholic.org

Parish websites: bluemountainscatholic.org.au ; sacredheartblackheath.org.au ;

lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

NB: pictures taken from <https://www.acatholic.org/the-baptism-of-the-lord/> and <https://www.missionaryoblatesofmaryim-maculate.org>.

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.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

FIRST READING Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord:
Here is my servant whom I uphold,
my chosen one in whom my soul delights.
I have endowed him with my spirit
that he may bring true justice to the nations.
He does not cry out or shout aloud,
or make his voice heard in the streets.
He does not break the crushed reed,
nor quench the wavering flame.
Faithfully he brings true justice;
he will neither waver, nor be crushed
until true justice is established on earth,
for the islands are awaiting his law.
I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of
right;
I have taken you by the hand and formed you;
I have appointed you as covenant of the people
and light of the nations,
to open the eyes of the blind,
to free captives from prison,
and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord will bless his people with peace.



SECOND READING Acts 10:34-38

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household:
'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is
that God does not have favourites, but that any-
body of any nationality who fears God and does
what is right is acceptable to him.

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'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all .

You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.



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