



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 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 26 July 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Solomon asks for a heart to discern between good and evil. Interestingly, he asks for a heart and not a brain. He wants to understand with his heart, that is to feel what is right and what is wrong. We could say he wants to sense what is right and what is wrong. As this discernment is what he asks for it shows he has a longing to do what is right, his heart desires it, but he knows he needs guidance. The second reading tells us that God co-operates with those who love Him. Those who want to do what is right and it implies that even though we stumble, make mistakes and at times do what is evil, God turns those episodes of our lives to our advantage because our overall intention is to do what is right, do what God wants, our hearts desire it. What matters is our innate desire, the desire of our heart. If our heart longs to be good God will work with us and through our mistakes teach us and help us develop a deeper, stronger feel for what is right.

This innate desire for God and His justice, a desire which can be likened to a thirsty animal that wants water, regardless of cost is the treasure in the field, the pearl of great value. It is gaining the wise heart, the heart that understand God's message. We understand that everything we hear in the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testament points to the Resurrection. To when God's plan for making all things new in Christ is fulfilled, God's justice realised and all creation put back in order. This is when we bring out of our storeroom's things both new and old and see the full picture.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Last Sunday's Parish Assembly went very well. Thanks to all who attended. The Q & A Session clarified a few issues for some. Overall, I felt that we were moving forward together as a Parish of 7 Church Communities.

I'm happy to announce the membership of the **Church Community Pastoral Teams:**

Our Lady of the Nativity, Lawson: Maria Dodd (PPC), Paul Gannon (PPC), Paula Currie, Len Blahut and Kate Powell.

St. Francis Xavier, Wentworth Falls: John Brell (PPC), Roger Bowen (PPC Substitute) and Maureen Scott.

St. Bonaventure, Leura: Maria Eades (PPC), Russell Smith (PPC), Pam Lebreton, Barbara Davidson, Tony Eades & Clive Kanes (Sunday Evening Rep)

St. Canice, Katoomba: Therese Moore (PPC), Matthew Brawn (PPC), Patricia Licandro, Maylin Corros, Luke Reid & Conor Hyssett.

Sacred Heart, Blackheath: Julie O'Keeffe (PPC), Patricia Nash (PPC), Paul Harris, Marilyn Jones, Jennifer Harvey, Frances Huckstepp, Maria Kells (PPC Mt. Victoria), Dian Stewart (PPC Mt Vic Substitute).

Fr John

Parish Churches

LAWSON: Our Lady of The Nativity, Somers St; **WENTWORTH FALLS:** St. Francis Xavier's, 3 Day St. **LEURA:** St. Bonaventure's, Railway Pde. **KATOOMBA:** St Canice's, 158 Katoomba St. **BLACKHEATH:** Sacred Heart, 165 Wentworth St. **MEGALONG VALLEY:** St Joseph's, Megalong Rd. **MOUNT VICTORIA:** St Paul, 65 Great Western Highway. * Pictures on this bulletin are taken from the website. Copyright infringement is unintended. Acknowledgment is due.

CONTACT US

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

Parish email address:
upperbluemountains@parracatholic.org
Parish websites:
bluemountainscatholic.org.au
sacredheartblackheath.org.au
lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic
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/UCHtj55risvGDOqCDN7mldNQ>.

MINISTRY OF SPIRITUAL HEALING, DELIVERANCE AND EXORCISM

Email: deliverus.caseofficer@parracatholic.org; deliverance.exorcist@parracatholic.org
Phone/ Call: 0472761879 or Office of the Bishop or the Chancery.

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.

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

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS

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

USUAL ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS

Sat and Sun: 4:20pm, Leura.
Mon 8.30am before Mass, Katoomba.
Tue: 8.30am before mass, Leura.
Wed: 8.30am before Mass, Blackheath
Thu: 8.30am before Mass, Wentworth Falls
Fri: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.
Fri: 5.00pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.
First Fri: 7.00pm Benediction Lawson
Sat: 8:30am before Mass and Cenacle Rosary after, Katoomba.

Notice for Parish Bulletin. If you wish to receive electronically or via email our parish bulletin, please email us on bluemountains@parracatholic.org. If you also want to include any items for the weeks’ parish bulletin, email us on mmparishubm@gmail.com before Wednesday afternoon.

RCIA For all enquiries regarding joining or coming back to the Church please contact Deacon Alan via the Parish office.

REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF FAITH. The next session will be on Sunday the 9th August, 11:00am @ St Canice’s Hall, Katoomba, Topics will be– The Holy Spirit & the Church.

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie
Dec Alan

Fr John
Fr Peter
Fr Jessie

Deacon Alan
Matthew Brawn, Katoomba
Paul Gannon, Lawson
John Brell, Wentworth Falls
Maria Dodd, Lawson

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.

Parish Finance Council Members

John Tweedie (Chair)	Maylin Corros
Elaine Smith (Deputy Chair)	Marilyn Rowe
John Grant	Tom Boyd
Jenny Gannon	Paul Gannon (Ex-Officio PPC Rep)

Parish Pastoral Council Members

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)
John Tweedie (Ex-officio Parish Finance Chair)

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 and envelop No. Please follow this link.

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/MaryMackillopParishUpperBlueMountains>



SAINTS THIS WEEK

Wed 29	Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Thu 30	Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop, Doctor
Fri 31	Saint Ignatius Loyola, Priest
Sat 1	Saint Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, Bishop, Doctor

NEXT WEEK: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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**

Parish 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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Sacred Heart Church Community Blackheath will commence its Holy Hour of Adoration and Benediction every Friday at 4:00 pm- 5:00 pm on the 31st of July 2026. All are welcome!

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.



WORKING BEE on Saturday 25 July from 8am. Please call John on **0407 288 957** for further information and to advise if you will be coming.

Feast of Mary Mackillop's Feast Day. Saturday 08 August Masses: 8:00 am & 6:00 pm—Chapel; 10:00 am & 1:00 pm—Glen Roy Green (outdoors)



abaxkf.com.au 1300 300 369
PO Box 7250 1 Cowpasture Pl, Wetherill Park NSW 2164



Approved supplier for the NSW Government under the Office and Education Furniture Contract 771



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS



Recently Deceased: Jan Bull, Yudit Kayatsky, Lauren Hall, Mary Marsh.

Death Anniversary: Aiyana, Daniel Whelan, Diane Wood, Mark Bittner, Lesley Menser, Bernard Glasheen, Hazel Glasheen, Tochillo (Scott) Brown (27.04.2021), members of Kozlowski, La Roche, Brown, Foley, Roome Families, David Powell, Jan, Miecia & Zyguich Slawek, Paul Nyssen, Max Dodd and all forgotten souls in purgatory.

Pray for the Sick and their Carers: Chloe Newton, Eden Peters, Peter Slough, Vlad, John Barclay, Mildred Taft, Charlie Congreve, Malik, Maureen O'Reilly, George and Laura Boffa, Sarah-Jane Hallett, Les Hayward, Kelly Gale, Nathan, Susan Sergeant, Sandy Mowbray, Joella, Doreen Kinsella, Bern McPhee, Maria Cora, Josephine Burdett, Beverly Bateup, John Crowley, Maria Johnson, Trennah Portelli, Kevin Medlin, 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.



OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH LAWSON

First Friday of the Month Benediction. 09 August 2026 at 7:00 pm.

OLN SENIORS' SOCIAL GROUP will be enjoying an outing to the **Mt Victoria & District Historical Society Railway Museum on Wednesday, 29th July**. All those who have advised of their attendance, to meet at the Mt Victoria Railway Station at 10.30 am for a guided tour, after which we will enjoy lunch at the **Victoria & Albert Guesthouse** in Mt Victoria.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS: Thank you to those who have been donating their used stamps into the **OLN Church stamp collection box in the Church foyer**. The collection of stamps since January of this year will be forwarded to the **Sisters of St Joseph North Sydney** at the end of **August**. These stamps are auctioned off to collectors a couple of times during the year, the proceeds of which are used for the **Mary MacKillop International Aid**. For many years, our Church Community has been forwarding stamps collected, so thank you again everyone for your donation. Please remember when removing the stamp from the envelop to leave at least 5mm(1/4") border around the stamp.



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



ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHURCH LEURA



ST. CANICE'S CHURCH KATOOMBA

Volunteers 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.

Next Morning Tea will be on SUNDAY 02 AUGUST AFTER the 10 A.M. MASS PLEASE BRING A PLATE TO SHARE



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

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON. God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING (Wisdom 12:13.16-19) The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM. Lord, I love your commands.

SECOND READING (Romans 8:26-27). We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers and sisters. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION. Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 13:24-43). Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from the storeroom things both new and old.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.