



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 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A. 9th August 2026

REFLECTION OF THE GOSPEL

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Elijah goes up the mountain and enters a cave. Then he is told to go out and “stand on the mountain before the Lord”.

This is like us. We have come to the mountain, the place of encounter with the Lord through our faith but we are still in our caves. Our caves are our insecurities. All the things we fear, all the ways we feel inadequate or insecure about ourselves. It's a well-known fact that people project themselves onto others. So, if we don't really see ourselves as a person of great value, we will expect others to see us in the same way. Well, God assures us that He sees us as of great value. He loves us. In fact, if each one of us here was the only person to have ever lived, Christ would still have died for you.

So, in the Gospel we see Peter's faith flounder when he sees the waves, feels the motion of the wind and water. The water which is symbolic in the Old Testament for something evil or disordered. The disciples are travelling at night, against a heavy head wind on a rough and stormy sea. That's us. We live in a world of difficulties and in the face of difficulties our faith flounders. We turn to human means to resolve issues without first turning to God.

Why don't we trust God, why don't we have faith? Because we don't feel how much He loves us. We don't perceive how valuable we are to Him.

We, through the death of Christ, have received the Holy Spirit which allows us to relate to God, to cry out Father! We are the adopted Children of a truly loving Father. When the going gets hard don't run away but run towards Christ. He is always there. Always loving us. But His voice, His embrace is gentle and subtle. So, we need to listen for His voice in the depths of our being. And having lived the experience of the love of God we will trust Him. And in our trust, we will be the dawn that comes with the fourth watch in which the people around us will see Christ coming to help them in all their difficulties, challenges and fears.

Deacon Alan

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

1) It is with great sadness that we say “farewell” to Fr Eugene Stockton who died during the week. His funeral Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Vincent at St. Thomas Aquinas church, Springwood on Friday 14 August at 11am. May he rest in peace!!.

2) WHOLE PARISH GARDEN WORKING BEE POSTPONED: Unfortunately Blue Mountains City Council has said that the retaining wall is 400ml above the legal allowance!. We will need to modify it asap; as a result– the planned working bee is delayed until sometime in future(TBA).

God Bless you all.

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/](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

Mon 10	Saint Laurence, Deacon, Martyr Feast
Tue 11	Saint Clare, Virgin
Wed 12	Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
Thu 13	Saints Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
Fri 14	Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr
Sat 15	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Solemnity

NEXT WEEK: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH NEWS

FAREWELL TO MAYLIN

Morning Tea for Maylin's Farewell will be this Sunday 9th August at Katoomba RSL after Mass. All are Welcome!

BAPTISM TIME CHANGE

Lawson's baptism is change 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

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: 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, 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.

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

First Friday Adoration and Benediction

OUR LADY
OF NATIVITY
CHURCH,
LAWSON

7.00 pm | 09 AUGUST 2026



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

be the Witness

A MUSICAL
By Carol & Jimmy Owens
ON THE LIFE OF JESUS
THROUGH THE EYES OF PETER
Directed by Joe Cordo

10 - 13 SEPTEMBER, 2026
RIVERSIDE THEATRE, PARRAMATTA

www.bethewitness.com.au

BOOK
NOW



Deepen your experience with the
HOLY SHROUD EXHIBITION
Chapel of St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta
6 - 9 September. Open all day
10 - 13 September. Open till late

PRODUCED BY



HOMELESSNESS WEEK 2026:

3-9 August

CALL TO ACTION

Sign and share Homelessness NSW's Campaign:

A Place to Call Home and the Support to Keep It campaign's petition:

<https://homelessnessnsw.org.au>

NSW Vinnies is a member and supporter of this campaign.

A Table Talk on Homelessness: A Choice to Address the Housing Crisis

Join us for an afternoon of conversation, connection and community as we explore how the Parramatta Diocese can respond to the housing and homelessness crisis.

Sunday 09 August | 1:00pm-4:00pm

Bethany Centre

470 Church St, North Parramatta NSW

What to Expect

- Light Refreshments
- Guest Speakers
- Table Conversations
- Practical Actions

What is the call to us as members of the Diocese of Parramatta?

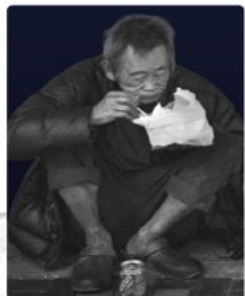
What strategies can we put in place?

Register Now

<https://parracatholic.org/events/table-talk-homelessness/>



Scan / click on the QR code to register



Mary MacKillop Feast Day

10 ways to be Fierce for Fair Inspired by Australia's First Saint. Follow the link below:

[https://](https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au)

www.marymackilloptoday.org.au



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.

Funeral for Ray Wood

The funeral for Ray Wood our Acolyte will be held at Sacred Heart Blackheath on **Wednesday August 12 at 11.00am**. May he rest in the loving heart of our God.

We will hold his family, Alice, Lucy and Daniel in our prayers.



World day of Prayer.

Celebrating the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on Tuesday September 1

An ecumenical prayer service to give thanks for our Earth will be held on **Tuesday September 1 at 11am** at Sacred Heart Church, Blackheath.

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

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.



†
OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH
 LAWSON

SPIT ROAST DINNER AND ELVIS SHOW



BBQ SPIT ROAST™

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"**Laurie Woods** is taking a back seat from the arrangements of both the music and the choir after many years of service. No doubt we will miss his beautiful voice and guitar playing. Laurie has provided a long standing and loyal service since the introduction of music to Lawson church since the mid 90's. And whilst keeping our choir going he also offered written commentary on the readings since the year 2000. Our many thanks to Laurie for his dedication and do hope we hear that lovely voice again on special occasions."

"Our thanks also to Judy West for her most beautiful displays of flowers on our alter. Judy has been on our Flower Girl Roster and a Parishioner of our church for many years. Judy has moved to Wentworth Falls and will be missed when special occasions arise where she has been very creative with her flower arranging skills. We have certainly benefited from her giving nature to help make our church a beautiful place to worship."

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 concreteing of the pathway and the renovation of the Church Toilet.

†
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.

EUCHARIST28

THIS IS

my body

GIVEN

for you.



EUCHARIST28

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.

THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS
EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS 2028
SYDNEY AUSTRALIA



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DIOCESE NEWS & BEYOND

THE MESSENGER

Inspired by St Carlo's mission, this weekly update brings news from 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



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/

Married Couples' Retreat – Reflect, Renew & Reconnect: 5 September

Married couples are invited to a special retreat day, *Reflect, Renew & Reconnect*, on Saturday 5 September 2026 at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1 Marion Street, Blacktown. The day runs from 8:30am–4.30pm and includes Mass with Bishop Vincent, light refreshments, and lunch;

Register now at parracatholic.org/marriedcouplesretreat/.

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

Diocese of Parramatta World Youth Day Seoul 2027 Launch: 12 August

Come and discover the pilgrimage to the 17th International World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea (26 July – 11 August 2027), themed "Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Join us for an inspiring evening to learn about the pilgrimage, hear testimonies from past pilgrims, explore the faith and culture of the Korean Church, and enjoy fellowship with other young people. Date: 12 August 2026 Doors open at 6:30pm. Venue: Nagle College, 58A Orwell Street, Blacktown Register today at parracatholic.org/events/wyd27-launch/ We look forward to welcoming you!



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.

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Look to your covenant, O Lord,
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

FIRST READING (1 Kings 19:9.11-13)

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING (Romans 9:1-5)

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers and sisters of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons and daughters, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I hope in the Lord,
I trust in his word.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (Matthew 14:22-23)

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.



Saturday August 15 is the
feast of the **Assumption of
the Blessed Virgin Mary.**
It is a holy day of obligation!
Mass 9:00am at Katoomba.

"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did. (St Maximilian Kolbe)."