

Prayer for the divine mercy: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world. For the sake of his sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. Jesus I trust in you.

**ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP
PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS**



UPCOMING EVENTS:

ST PATRICK'S DAY: Wear your ribbons and join a celebration of St. Patrick's day — **TODAY** at 11.30am in the Hall at Katoomba. Irish music, words, song & dance from members of our parish followed by morning tea.

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND

First - For the Diocese: Second - For the Parish:



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 17 MARCH 2019

FIRST READING

Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

Taking Abram outside, the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.' 'Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtle-dove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a fire-brand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

RESPONSE The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear

friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

ACCLAMATION Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' — He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

Cyril of Alexandria (d. 444)

With three chosen disciples Jesus went up the mountain. Then he was transfigured by a wonderful light that made even his clothes seem to shine. Moses and Elijah stood by him and spoke with him of how he was going to complete his task on earth by dying in Jerusalem. In other words, they spoke of the mystery of his

incarnation, and of his saving passion upon the cross. For the law of Moses and the teaching of the holy prophets clearly foreshadowed the mystery of Christ. The law portrayed it by types and symbols inscribed on tablets. The prophets in many ways foretold that in his own time he would appear, clothed in human nature, and that for the salvation of all our race he would not refuse to suffer death upon the cross. The presence of Moses and Elijah, and their speaking together, was meant to show unmistakably that the law and the prophets were the attendants of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was their master, whom they had themselves pointed out in advance in prophetic words that proved their perfect harmony with one another. The message of the prophets was in no way at variance with the precepts of the law. Moses and Elijah did not simply appear in silence; they spoke of how Jesus was to complete his task by dying in Jerusalem, they spoke of his passion and cross, and of the resurrection that would follow. Thinking no doubt that the time for the kingdom of God had already come, Peter would gladly have remained on the mountain. He suggested putting up three tents, hardly knowing what he was saying. But it was not yet time for the end of the world; nor was it in this present time that the hopes of the saints would be fulfilled—those hopes founded on Paul's promise that Christ "would transform our lowly bodies into the likeness of his glorious body." Only the initial stage of the divine plan had as yet been accomplished. Until its completion was it likely that Christ, who came on earth for love of the world, would give up his wish to die for it? For his submitting to death was the world's salvation, and his resurrection was death's destruction. As well as the vision of Christ's glory, wonderful beyond all description, something else occurred which was to serve as a vital confirmation, not only of the disciples's faith, but of ours as well. From a cloud on high came the voice of God the Father saying: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him."

Homily 9 on the Transfiguration: PG 77.

COMMUNION This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH: Tuesday, 19 March. Special Mass at Leura at 5.15pm

PAINTING: Painting the St. Canice's church doors + windows. Volunteers needed.

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: Good Friday is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin rites of the Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members from age 14 onwards.

LENTEN MASSES: During Lent 2019, Masses at St Canice's will be - Monday through Thursday at 8:30 am followed by a Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament exposed. On Fridays the Mass will be at the usual time of 12pm. A more detailed announcement will be made in the weeks ahead. After this Tuesday, there will no longer be a 6:30am Mass throughout Lent.

LENTEN GROUP 1: Hosted by Pam Le Breton in Katoomba Church Hall Mondays of Lent at 10:15am till 11:45am. Phone: 4784 3781. All welcome.

LENTEN GROUP 2: Hosted by Barbara Davidson at 3 Easter St Leura at 2:30pm Tuesdays. Phone: 4784 2473. All welcome.

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION: Friday 5 April 6 pm at Katoomba. Fr Bob Sheridan of Blackheath is coming.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: 28 April at Katoomba.

CHURCH DRIVEWAY AT KATOOMBA: Please do not drive your car through our driveway at the times when the children come in and out of the School.

SAFEGUARDING SUPERHEROES: Ensuring a safe environment for young people is an essential requirement of any ministry initiative. In collaboration with the Office for Safeguarding & Professional Standards, we will aim to build the capacity of youth and adults to create, promote and sustain, safe youth ministry and equip them for a role as volunteer safeguarding officer in their parish or movement. Thursday 28 March, 6:30-9pm, NOVOTEL Hotel, Norwest. <https://parracatholic.org/cyp-keeping-our-young-people-safe/>

OLN BALL: Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Parish, Lawson, invites you to their "Back to OLN Lawson" 90th Anniversary Ball. Saturday 6 April 2019, 6-11pm. dinner served at 6:30pm. Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre, 7 New Street, Lawson. Tickets \$45 incl. Dinner. BYO drinks. Tea/Coffee available. Formal Dress—"wear a touch of St. Vinnies." Music from 8pm, 5-piece band. Ages 13+ Enquires Mary McKenna 0439 267 691.

REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION: Friendly reminder: according to Church Universal Law these are the conditions:
- A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to (...) receive the body of the Lord without previous sacramental confession (Canon 916).
- A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before holy communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine (Canon 919 §1).

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
Come to Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist. Come to Eucharistic Adoration.
"The lamb on the throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water (Revelation 5:12)."

USUAL CONFESSION TIMES
Monday: Katoomba 9:00am
Tuesday: Leura 4:45pm
Wednesday: Wentworth Falls 10:30am
Thursday: Leura 4:45pm.
Friday: Katoomba 12:30pm
Saturday: Katoomba 10am Leura 4:30pm
Sunday: W. Falls 9am Kat 11am Leura 4:30pm

DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: WILLIAM HALLIDAY, A KO MAW, JORGE GIL DE SAGREDO, JOAN ELSIE NORTH, MARLI CARTMER-CONGIU, COLM KEARNEY, ALAN LEATHWOOD, DAVID COOK, and ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED ESPECIALLY THOSE FOR WHOM YOU REQUESTED PRAYERS AND MASSES AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Evelyn Maw, Len Lambert, Florence Gardner, Wanda Heffernan, Diane Wood, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, John Egan, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Assanti, Alex Sharah, Susan Keegel, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphett, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Gloria Trevallion, Margaret Esgate, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Brenda Dore, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heinger.

PARISH OFFICE: 158 Katoomba Street, Katoomba 2780
Postal Address: P.O. Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780
Phone: (02) 4782 2804 **Hours:** 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.

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| LEURA | Reader | Russell Smith |
| | Server | Zelko Livaic |
| | Sacristans | Pam LeBreton and Natale Assanti. |
| WENTWORTH FALLS | Reader | Ann |
| 8am | Reader | Maureen |
| | Server | Sylvester Simon |
| | Sacristans | Bev and Halina |
| KATOOMBA | Reader | Peter Lawlor |
| 10am | Reader | Karyn Lawlor |
| | Server | John Czekanowicz |
| | Sacristans | Annette, Matthew, Natale. |
| LEURA | Reader | Jenny Porter |
| 5pm | Reader | Margaret Gale |
| | Server | Gabe Very |
| | Sacristan | Pam LeBreton |
| Counters | Counter | Jim Walsh |
| | Counter | John Grant |
| | Counter | Peter Marshall |
| | Counter | |
| | Counter | |
| | Counter | |
| Cleaners (from March 21) | Kat Church & Hall | John C. and Ben (Hall). Leah (Church) |

USUAL WEEKDAY MASS TIMES AND DEVOTIONS
MONDAY: Mass at Katoomba 8:30am. (On Public Holidays—10am)
TUESDAY: Mass at Leura 5.15pm. Exposition 4.45pm.
WEDNESDAY: Mass at Wentworth Falls 10.00am.
THURSDAY: Mass at Leura 5.15pm. Silent Exposition 4.45pm.
FRIDAY: Mass at Katoomba 12 noon.
SATURDAY: Mass at Katoomba 9.30am. Cenacle after.
SUNDAY MASS TIMES: Saturday Evening at Leura 5.00pm
Wentworth Falls Sunday 8.00am Katoomba Sunday 10.00am
Leura Sunday 5.00pm

Weddings: Please call Parish Office for details. (Baptisms: upon request)
Parish Website at: www.marymackillopupperbluemountains.org.au
Parish School: St Canice's Primary School, Katoomba **Principal:** Mr. Mark Geerligns

The Feast of St. Joseph



This Tuesday at Leura, we will celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph at 5:15pm in the evening with Mass. **St. Joseph is the Patron Saint of the Universal Church as also of workers, and guide for families and individuals.** Says St. Alphonsus Liguori: “St. Joseph was more honoured by God than all the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and bishops: for all these have the name of servant, but Joseph alone that of father.” Thus, he says, “it is right and obligatory on our part to endeavour to honour him as much as we can.”

St. Joseph, at first glance, may appear quieter and more reserved than some of the other men of Scripture, a mere humble carpenter; a closer look, however, reveals a man of strength, courage, quiet confidence, and uncompromising fidelity to God and His will.

His love for his wife Mary knows no compare among men. His love for her was a love of sacrifice, of total self-giving, of holiness and of joy; and he always put her needs before his own. The world today, knows little of what love is and should be, corrupted and stained by the vanity of self-pleasure amongst other things. It could learn a thing or two from the strong and pure heart of St. Joseph.

Pope Francis, in his first homily as Pope (given on the Feast of St. Joseph in 2013), notes that St. Joseph, as protector of Jesus and Mary, and the Church too (Christ’s mystical body), carries out his role “Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity... he is there at every moment with loving care. As the spouse of Mary, he is at her side in good times and bad.”

He is “...constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God’s presence and receptive to God’s plans, and not simply to his own... he is able to hear God’s voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safe-keeping... In him, dear friends, we learn how to respond to God’s call, readily and willingly, but we also see the core of the Christian vocation, which is Christ!”

The Pope also pointedly states that “...caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness... in [St. Joseph’s] heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!”

“Have courage, trust in God, St. Joseph and our Blessed Mother, and you need have no fear.” – St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Now some may wonder why St. Joseph thought about sending Mary quietly away, when she was found with child of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-19). Firstly, St. Jerome posits that St. Joseph was confident in her purity, so it was, says Origen, because he saw in her a great sacrament, to approach which he thought himself unworthy, and, says St. Thomas Aquinas, not because he suspected fornication, but in reverence for her sanctity, he was afraid to cohabit with her. When visited by an Angel, all fears vanished.

In addition, it is of interest to note that the most ancient of artistic representations (even back to the 200s) present St. Joseph as a beardless young man. St. Jerome defends the idea that he was young and died a virgin. Other fathers and mystics support this view.

For our St. Cecilia recital last year, a new hymn premiered in honour of the sweet spouse of our Lady and foster father of our Lord. It will be sung again this Tuesday at Leura.

O HAPPY MAN

O happy man, Saint Joseph dear,
who held our God so near,
You carried, clothed, and guarded him,
such love would never dim.

O happy man, Saint Joseph sweet,
help me each sin defeat,
That in all things I may yet be,
as pure in love as thee.

O happy man, Saint Joseph blest,
who loved our Mother best,
So tenderly and lovingly,
in holy purity.

O Father of the earth and sky,
all glory now on high,
With Son and Spirit, Godhead one,
while endless ages run.

O happy man, Saint Joseph strong,
who heard the angel song,
In all life’s trials you turned to God,
as heaven’s path you trod.

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“So, if you want to be close to Christ, I repeat to you “Ite ad Ioseph”: Go to Joseph!” – Ven. Pope Pius XII.

St. Mary MacKillop, the Patroness of our parish, had St. Joseph as the “loved patron and father” of the religious order she co-founded. She said in 1906, “In every difficulty apply to St. Joseph with confidence and you will never be disappointed.” Earlier she remarked, “we simply cannot but turn gratefully to St. Joseph and thank him for such marks of his watchful care.”

St. Theresa of Avila said if any petition to him was “in anyways amiss, he rectified it for the greater good of my soul,” knowing of no one “who did not advance greatly in virtue” who was devoted to him.