

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



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C 31 MARCH 2019

FIRST READING

Joshua 5:9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

RESPONSE Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

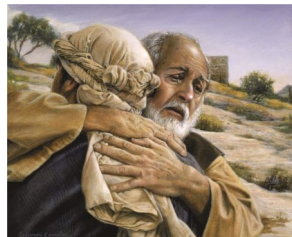
ACCLAMATION Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this

parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." 'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."



COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

St. John Chrysostom (c.347-407)

All that God looks for from us is the slightest opening and he forgives a multitude of sins. Let me tell you a parable that will confirm this. There were two brothers: they divided their father's goods between them and one stayed home, while the other went away to a foreign country, wasted all he had been given, and then could not bear the shame of his poverty. Now the reason I have told you this parable is so that you will understand that even sins committed after baptism can be forgiven if we face up to them. I do not say this to encourage indolence but to save you from despair, which harms us worse than indolence. The son who went away represents those who fall after baptism. This is clear from the fact that he is called a son, since no one is called a son unless he is baptized. Also, he lived in his father's house and took a share of all his father's goods. Before baptism no one receives the Father's goods or enters upon the inheritance. We can therefore take all this as signifying the state of believers. Furthermore, the wastrel was the brother of the good man, and no one is a brother unless he has been born again through the Spirit. What does he say after falling into the depths of evil? "I will return to my father." The reason the father let him go and did not prevent his departure for a foreign land was so that he might learn well by experience what good things are enjoyed by the one who stays at home. For when words would not convince us, God often leaves us to learn from the things that happen to us. When the profligate returned after going to a foreign country and finding out by experience what a great sin it is to leave the father's house, the father did not remember past injuries but welcomed him with open arms. Why? Because he was a father and not a judge. And there were dances and festivities and banquets and the whole house was full of joy and gladness. Are you asking: "Is this what he gets for his wickedness?" Not for his wickedness, but for his return home; not for sin, but for repentance; not for evil, but for being converted. What is more, when the elder son was angry at this the father gently won him over, saying: "You were always with me, but he was lost and has been found; he was dead and has come back to life." "When someone who was lost has to be saved," says the father, "it is not the time for passing judgment or making minute inquiries, but only for mercy and forgiveness."

On Repentance, Homily 1, 3-4.

COMMUNION You must rejoice my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

READERS WORKSHOP: Sr. Mary Louise from the diocese will be running a workshop for those who read at Mass. It will take place on Saturday the 4th of May at 1pm in the Katoomba hall and church. All readers are encourage to attend.

FIRST FRIDAY: This Friday. Adoration after the 12 noon Mass until 6pm.

FIRST SATURDAY: This Saturday. Mass at 9:30am with the Blessing of the Sick and adoration afterwards until 10:30am.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER: daylight saving ends next weekend. Be sure to remember to turn clocks back an hour Saturday night.

VISIT FROM LOCAL MP: Trish Doyle will visit 7 April after the 10am Sunday Mass to open the new St Canice's hall kitchen followed by morning tea. All welcome.


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

IMPORTANT MILESTONE: a plaque at back of Church notes the opening of the Presbytery on 21 April 1919. This means that Easter Sunday on 21 April 2019 will be the 100 year anniversary.

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.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: 28 April. More details to follow.

JESUIT RETREAT: An invitation has been extended to Lawson parish to experience a Jesuit Retreat: the First Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Fr. Paul Slyney from Lawson is extending this same opportunity to all the parishes in the Blue Mountains to be held April 28 to May 25. The retreat takes the form of small groups (of 6-8 persons) facilitated by a Jesuit priest meeting once per week over four weeks. Options for Group Times will be available. The Priest who will be conducting the First Spiritual Exercises Retreat is Fr. Meyo Obwanda from Kenya. Please see flyers and posters at back of church for more information.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Holy Thursday: 7:30pm
Good Friday: 3pm
Easter Vigil: 7:30pm
Easter Sunday: 8am (W-Falls)
10am (Katoomba)
11am (Leura, no evening Mass)

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
 Come to Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist. Come to Eucharistic Adoration.
 "When my people humble themselves and seek my presence... I will revive their land (2 Chronicles 7:14)."



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: TERRY GORMAN, DAVID YORK, WILLIAM HALLIDAY, A KO MAW, JORGE GIL DE SAGREDO, JOAN ELSIE NORTH, MARLI CARTMER-CONGIU, COLM KEARNEY, ALAN LEATHWOOD, 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 Morphet, 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 Heiningner.

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.

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

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEKEND
First - For the Diocese: **Second - For the Parish:**

ROSTERS for April 7 (5th Sunday of Lent)

LEURA	Reader	Sharon and Russel
	Server	Zelko Livaic
	Sacristans	Pam LeBreton and Natale Assanti.
WENTWORTH FALLS	Reader	Bernard
8am	Reader	Margaret
	Server	Sylvester Simon
	Sacristans	Bev and Halina
KATOOMBA	Reader	Jenny Porter
10am	Reader	Linda Muller
	Server	Zelko Livaic
	Sacristans	Annette, Matthew, Natale.
LEURA	Reader	Margaret Gale
5pm	Reader	Julie McGregor
	Server	Michael Wood
	Sacristan	Pam LeBreton
Counters	Counter	Andrew Giesajtis
	Counter	Barry Porter
	Counter	Patrick Everingham
	Counter	Mark Griffin
	Counter	
	Counter	
Cleaners (from April 4)	Kat Church & Hall	Natale Assanti

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