

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**



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR C

7 APRIL 2019

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

RESPONSE The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:8-14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

ACCLAMATION Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At day-break he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and do not sin any more.'

COMMENT ON THE GOSPEL

St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

"The scribes and Pharisees brought to him a woman who had been caught committing adultery." Now the penalty of the law for adultery was stoning. It was, of course, unthinkable that any of the prescriptions of the law could be unjust, so it followed that anyone whose teaching contravened what the law required would lay himself open to the charge of advocating injustice. The Lord's enemies accordingly said to themselves: He has a reputation for truth and is regarded as a man of great kindness and forbearance, so we must find a pretext for accusing him on the grounds of injustice. Let us confront him with a woman caught committing adultery, and quote the ruling of the law in her regard. If he orders her to be stoned, he will lose his name for clemency; if he tells us to release her, he will not be upholding justice. There is little doubt that he will say she must be freed, in order not to lose the reputation which has made him so popular. That will be our chance to incriminate him and find him guilty of an offense against the law. We shall be able to say: 'You are an enemy of the law! Your answer is not merely an attack on Moses but on God who gave the law to Moses. You have made yourself liable to the death penalty. You and the woman should both be stoned.' By voicing such opinions the

Lord's enemies might be able to inflame popular feeling against him; they might incite the crowds to denounce him and demand his condemnation. But look at the way our Lord's answer upheld justice without forgoing clemency. He was not caught in the snare his enemies had laid for him; it is they themselves who were caught in it. He did not say the woman should not be stoned, for then it would look as though he were opposing the law. But he had no intention of saying: "Let her be stoned," because he came not to destroy those he found but to seek those who were lost. Mark his reply. It contains justice, clemency, and truth in full measure. "Let the one among you who has never sinned be the first to throw a stone at her." Let the sinner be punished, yes—but not by sinners. Let the law be carried out, but not by lawbreakers. This, unquestionably, is the voice of justice, justice that pierced those men like a javelin. Looking into themselves, they realized their guilt, and one by one they all went out. Two remained behind: the miserable woman, and Mercy. The Lord raised his eyes, and with a gentle look he asked her: "Has no one condemned you?" She replied: "No one, sir." And he said: "Neither will I condemn you." What is this, Lord? Are you giving approval to immorality? Not at all. Take note of what follows: "Go and sin no more." You see then that the Lord does indeed pass sentence, but it is sin he condemns, not people. One who approved of immorality would have said, "Neither will I condemn you. Go and live as you please; you can be sure that I will acquit you. However much you sin, I will release you from all penalty, and from the tortures of hell and the underworld." He did not say that. He said: "Neither will I condemn you; you need have no fear of the past, but beware of what you do in the future. Neither will I condemn you: I have blotted out what you have done; now observe what I have commanded, in order to obtain what I have promised."

Homilies on the Gospel of John 33, 4-6.



COMMUNION Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HOLY THURSDAY REHEARSAL: Friday 12 April, 5:30pm Rehearsal for Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper.
GOOD FRIDAY REHEARSAL: Friday 12 April, 6pm Rehearsal for Celebration of the Lord's Passion.
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

YOUTH FOR CHRIST: We welcome the Youth For Christ from across the Diocese of Parramatta who will be joining us at the 10am Mass at Katoomba this Sunday.

CHOIR PRACTICE: Choir practice after 10am Katoomba Mass this Sunday in preparation for the Easter Vigil Mass.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: This Friday 6:30pm in the presbytery.

VISIT FROM LOCAL MP: Trish Doyle will visit us today 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, 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 from age 14 onwards.

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
Stations of the Cross:
9:30am (W-Falls) 10am (Leura)
10:30am (Katoomba)
Easter Vigil: 6:30pm
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.
 "They who humble themselves shall be exalted (Luke 18:14)."

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

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.

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




ROSTERS for April 14 (Palm Sunday)

LEURA 5pm	Reader	Sharon 1 and Maureen 2 + Russel (narrator) and Sharon (other)
	Server	Zelko Livaic
	Sacristan	Pam and Natale
WENTWORTH FALLS 8am	Reader	Regina 1 and Matalena 2 + Halina (narrator) and Bernard (other)
	Server	Sylvester Simon
	Sacristans	Bev and Halina
KATOOMBA 10am	Reader	Mary 1 and Linda 2 + Jenny (narrator) and Mary (other)
	Server	Gabe Very
	Sacristans	Annette, Matthew, Natale.
LEURA 5pm	Reader	Margaret + Margorie (narrator) and Margaret (other)
	Server	Michael Wood
	Sacristan	Pam LeBreton
Counters	Counter	Darryl McGovern
	Counter	Johnathan Tucker
	Counter	Katrina Waddell
	Counter	Matalena Ale
	Counter	Troy McGovern
	Counter	Matthew Brawn
Cleaners (from April 11)	Kat Church & Hall	Tanya Favantines

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

DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: GENIE FIELD, STEPHANIE JEAN MURPHY, TERRY GORMAN, DAVID YORK, WILLIAM HALLIDAY, A KO MAW, JORGE GIL DE SAGREDO, JOAN ELSIE NORTH, 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 Nanton, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphett, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Gloria Trevallion, Margaret Esgate, Lorraine Russele, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Brenda Dore, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heiningier.

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

DIVINE MERCY - 9 DAYS NOVENA

STARTS ON GOOD FRIDAY 19/4/2019

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US
ON THE 9 DAYS OR ANY OF THESE DAYS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
19/4/2019	ST BONAVENTURE LEURA	8.30am Good Friday
20/4/2019	ST BONAVENTURE LEURA	8.30am Saturday
21/4/2019	YOUR HOME	3.00 pm Easter Sunday
22/4/2019	ST CANICE KATOOMBA	8.00am Easter Monday
23/4/2019	ST BONAVENTURE LEURA	4.30pm Tuesday
24/4/2019	ST FRANCIS XAVIER WENTY	9.30am Wednesday
25/4/2019	ST BONAVENTURE LEURA	4.30pm Thursday
26/4/2019	ST BONVENTURE, LEURA	5.15pm Friday
27/4/2019	ST CANICES, KATOOMBA	9.00am Saturday



Sunday 28/4/2019
**FEAST DAY OF THE
DIVINE MERCY**

**PRAISING, SCRIPTURE READINGS,
THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET,
SINGING, BENEDICTION,
RECONCILIATION ALL @
ST BONAVENTURE CHURCH, LEURA.**

**TIME: 2.30pm to 4.30pm.
MASS: 5pm.**

**FINGER FOODS AND COFFEE AFTERWARD
COME JOIN US ON THIS SPECIAL DAY**